

WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT-PARENT
HANDBOOK
2023-2024



Westfield Technical Academy

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[Westfield Technical Academy](https://www.schoolsofwestfield.org/o/westfield-tech)
<https://www.schoolsofwestfield.org/o/westfield-tech>

This handbook is provided to parents/guardians and students as an informational guide.

WESTFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
<https://www.schoolsofwestfield.org>

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear WTA Students and Families:

ENGLISH: If you need assistance understanding this information, please contact your building principal to arrange translation services.

:ARABIC اذا تحتاج مساعدة لفهم هذه المعلومات, الرجاء الاتصال بمدير المدرسة لتقديم خدمات الترجمة

NEPALI: यो जानकारी बुझ्न सहयोग चाहिएमा कृपया तपाइको प्रधानाध्यापकलाई अनुबाद सुविधाको लागि सम्पर्क राख्नुहोस।

RUSSIAN: Если Вы нуждаетесь в переводе, пожалуйста, сообщите директору школы, и школа обеспечит вас переводчиком.

SPANISH: Si Ud. necesita ayuda para entender esta información, favor de comunicarse con el Principal para los servicios de traducción.

SWAHILI: Kama unahitaji usaidizi katika kuelewa taarifa hii, tafadhali wasiliana na kinara wako wa jengo ili akupangilie huduma za tafsiri.

TAMIL: இந்தத் தகவலைப் புரிந்துகொள்வதற்கு உங்களுக்கு உதவி தேவையானால், மொழி பெயர்ப்பு சேவைகளை ஏற்பாடு செய்வதற்கு தயவு செய்து உங்களுடைய கட்டிட முதல்வரைத் தொடர்புகொள்ளவும்.

TWI: S1 wo hi a boaf04 a 4te as1m yi asel me pawoky1w fr1 wo panyin a 4tete wo na mo nhyeh1 nkyer1 asel som

UKRAINIAN: Якщо Вам необхідний переклад даної інформації, будь ласка, повідомте директору школи, і школа забезпечить вас перекладачем.

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MISSION STATEMENT

MISSION

The mission of Westfield Technical Academy is to educate and prepare our students academically, technically, and professionally to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

VISION

Westfield Technical Academy will be recognized as a student-centered learning community focused on integrating academic and technical achievement with career and college readiness.

PHILOSOPHY

Westfield Technical Academy provides students with unique academic and technical experiences based on the philosophy and goals of the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, and Massachusetts Career Vocational Technical Education Frameworks.

We are committed to providing a supportive and safe environment in order to meet the intellectual and social needs of our diverse student body. This philosophy is implemented by adhering to our core values:

Perseverance

Respect

Integrity

Diversity

Excellence

Westfield Technical Academy actively strengthens community and business partnerships with career and employment opportunities, parent organizations, mentoring programs, advisory boards, grant partnerships, field placements and volunteerism. Comprehensive counseling and special service programs complement the academic and career technical programs.

GOALS:

- To use demographic, educational, and performance data to increase student achievement.
- To provide integrated academic and vocational programs which optimize the potential of each student.
- To maintain a current and demanding curriculum that is aligned to the academic and vocational Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and standards.
- To align technical programs to national standards and accreditation requirements, allowing students to obtain relevant licensure/certifications.
- To teach and model the importance of respect for everyone regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or home status.
- To improve student achievement through relevant staff development.
- To enhance parent and school communication.
- To strengthen involvement and participation with Chapter 74 program advisory boards.
- To increase public awareness of Westfield Technical Academy through expanded recruiting strategies and communication of student successes.
- To increase our graduation rate through a variety of intervention programs.

SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Westfield Technical Academy is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., a non-governmental, nationally recognized organization whose affiliated institutions include elementary schools through collegiate institutions offering post-graduate instruction. Accreditation of an institution by the NEASC indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality periodically applied through a peer group process. An accredited school or college is one which has appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation. Accreditation by the NEASC is not partial but applies to the institution as a whole. As such, it is not a guarantee of the quality of every course or program offered, or the competence of individual graduates. Rather, it provides reasonable assurance about the quality of opportunities available to students who attend the institution. Inquiries regarding the status of Westfield's accreditation should be directed to the administrative staff of the school.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSIONS

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

The Westfield Technical Academy admits applicants regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and homeless status.

Upon request, applicants with disabilities will be provided reasonable accommodations throughout the entire application process.

Upon request, applicants with Limited English Proficiency will be provided translators and interpretation services throughout the entire application.

Information provided voluntarily by applicants regarding Limited English Proficiency and Disability Status submitted will in no way impact any decisions regarding their admission to the Westfield Technical Academy.

ELIGIBILITY

Westfield Resident Applicants

Grade 8, 9, and 10 Applicants who expect to be promoted by their sending schools to the grade they seek to enter are eligible to apply to the Westfield Technical Academy for fall admission. As the Westfield Technical Academy is a city school, admissions priority is given to applicants who are Westfield Residents. All applicants are required to complete the application process and will be evaluated according to the same criteria as outlined herein.

Non-Resident Applicants

Non-Resident Applicants are eligible to apply for fall admission or admission during the school year subject to the availability of openings provided they expect to be promoted to the grade they seek to enter by their sending districts. Non-resident students are also required to submit a completed Chapter 74 Non-Resident Tuition Form. The form, together with Non-Resident Tuition Guidelines, may be found on the CVTE Admissions Page at the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Website ([www.https://www.doe.mass.edu/](https://www.doe.mass.edu/)) for the Non-Resident Tuition Guidelines and application form.

Transfer Students

Students who move to Westfield and transfer from other career technical schools are eligible to apply for fall admissions or admissions during the school year to Grades 9 through 12 provided they expect to be promoted to the grade they seek to enter by their current school. Transfer students will be evaluated according to the criteria contained herein.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Westfield Technical Academy Admissions Committee is appointed by the Principal, who serves, ex officio, as its chair. The committee consists of Administrators, Professional School Counselors, Special Education Personnel, and English Language Learner Personnel. The responsibilities of the Admissions Committee include:

- Determination of standards for admission in conformity with MA DESE Regulations and Guidelines;
- Development and implementation of admissions procedures in conformity with MA DESE Regulations and Guidelines;
- Recruitment;
- Processing of applications;
- Scoring and ranking of applicants;
- Admission of applicants in conformity with the approved Admissions Policy;
- Establishment and maintenance of an applicant waiting list.

RECRUITMENT PROCESS

The Westfield Technical Academy engages in recruitment activities which highlight the importance of career technical education to students, parents, sending schools, business and industry, post-secondary institutions, public agencies, and the public at large.

The Westfield Technical Academy Admissions Committee conducts assemblies at the Westfield Middle School and other area Middle Schools and Junior High Schools each November, December, January and February. During the assemblies,

- An informational video is presented that gives students/parents an overview of the career pathways and training areas available at the Westfield Technical Academy.
- The Program of Studies Guide and informational brochures describing our twelve CTE Programs are distributed.

Students are encouraged to consider non-traditional career pathways.

Additionally,

- Westfield Middle School Students may schedule tours of our facility during National Career Vocational Technical Education Week each February or at other mutually convenient times.
- Students from surrounding communities may also schedule tours for small groups and/or individual students at mutually convenient times.
- Grade 8 Students from Westfield and surrounding districts may schedule shadow days throughout the year for individual CTE Programs.
- An evening CTE Open House is held annually on the first Thursday of November.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Hard copies of the Application for Admission may be obtained at Westfield Technical Academy, 33 Smith Avenue, Westfield, MA, 01085.

Forms may also be accessed digitally at <https://www.schoolsofwestfield.org/o/westfield-tech>.

Students applying for fall admission must submit a completed application no later than April 1st, which must include the following:

- Current Transcript;
- Attendance Record;
- Discipline/Conduct Record from their previous grade and Marking Periods I and II of their current grade;
- Completed Guidance Counselor Recommendation Form.

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS

If an application is incomplete, the Admissions Committee will notify the applicant's parents/guardians and school guidance counselor. If the application remains incomplete for ten school days following notification, it will be voided.

LATE APPLICATIONS

Applicants whose applications are received after April 1st will be evaluated using the same criteria as those whose applications were received by the deadline. They will then be added to the established waiting list.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Applicants who are enrolled in state approved Chapter 74 career technical high school programs in other schools will be considered for admission (including admission during the current school year) if they relocate away from their current school and wish to pursue the same program of study at the Westfield Technical Academy. All transfer applicants must complete an interview with the Admissions Committee. For applicants who do not have access to transportation, a member of the Admissions Committee will interview them at their current school. Their applications will be evaluated according to criteria outlined below.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Admissions Committee processes applications according to the weighted admissions criteria outlined below. Applicants final scores equal the sum of the sub-scores. Applicants may earn a maximum of 100 points. All scores are assigned without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, and homeless status:

Scholastic Achievement: The average of the grades from the Marking Periods I and II of the applicant's current school year and the final grade of the previous year in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies:

- A (90-100), 20 points
- B (80 - 89), 15 points
- C (70 - 79), 10 Points
- D (60 - 69), 5 points
- F (0 - 59), 0 points

Attendance: The sum of unexcused absences from the applicant's previous school year and Marking Period I and II of the current school year:

- 0 - 10 unexcused absences, 20 points

- 11 - 20 unexcused absences, 15 points
- 21 - 30 unexcused absences, 10 points
- 31 - 40 unexcused absences, 5 points
- 41 or more unexcused absences, 0 points

Student Interview: All applicants will be interviewed by a member of the Applications Committee at their home school. The interview itself consists of five questions. Each response will receive a sub-score of one to four points. The final score for the Student Interview will equal the sum of the question sub-scores.

School Discipline/Conduct:

- Excellent (zero incidences), 20 points
- Above Average (1-3 incidences), 15 points
- Average (4-6 incidences), 10 points
- Below Average (7-10 incidences), 5 points
- Poor (more than 10 incidences), 0 points

Guidance Counselor Recommendation:

- Excellent, 20 points
- Above Average, 15 points
- Average, 10 points
- Below Average, 5 points
- Poor, 0 points

SELECTION PROCESS

Applications are tabulated according to the admissions and selection criteria outlined above, and the results are recorded on an Applicant Assessment Form. Based on their final scores, applicants who meet or exceed the minimum cut score are accepted for admission according to rank order. In the event that two or more students receive the same score that meets or exceeds the minimum cut score, all students with that score will be admitted. A waiting list of eligible applicants will be established for the current school year and students from the list will be accepted as slots become available.

ACCEPTANCE/ENROLLMENT

Acceptance by the Westfield Technical Academy is conditioned upon the accuracy and completeness of a student's application. The Westfield Technical Academy reserves the right to revoke its acceptance of any applicant, at any time if it determines that they have provided inaccurate, incomplete, or misleading information at any time during the application process.

To enroll at the Westfield Technical Academy, applicants who have been accepted must have successfully passed English Language Arts or its equivalent, mathematics, and been promoted by their local school district to the grade they seek to enter. Students who fail English Language Arts or its equivalent or mathematics will be required to pass comparable make-up course(s) in a summer school program provided by their local school district or another school district the summer prior to admission.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE STATUS

Applicants and their parents/guardians will be informed of their acceptance status by United States Postal Service Mail by May 15th.

ORIENTATION

An optional orientation for incoming students and their families takes place every June. The program includes general school information and a presentation explaining the Exploratory Program, safety, academic requirements, and non-traditional trades.

EXPLORATORY PROGRAM

All Grade 9 Students must participate in an exploratory program during the first half of their freshman year. The program is designed to help them match their skills and interests with a variety of career technical opportunities. After completing two days of safety training, students will visit all 12 CTE Programs for a one-day mini-exploratory. The primary goal of the mini-exploratory is to expose the student to a program's curriculum and occupational outlook.

Upon completion of the one-day mini-explanatories, students will self-select five programs based upon interest. They will then spend one week in each program and be evaluated by their instructors in five areas:

- Conduct,
- Following Directions,
- Task Completion/Workmanship,
- Safety,
- Attendance and Punctuality.

At the end of the five-week exploratory period, students will select their first, second and third choices from their original five programs. Students are assigned based on their point total and the availability of slots in their first choice program. The goal is to place all students in their first or second choice programs. Grade 10 (and higher) Students who enroll in the Westfield Technical Academy may explore programs that have available slots prior to making a final program selection.

Students who wish to transfer from one program to another during the school year may apply for transfer with their guidance counselor. Transfer requests will be honored subject to the availability of slots in the requested program and with parental consent.

REVIEW AND APPEALS

Applicants who have been denied admission or who have been waitlisted may appeal in writing to the Westfield Technical Academy Principal no later than June 1. The principal will consider all appeals and render decisions in writing no later than June 15. Applicants who are not satisfied with the principal's decision have the right to appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Schools no later than July 1. The superintendent or their designee shall maintain documentation as to the specific admission requirements that were used to deny admission, and shall provide such documentation to the applicant's parent/guardian upon request.

WTA BELL SCHEDULE

Warning Bell	7:15
Pass to 1st period	7:19 - 7:22
1st period	7:22-8:03
2nd period	8:06-8:44
3rd period	8:47-9:25
4th period	9:28-10:06

5th period	10:09-10:47
CLASS LUNCH	10:47-11:12
6th period	11:15-11:53
7th period	11:56-12:34
8th period	12:37-1:15
9th period	1:18-1:56

SHOP:	
Morning Session	7:19-11:18
SHOP LUNCH	11:18-11:43
Afternoon Session	11:46-1:56

WESTFIELD TECHNICAL ACADEMY COMPLIANCE BOARD

MISSION

The goal of the Compliance Board is to address all issues that could impede student progress and success at Westfield Technical Academy. Issues to be reviewed may include, but are not limited to: admissions, attendance, student residency, safety, conduct, academic progress, and any other issues deemed relevant by the Compliance Board.

Specific Board items:

- Student Residency
- School Attendance
- School Tardiness
- Chronic Behavior Issues
- Safety Concerns
- Admission appeals
- Annual Credit Review
- Credit Recovery
- Summer School Requirements
- Night School Requirements
- Graduation Requirements

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to adhere to the attendance policy of the Westfield School Committee. Below are set forth specific procedures applicable to Westfield Technical Academy.

MORNING PROCEDURES: at Westfield Technical Academy, school officially starts each day at 7:22 a.m. Upon arrival, or at the 7:15 a.m. bell, students are expected to report to their first period class by 7:19 a.m. **ATTENDANCE IS TAKEN AT 7:22 a.m.** Students arriving after 7:22 a.m. must report to the Main Office for a pass to class/shop.

TARDY TO SCHOOL

Students are expected to arrive at school and to classes on time. Time missed from class constitutes absenteeism, whether in part or in whole. Students who demonstrate a pattern of unexcused tardiness will be subject to disciplinary measures and/or loss of academic credit. **In addition, students who do not have an acceptable excuse for arriving to school late are ineligible for participation in extracurricular and athletic activities for that day.** Violations of this policy may result in a Saturday School Detention

Consequences:

- Students who arrive to class or shop after 7:22 a.m. must sign in at the Main Office and will be issued a tardy slip.
- On the **third tardy**, students will receive a **thirty-minute office detention** and **parents/guardians will receive written notification.**
- On the **sixth tardy**, students will receive a **sixty-minute office detention**, and **parents/guardians will receive written notification.**
- On the **ninth tardy**, students will receive a **Saturday School Detention** from **8:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.** **Parents will be called and a conference may be requested.**
- **Every third tardy after the ninth** (i.e. twelfth, fifteenth, eighteenth, etc.) will result in **Saturday School Detentions.**

Students who do not attend an assigned Saturday School Detention for being tardy will be subject to further disciplinary measures as decided by administration.

Excused tardiness will not count toward detention. The only acceptable excuses for being late to school include documented medical appointments that could not be scheduled after school hours, a documented court appearance, a town emergency or weather extremes. If a student is marked tardy three times to class, it will count as one absence for that class.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Excessive absenteeism from school is potentially detrimental to students' ability to perform successfully in school. It is expected that students should be absent from school only when conditions or circumstances render them otherwise unable to attend. In the event a student is absent in excess of 10% of the membership days, official written verification documenting the need for the absence must be submitted. Students who have undocumented absences in excess of 10% of membership days may be subject to denial of course credit or promotion. The following are legitimate reasons for absence:

1. Illness: Medical excuse, a signed doctor's note is required. Appointment cards will not be accepted. Doctor's appointments should be made outside of the school day.
2. Bereavement.
3. Family or catastrophic emergency.
4. Observation of major religious holidays or participation in required religious instruction.
5. Necessary court appearance: a signed court document is required.
6. DYS confinement.
7. DCF commitment.
8. Suspension.
9. Weather related conditions so serious as to pose a threat to health or safety.
10. Approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

Students in attendance at school sponsored activities (field trips) or in attendance in approved alternative educational programs (tutoring) are considered present at their school of enrollment. Students who are absent from school may not participate in any school related activity without securing permission from an administrator. The Westfield Schools encourage open channels of communication between the home and school as the key to understanding and resolving problems that may occur regarding attendance.

NOTE: Family trips/vacations are **NOT** excused absences.

MAKE UP WORK POLICY

Students are responsible for promptly arranging to make up work (within 2 school days) missed due to absence from school. Teachers are not obliged to take the initiative. Teachers are authorized to give failing

grades for failure to make up work satisfactorily within the same timeframe as regularly assigned work. Shop work is difficult or sometimes impossible to make up. Students should check with their shop teacher immediately upon return to school to work out a solution for missed work.

1. Students who are truant or who intentionally miss an assigned period may forfeit the privilege to make up work.
2. Students on external suspension will receive credit, provided that the assigned work is completed satisfactorily.

SCHOOL TRUANCY

Students that are truant from school will be assigned a Saturday School and/or time in Student Support.

CREDIT/PROMOTION IMPLICATION

Westfield Technical Academy may act to deny credit or promotion due to unexcused absences in excess of 10% of the total number of classes in any course. For example, if a student has more than nine (9) unexcused absence in an academic program and more than nine (9) unexcused absences in a technical area, this would exceed 10% of total membership days. When a decision to deny credit or promotion is made, the school will notify the parent/ guardian of the intended action. The parent/guardian and/or student have the right to appeal loss of credit/ promotion decisions.

The appeal must be in writing and submitted to the school within the timeframe noted on the loss of credit notification. A hearing by the school's review committee will be scheduled, at which point the parent/guardian and/or student will have the opportunity to provide documentation for the absences under discussion or to explain extraordinary circumstances. A letter stating the decision of the review committee will be sent to the parent/guardian within 5 school days of the review committee meeting. The parent/guardian and/or student may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The appeal must be in writing and sent within 5 school days of receipt of the review committee letter. The superintendent or his/her designee will conduct a hearing and provide a written decision. The decision of the superintendent will be the final decision of the district.

APPEAL

The parent/guardian has the right to appeal all cases of loss of credit/promotion to the school's Compliance Board. The appeal must be in written form and submitted no later than five (5) school days after notification of loss of course/subject credit or promotion. A request for an appeal must be sent to: Compliance Board, Westfield Technical Academy, 33 Smith Avenue, Westfield, MA 01085. The board will schedule an appointment. If a hearing is not requested in writing by the specified date, the matter will be closed and the loss of credit will stand.

COMPLIANCE BOARD

In all cases of loss of credit/promotion appeals, the school's Compliance Board will review the case within ten school days. The Board's decision will be based on types of absence, input from school principal or designee, guidance counselor, adjustment counselor, individual teachers, DSS or DYS personnel and others.

COMPLIANCE BOARD DECISION

A letter stating the decision of the Compliance Board will be sent to the home of the parent/guardian in the dominant language of the home within five days of the Compliance Board meeting. The parent/guardian of the student has the right to appeal the decision of the Compliance Board to the building Principal.

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

When a dismissal is necessary and is known in advance:

- > The request for dismissal (a note from a parent/guardian) must be brought to the main office before 7:22 A.M.
- > The request must state the student's name, grade, and reason for dismissal, as well as time to be dismissed.
- > Dismissals for dental or doctor's appointments must be confirmed by an appointment card. Whenever possible a doctor's note is to be submitted the following day. Failure to do this will be considered an unexcused absence. If a student is aware of a scheduled appointment before the date and must arrive late to school, notification should be given to the office immediately.
- > Only dismissal for reasons as stated under excused absences will be accepted. All others will be considered unexcused and will count as time out of the student's academic class or technical program.

RIGHTS OF 18-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS

Once a person reaches the age of 18, Massachusetts law holds that he/she is an adult and has reached the age of majority. This means that an eighteen-year-old is capable of signing legal documents and entering into contracts. Consistent with this definition of "adult" is the ability to sign school-related documents, including report cards, permission slips, and absence notes. A student who has reached the age of majority (18) has the right, provided by statute, to assume these responsibilities. Any student doing so must sign an age verification form available in the office. Written permission for any request will be subject to the same guidelines as for all other students. **Eighteen-year-olds or older who are enrolled at Westfield Technical Academy will remain responsible to the same school regulations as all other students including** meeting the same standard for acceptable absences as other students as contained in the *Student Handbook*. Eighteen-year-old students must secure administrative approval to sign out as well. The school retains the right and responsibility to continue to keep parents informed of grades, absences, etc. In addition, it should be noted that parents do retain the right of access to the school records of their children, regardless of age, pursuant to M.G.L., c. 71, s. 34E.

GRADING SYSTEM

The school year is divided into four marking terms. Students receive grades in each term for each course taken. Grades are scaled as follows:

A+	98 - 100	A	93 - 97
A-	90 - 92	B+	87 - 89
B	83 - 86	B-	80 - 82
C+	77 - 79	C	73 - 76
C-	70 - 72	D+	67 - 69
D	63 - 66	D-	60 - 62
F	00 - 59		

Comments on effort and conduct are recorded on each student's report card. To arrive at a final grade, the teacher averages the numerical grade from each quarter. Passing a course means receiving a final grade of 60 or higher. The Westfield School Department operates a summer program wherein a student may earn credit for a subject that was failed during the school year. However, not all subjects are offered during the summer. Notably: Shop, Related, and Physical Education are not offered in the summer program.

GRADE OF INCOMPLETE

A student may, at the discretion of a teacher, be assigned a grade of "Incomplete" in a course for either a marking term or for the year, if in the opinion of the teacher the student has failed to complete all the assigned work for that course. Credit for a course in which an "Incomplete" has been assigned will be withheld until such time as the student has, in the judgment of the teacher, completed the missing work. An "Incomplete" may be assigned in either shop or classroom courses.

Students are advised to consult regularly with their teachers to be sure they meet all course requirements. When a student receives an incomplete said student will be allowed two weeks to make up missing work after which time it will be assigned a zero, and the grade will be calculated on this basis. In the case of extreme illness appropriate documentation from a licensed physician will be required to extend the make-up period.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS/PUPIL PROGRESSION PLAN

It is the responsibility of each student to see that he/she fulfills all of the requirements for graduation. The Westfield School Committee has approved the following requirements for graduation.

Subject	Credits
English	4
Math	4
Social Studies*	2.5
Science*	2.5
Physical Education/Health	1
Related/Electives	2
Shop	16

Total Academic Credits	16 credits
Total Shop Credits	16 credits
Total Graduation Credits	32 credits

Meeting the above graduation requirements prepares a student for career and college.

*Waivers may be necessary for some students for some academic requirements. Waivers can only be approved by school principal given extenuating circumstances.

- Students must pass all Career Technical Program Courses, including Related Classes, in order to meet all Graduation Requirements
- To receive a diploma, a passing grade in the MCAS ELA, Mathematics and Science/Technology & Engineering Test is required.
- A Certificate of Attendance will be issued to students who fulfill all local requirements but fail to satisfy the MCAS requirements.

GRADING PERIODS

(Subject to Change)

- **FIRST TERM: August 30th, 2023 – November 3rd, 2023**
- **SECOND TERM: November 6th, 2023 – January 19th, 2024**
- **THIRD TERM: January 22nd, 2024 – April 5th, 2024**
- **FOURTH TERM: April 8th, 2024 – June 13th, 2024**

POWER SCHOOL PARENT PORTAL

All parents will receive a notice from the school on how to access current grades and attendance for all of our students via the **PowerSchool Portal**. These letters provide instructions needed for parents to create individual PowerSchool accounts.

Through the PowerSchool portal, academic progress can be tracked from any location that has Internet access. If you do not have Internet access, the public library has computers for public use. If you have any questions regarding the use of PowerSchool or did not receive a letter for access, please contact Mrs. Patricia Lecrenski in the Main Office at 413-572-6533 extension 60112 or by e-mail at p.lecrenski@schoolsofwestfield.org.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is required of all students. Each student must have a change of clothes. Sweats, wind pants, athletic shorts, T-shirts, sweatshirts, and sneakers are the only acceptable attire. No offensive print or design will be allowed. Failure to be prepared will result in a loss of credit for that day. To be excused from participation requires written certification of a physician. Provisions can be made for an adaptive program for the handicap student, within limits, prescribed by a physician as defined in an Individual Educational Plan

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

There is no summer school make-up for career technical programs. Students who fail their career technical program will be reconsidered for acceptance after an application for re-admission has been completed and, on a space,-available basis. Career technical program failures will result in students repeating the year. Students not promoted because of career technical program failure must repeat all academic subjects as well.

WTA FAILURE POLICY

All students that are required to repeat a grade due to academic/career technical failure must reapply for admission to WTA.

HONOR ROLL

Westfield Technical Academy will publish an academic honor roll for students receiving a quality point average equal to 93-100 (FIRST HONORS). Westfield Technical Academy will publish an academic honor roll for students receiving a quality point average between 83 and 92 (SECOND HONORS). This recognition will be given at the completion of each term and published as soon as possible. A grade of 69 or below disqualifies a student from consideration for honor roll.

CALCULATION OF GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)

Westfield Technical Academy's grade point average is based on a 100-point scale. Cumulative GPAs are calculated on **final grades** at the end of Semester I and II. The weight of a course is determined in the following manner:

Weight 1	Weight 2	Weight 3
(Honors)	(Standard)	(Remedial)
1.05	1.00	.95

Formula:

Class of 2013 and thereafter GPA = Sum of (grade x weight x credit)/sum of credits.

Example:

90 in a weight 1 course, 1.0 credit $90 \times 1.05 \times 1.0 = 94.5000$

80 in a weight 2 course, 1.0 credit $80 \times 1.00 \times 1.0 = 80.0000$
 85 in a weight 3 course, 0.5 credit $85 \times .95 \times 0.5 = 40.375$
 75 in a weight 1 course 1.0 credit $75 \times 1.05 \times 1.0 = 78.7500$
 GPA = $293.625 / 3.5 = 83.892$

CLASS RANK

Rank in class is a comparison of the cumulative grade point averages within a graduating class. Official ranking will begin at the close of the sophomore year and will be revised at the close of each semester thereafter following the calculation of the cumulative grade point averages. A transfer student must be in attendance at Westfield Technical Academy for his/her entire junior and senior years in order to be accurately and officially ranked. Determination will be based in such cases on final grade averages from previous schools attended as well as Westfield grades. If a student attends Westfield Technical Academy for only their senior year, any class rank will be only approximate and consequently the student is not eligible for top honors. Students on track to graduate ahead of their respective class will not be ranked with the graduating senior class.

ALTERNATIVE ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

DUAL ENROLLMENT POLICY

The Dual Enrollment Program was established by the Education Reform Act of 1993. Qualified High School Students can earn both high school and college credits through this program. The Commonwealth, through the Department of Education and subject to availability of funds, will reimburse public institutions of higher education an amount per credit for tuition and fees for participating students.

Students must be in their junior or senior year of high school, must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and be a Massachusetts resident to be eligible for participation in the Dual Enrollment Program. Further, students must demonstrate the ability to benefit from college level course work and should be recommended by their guidance counselors, teachers and/or high school principal. Further information is available in the Student Services office.

NIGHT SCHOOL

Students from Westfield Technical Academy may take night school courses at accredited area high schools to achieve the necessary requirements towards graduation. The credit the student receives will be equal to the credit granted for an equivalent course at WTA. Special permission from the Principal is required. The grades are not calculated into class rank/GPA.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The Westfield School Committee provides the opportunity for students who fail courses in the regular school year to make up that course during the summer school session. Students who will need summer school courses will be contacted by the Guidance Office. Students who earn a grade of less than 50 are not eligible for summer school. However, students who fail a course should contact the Guidance Office as soon as possible to ensure enrolment in the summer school session. All courses are not always available in summer school programs.

HONOR CODE

It is only through the evaluation, reflection and revision of one's own work that true progress and success can be achieved. To help students gain the most from their education, the entire faculty of Westfield Technical Academy expects that students will do their own reading, writing, test taking, research, and assignments. Considering that cheating and plagiarism undermine a student's success and true understanding, we reinforce that cheating and plagiarism are violations of Westfield Technical Academy's Code of Student Conduct. In addition, acts of cheating and plagiarism are in direct conflict with the

Mission Statement of Westfield Technical Academy. There is a great deal of information available on how to avoid plagiarism. Teachers are always an excellent resource as well.

DEFINITIONS

Cheating is defined by Westfield Technical Academy as sharing information before or during testing situations, copying of another individual's work, including sharing information through electronic devices/media, and using "cheat sheets" during testing.

Plagiarism is defined by Westfield Technical Academy as taking work or ideas from the Internet, books, magazines, television, movies, any person or any other source whatsoever and deliberately passing it off as one's own work. Plagiarism does not require that a student submit a verbatim copy of the work of any source as his or her own. Plagiarism also includes submitting ideas and/or conclusions generated by another source as one's own work.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers will:

- Conduct a presentation of the Academic Honor Code to all freshmen classes in the library.
- Review Academic Honor Code with students as needed.

Students will:

- submit his/her own work
- follow proper methods of citation
- ask for help when unsure about citations
- protect work during testing and class situations
- not share assignments

CONSEQUENCES (per school year)

First Violation:

- zero on the entire assignment without the opportunity to do the assignment again
- parental contact by the content teacher
- notification to principal, vice principal and counselor resulting in disciplinary consequences including detention or School on Saturday.
- notification to National Technical Honor Society resulting in probation of privileges for the semester
- notification to Renaissance Program resulting in suspension of privileges for the semester

Second Violation:

- zero on the entire assignment without the opportunity to do the assignment again
- parental meeting with student, teacher, and administration
- notification to principal, vice principal and counselor resulting in disciplinary consequences ranging from detention to suspension.
- notification to National Technical Honor Society, resulting in dismissal
- notification to Renaissance Program resulting in suspension of privileges for the year
- Any subsequent offenses will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Appeals to decisions of the Compliance Board may be made through Student Services.

LIBRARY

The Steven E. Pippin Library Media Center is open during school hours on all school days. Students have access to all programs, vertical files, and multimedia. Students are encouraged to ask for assistance in locating and using appropriate material. The borrower's card is kept at the circulation desk. To borrow

materials from the library media center, a student must show his ID badge. A positive ID is required to borrow material. This eliminates any possibility of anyone else using the student's card. A fine of five cents per school day is charged for overdue material. The fine will not exceed \$1.00 for any one item. If a book is overdue for four weeks (students will have been sent at least two notices), the student will not be allowed to borrow any additional material until the item is returned and a fine is paid. Students will pay the replacement cost plus processing charges for any lost or damaged material. Disruptive noise or behavior will result in a denial of library privileges. Any student causing disruptive noise or behavior will be sent to his/her classroom or shop. No food or drinks are allowed in the library media center. The library is a resource used as an integral part of classroom instruction. Teachers may access this resource for or with students as they deem appropriate. Any student coming to the library without a teacher must come to the library with a pass. Students will leave their passes at the circulation desk upon entering the library. Students using the computers are required to sign a sheet located at the circulation desk.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Services (grades 9-12) are provided in the form of admissions, career technical program selection, academic progress, social/personal counseling, and post-secondary career planning.

CAREER CENTER

The mission of Westfield Technical Academy's Career Center is to assist all students in planning their future through a variety of resources, activities, and interventions, which align with the district goals and the state competencies and benchmarks. Students will develop academic, employability, and social skills that will maximize their future potential upon graduation. The Career Center will provide career, college, and school-to-career activities in conjunction with the Guidance Department, Armed Forces, and Business and Community partners.

GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Students and parents are encouraged to use the services offered by our school Guidance Department located in lower campus on the first floor. Each student is assigned a counselor by grade level who will serve as his/her guidance counselor. Students who wish to see their guidance counselor should go to Student Services before school or during lunch to make an appointment. Our guidance counselors are directly responsible for academic advisement as well as college and career planning and coordinate a variety of other services which are available to students such as school adjustment counseling, tutoring and testing programs. In addition, the guidance counselor serves as a liaison between the student, teacher, parent, administration and community. Every effort is made to maximize each student experience encouraging them to become increasingly responsible for their academic and social well-being. Guidance services website: http://westfieldwvths.sharpschool.net/school_directory/guidance.

ADJUSTMENT COUNSELOR

Counseling is available for those students whose social or emotional adjustment is impeding their educational progress. This service is separate from and supplemental to the counseling service offered by the Guidance Department. The Adjustment Counselor is a certified professional with training in human development, learning theory, counseling, the wellbeing of adolescents, as well as other areas appropriate to the practice of administrator, teacher, guidance counselor, or other faculty if there is concern regarding the mental health of a student. If the counselor and student wish to pursue regular meetings, parents will be notified, if the student is under the age of sixteen (16). Confidentiality of information will be maintained to ensure student privacy. Due to the constraints and nature of school counseling, it is not a substitute for receiving mental health services from an outside mental health agency. Counselors will work with parents to refer students to outside services when appropriate.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR

Counseling is available for students seeking help for problems related to tobacco, drug and/or alcohol use. The Substance Abuse Counselor is a certified professional with training and experience in both mental health and addiction counseling. This service provides direct assistance and referrals for students seeking help for a substance abuse problem or problems related to use by someone they are in a close relationship with. Confidentiality of information will be maintained to ensure student privacy and the counselor will work with parents to refer students to outside services when appropriate.

STUDENT TEACHER ASSISTANCE TEAM

Westfield Technical Academy has established a STAT Team made up of school counselors, adjustment counselors, administrators, nurses, the school resource officer, substance abuse counselor, and support personnel that review students who may be in personal or academic crisis. Any parent, student or staff member concerned about a student should refer them to Student Services to start the Student Assistance process.

CHANGE OF COURSE OR WITHDRAWAL FROM SCHOOL

Careful consideration of course selection should be made through consultation between students, parents, counselors, and career technical instructors before entering Westfield Technical Academy, or during the 9th grade exploratory year.

Any change of career technical shop or academic coursework after the first term of grade 10 is difficult due to the complexity of course offerings and availability as well as individual shop competency requirements.

ADD/DROP POLICY

No course changes will be allowed after the ten (10) day add-drop period. Exceptions to this policy may occur with the recommendation of the principal.

WITHDRAWAL

A student who plans to withdraw from school and transfer to another school must use the following procedure:

1. Contact your guidance counselor.
2. Obtain a letter from your parent/guardian giving permission for you to withdraw or transfer.
3. Obtain a sign-out sheet from the office.
4. Return the sheet to the office after obtaining all proper signatures, making sure you meet all obligations.
5. If transferring, request that all records be forwarded to the next school.

TRANSCRIPTS

All requests for transcripts should be addressed to the Student Services office. Under the Privacy of Information Act, all requests for information must be accompanied by written permission from the student to release information. The request must also specify the person or organization to which the transcript is being sent.

TUTORS

If a parent or a student is considering engaging a tutor, they should contact the student's guidance counselor so that the subject teacher may work cooperatively with the tutor.

WTA MENTORING PROGRAM

Student mentoring at Westfield Technical Academy is defined as a one-to-one relationship between a youth and an adult that occurs over a prolonged period of time. The mentor provides consistent support, guidance, and concrete help to a student who is in need of a positive role model. Students involved in the mentoring program may be going through a difficult and/or challenging situation, a period of life in which they need extra support, or they may simply need to have another significant adult present in their life. The goal of student mentoring is to help students involved in the mentoring program to gain the skills and confidence to be responsible for their own futures. This relationship between the student and mentor takes place during the school day at the child's school.

BENEFITS OF A STUDENT MENTORING PROGRAM:

Students benefit by:

1. Receiving the support and guidance of a caring adult.
2. Receiving assistance with academic endeavors.
3. Experiencing greater self-esteem and motivation to succeed.
4. Receiving encouragement to stay in school and graduate.
5. Receiving encouragement to avoid the use of drugs and alcohol.
6. Improving interpersonal relationships, such as with teachers and family.
7. Receiving assistance in choosing a career path.

Schools benefit by:

1. Improving student performance.
2. Improving student attendance.
3. Increasing student retention.

Mentors are assigned through teacher referrals, parent requests, and student requests to school administration and guidance staff. Please contact Student Services if a parent or student is considering a mentor.

CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

Clubs or organizations must be sanctioned or organized by the school and open to general membership. WTA offers the following clubs and organizations: Art Club, Cheerleading, Drama Club, FFA, Gay Straight Alliance, Intramurals, Key Club, Medical Reserve Corps, National Technical Honor Society, Renaissance, Skills USA, Student Council, Yearbook, Rock Band Club, Motor Sports Club, and YOU LEAD.

DANCES

Dances may be held with the approval of the club or class advisor and school principal. Please consult the principal for specific rules that must be observed. Students wishing to take a visitor to a school function such as a dance must fill out a guest visitor form located in the Main Office. Guests must receive prior administrative approval in order to obtain permission to attend.

JUNIOR/SENIOR PROM

The Westfield Technical Academy Junior/Senior Prom is a school-sponsored extracurricular activity. As such, students are subject to the following expectations. Failure to comply with these expectations may result in disciplinary consequences up to and including exclusion from the Senior Picnic and Graduation:

- Prom participation is restricted to current WTA Grade 11 and 12 Students. Students in Grade 10 may only participate if invited as a guest by a student in Grade 11 or 12 and with prior approval of the administration. They must complete a Guest Permission Slip, which may be obtained in the Main Office and must be returned at least one week prior to the prom date.

- Juniors and seniors who attend the Prom may invite a guest from outside of WTA. Their information must be provided to the principal at least one week prior to the prom date using a Guest Permission Slip, which may be obtained in the Main Office. The Guest Permission Slip must be signed by both the parent(s) of the guest and their own school administrator. Failure to completely fill out or obtain needed signatures will result in the guest being refused admission to the Prom.
- Unless currently enrolled as a Westfield Public Schools Student, no one over the age of twenty (20) may attend the Prom.
- As the Prom is sanctioned by the Westfield Public Schools, all WPS policies relating to drugs and alcohol will be strictly enforced. Anyone suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will be removed from the event and a parent will be required to pick them up.
- Students are not permitted to exit and return to the Prom at will. The parking lot and cars will be off limits while the Prom is in progress. Once a student exits the Prom, they may not return.
- All guest permission slips must be submitted in advance of the purchase of the Prom ticket and be approved by the principal before a prom ticket can be purchased for the guest.
- The Prom is also a tobacco and nicotine-free event. Smoking, vaping, and chewing are all prohibited anywhere on or near the Prom premises.

CLASS OFFICERS

Students must pass four academic courses and his/her technical program in the previous marking period in order to remain eligible to hold class office Elections for class offices will be held either during the first week in June, or at the start of the school year. Students may obtain absentee ballots if they know they are going to be absent on the day of the elections. Absentee ballots will be available in the office. No student will receive a ballot and be allowed to vote once the results are complete. Students who have not filed nomination papers by the deadline established for an election will not be eligible for that office. Write-in votes for students who have not honored the nomination process will not be considered in the final vote count.

CLASS DUES

Class dues will be collected during the school year. Class dues defray the cost of senior class activities. Participation in activities subsidized with class dues requires that the student's dues be paid to date. Class meetings will be held by class advisor(s) and class officers to discuss class dues. Please contact your class advisor for more information.

NATIONAL TECHNICAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Westfield Chapter of the national organization rewards excellence in vocational and technical education. NTHS membership is the highest scholastic honor awarded for excellence in workforce education in America. Only students who are recommended by the faculty and exhibit the qualities of skilled workmanship, honesty, responsibility, leadership, citizenship, and scholastic achievement are selected into membership.

Purpose of Nationwide NTHS Organization:

The purpose of this organization shall be:

- to promote the ideals of honesty, service, leadership, and skill development among America's future workforce;
- to reward scholastic achievement in career and technical education;
- to assist Society Members in their pursuit of career and educational goals;
- to help to build and maintain a stronger, more positive image for career and technical students, programs and schools in the local community and throughout the nation;

- to encourage the practice of high standards of personal and professional conduct and individual responsibility among the membership;
- to help member schools to initiate and maintain strong working partnerships with local institutions of business, industry and commerce;
- to hold conferences, workshops and seminars for the education and mutual improvement of the members and to provide opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experiences through meetings, publications and research; and to advance the growth and ideals of the Society throughout the United States of America.

Basis of Member Selection to WTA NTHS:

Characteristics

Characteristics which the candidate regularly exhibits, and which have been observed by his/her instructor(s):

- a desire to pursue a career in his/her course of study,
- scholastic achievement,
- honesty,
- dependability,
- responsibility,
- high quality task performance and pride in work performed,
- cooperation and ability to work well with others,
- interest in learning,
- initiative,
- attendance and punctuality,
- leadership
- responsible citizenship.

Academic Achievement Standards

- Maintain an overall GPA of 3.5 (*88 for a 100-point scale*)
- For seniors to graduate with Honorary Distinction they must maintain all required characteristics included in this document and GPA requirements through the end of senior year.
 - NTHS members with an overall 4-year GPA of at least 3.5 (88 on 100-point scale) will graduate with the distinction of an Honor Stole.
 - NTHS members with an overall 4-year GPA of at least 4.0 (93 on 100-point scale) will graduate with the distinction of both an Honor Stole and Honor Cord.

Community Service Achievement Standards

- Completion of 10 hours per year of service to the school and community with documentation form.
 - A minimum of 5 hours out of the 10 must be served for the promotion of WVTHS at events such as but not limited to our open house giving tours, after school community events, advisory board meetings, and hosting of the annual "into the arts" celebration.
 - Hours served after school on administrative school wide informative committees not connected to other clubs/organizations shall count as service to the school community.
 - Hours spent volunteering outside of the school setting and school hours with another club/organization shall count as service to the community. These Hours are limited to 50% of the total. (Such as volunteering at soup kitchen.)
 - Activities relating to sports or sport-sponsored organizations and hours spent at meetings for other clubs/organizations shall not count toward community service hours.

Students wishing to receive credit for hours served at events not specifically listed here must gain approval of advisor PRIOR to serving hours to avoid disappointment in rejected activities after the fact.

Conduct Standards

- Students must be in good standing with, and gain application approval of the WTA Compliance Board based on the 'Characteristics' listed above and the following 'Standards of Conduct'.
- **MEMBER STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:**
 - Member of the National Technical Honor Society pledge to:
 - Maintain the highest standard of personal and professional conduct at all times;
 - Strive for excellence in all aspects of my education and employment;
 - Refuse to engage in or condone activities for personal gain at the expense of my fellow students, my school, or my employer;
 - Support the intents and purposes of NTHS while working to achieve the objectives and goals of the society; and
 - Uphold my obligations as a citizen of my community and my country.

Application Standards

- Students must take the initiative to acquire and return the following required paperwork by the deadline to gain membership into the WTA chapter of the NTHS:
 - One completed nomination form from a Shop Teacher
 - One completed nomination form from an Academic Teacher (Other than Related Science)
 - Completed Membership Application
 - Completed Candidate Response Form

Fundraising Participation Standards

- Member students must participate in fundraising efforts sufficiently to sustain the chapter's annual expenses in order to maintain their membership. Students who do not participate in fundraising will lose their membership and all associated honors and privileges including but not limited to graduation honors.

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)

Students are elected from the student body at large to serve as student advisors and to provide regular school updates to the School Committee. Along with representatives from Westfield High School, they meet periodically with the school committee as well. Students interested in becoming members of the SAC should inform the Director of Student Services.

RENAISSANCE: A PROGRAM TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE

The purpose of the Renaissance Program at Westfield Technical Academy is to promote student achievement, reward good attendance and build student character, with an emphasis on recognizing those who go out of their way to help others. The Renaissance Program will recognize these students with positive, tangible incentives to encourage them to continue achieving their goals.

Renaissance Privileges:

All students recognized throughout the year will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement and a Renaissance sash to wear at graduation their senior year, as well as privileges specified below.

NOTE: Any suspensions, internal or external, Saturday detention, or three tardiness to school during the quarter will result in automatic revocation of all Renaissance privileges for that quarter.

Specific Renaissance Standards and Privileges

Student Achievement:

Each quarter, all departments and shops will nominate one student that demonstrates excellence in that area. Each student nominated will be invited to attend the Renaissance Recognition Pizza Party for that quarter.

Student Attendance

All students with no absences for an entire quarter, in both academics and shop, will be invited to attend the Renaissance Recognition Pizza Party for that quarter.

Student Character

The school's main office has a drop box where faculty, students and/or visitors to the school can recognize a student who has gone above and beyond by being helpful, demonstrating school spirit, and/or citizenship. These students will receive a Renaissance shirt, their names will be added to the Renaissance Plaque near the main office, and they will be invited to attend the Renaissance Recognition Pizza Party for that quarter.

Faculty/ Staff Recognition

The school's main office has a drop box where students can recognize a faculty/staff member who goes above and beyond by being helpful, demonstrating school spirit, and/or citizenship. One name will be pulled from the box each quarter. This faculty/staff member will receive a Renaissance coffee mug, ten complimentary cups of coffee from Business Technology or Culinary Arts, and a complimentary lunch in Tiger's Pride.

ATHLETICS

Westfield Technical Academy offers interscholastic athletics to students on varsity and junior varsity levels to eligible students. Those sports are: Girls/Boys Soccer, Girls/Boys Basketball, Baseball, Girls Softball, co-ed Golf, and Girls/Boys Cross-Country. Westfield Technical Academy also has co-op agreements with other local high schools allowing eligible students to participate with those high schools in sports such as: Girls/Boys Ice Hockey, Girls/Boys Wrestling, Girls/Boys Indoor Track, Girls/Boys Swimming, Girls/Boys Alpine Skiing, Girls/Boys Outdoor Track, and Girls/Boys Lacrosse.

MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (MIAA)

Westfield Technical Academy is a member of the Massachusetts Secondary School Principals Association and the MIAA and has agreed to comply with all MIAA rules of eligibility for interscholastic competition. The Westfield School Committee also sets policy, rules and regulations that govern the participation of WTA student athletes in the interscholastic sports program. For more information about the MIAA organization, visit the MIAA website at www.miaa.net.

ELIGIBILITY/PARTICIPATION IN ATHLETICS

1. Students must pass four academic courses and his/her technical program in the previous marking period in order to remain eligible for all interscholastic sports. **NOTE:** For the purpose of determining eligibility for fall athletic teams, a student's grade for the year rather than fourth quarter grade will be used, per MIAA Policy.
2. A grade of **incomplete** will **not** be considered a passing grade until the work has been completed and the teacher has submitted a grade to the principal.

3. A student who repeats work, for which he/she has once received credit, cannot count that subject a second time for eligibility.
4. A student cannot count for eligibility any subject taken at Summer School.
5. Students who are absent from school for the purpose of religious observance on recognized religious holidays or bereavement may participate in athletic activities or other activities on those days at their parents'/guardians' prerogative.
6. Student athletes may not represent their school if they are serving an internal or external suspension. A suspended student is ineligible for practice or competition for the same number of days that he or she is suspended for.
7. **Students that are tardy (unexcused) to school will not be allowed to attend field trips or participate in any extracurricular activities that day.** Violations of this policy may result in a **Saturday School Detention.**
8. **Please refer to the MIAA website for additional rules and policies at www.miaa.net.**

CHEMICAL HEALTH VIOLATIONS

All sports, including cheerleading, must adhere to MIAA Handbook Rule #62: From the earliest fall practice date to the conclusion of the academic year or final athletic event (whichever is latest), a student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use, consume, possess, buy/sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor.

Minimum Penalties:

First violation: When the principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 25% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program. It is recommended that the student be allowed to remain at practice for the purpose of rehabilitation. ***During the suspension, the disqualified student may not be in uniform, and his/her attendance at the competition site is determined by the high school principal.*** All decimal parts of an event will be truncated, i.e., all fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating the 25% of the season.

Second and subsequent violations: When the principal confirms, following an opportunity for the student to be heard, that a violation occurred, the student shall lose eligibility for the next consecutive interscholastic contests totaling 60% of all interscholastic contests in that sport. All decimal parts of an event will be truncated, i.e., all fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating the 60% of the season.

If after the second or subsequent violations the student of his/her own volition becomes a participant in an approved chemical dependency program or treatment program, the student may be certified for reinstatement in MIAA activities after a minimum of 40% of events provided the student was fully engaged in the program throughout the penalty period. The high school principal in collaboration with a chemical dependency program or treatment program must certify that the student is attending or issue a certificate of completion. If the student does not complete the program, the penalty reverts back to 60% of the season. All decimal parts of an event will be truncated, i.e., all fractional parts of an event will be dropped when calculating the 40% of the season.

Penalties shall be cumulative each academic year but serving the penalty could carry over for one year. Or, if the penalty period is not completed during the season of violation, the penalty shall carry over to the student's next season of actual participation, which may affect the eligibility status of the student

during the next academic year. (e.g., A student plays only football; he violates the rule in winter and/or the spring of the same academic year; he would serve the penalty during the fall season of the next academic year.)

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Cooperative Education Program provides an opportunity for students to participate in paid employment in their career and technology programs. Third semester juniors and seniors who have met academic, attendance and discipline requirements and received a positive recommendation from all of their teachers are eligible to work during their shop week for area employers. They receive fair and competitive wages and valuable work experience. During this time, students are expected to maintain their shop and academic grades and continue to have good attendance and discipline at school.

GRADES, ATTENDANCE, PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Student eligibility criteria are a very important part of cooperative education. Students are encouraged to work hard to become eligible to participate in cooperative education. The criteria used is checked for the marking period prior to cooperative education commencing and maintained during the cooperative education experience. The following is a list of eligibility criteria:

- Possession of a Career Plan
- Minimum age of 16
- Shop/related grade minimum (please see your teacher)
- Academic grade minimum (minimum grade of 70 per class)
- Student enrolled in an approved career technical education program and who have demonstrated the acquisition of the knowledge and skills in the applicable Career Technical Education Framework and the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks associated with at least one- and one-half years of full-time study in the vocational technical cooperative education program area, and in no case enroll students earlier than midway through the junior year
- Teacher recommendation/approval (shop/ related/academic)
- Administrative recommendation/approval to ensure good discipline/conduct and attendance
- Guidance counselor recommendation/approval
- Parent/guardian approval

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Every student who wishes to participate in cooperative education must complete an application. The application must include the student's biographical information. The form should be circulated to all teachers (technical & academic) to ensure that eligibility requirements are being met. The school counselor, assistant principal or principal must also sign the application. Student Cooperative Education Eligibility will be determined by the Compliance Board in conjunction with the Administration.

SAFETY

CANCELLATION OF SCHOOL/EARLY DISMISSAL

There may be days when schools will be closed because of inclement weather or hazardous driving conditions. Such closings will be announced on radio stations WNNZ (AM-640), WHYN (FM-93.1), WMAS (FM-94.7/AM-1450), WTIC (FM-1080), WPIX (FM-100.9), and WAQY (FM-102.1), as well as on TV Channels 3, 22 and 40. The district will also be using "Blackboard Connect" which is an automated phone notification system for school announcements. During periods of potential and actual storms the school administration is in contact with all relevant public safety and municipal agencies. The decision to close or not close school is made as early as possible to cancel all school transportation and lunch programs and to notify the media, traffic, and school personnel. On occasion, it may be wiser to have a two-hour delayed opening of school instead of closing for the full day. On these days, the effective starting time for

Westfield Technical Academy will be 9:20 a.m. and bus students will board buses two hours later than the normal schedule. Dismissal will be at the normal time. There may also be weather conditions that would necessitate the closing of school during normal school hours. Every student should know what to do and where to go in case of an early dismissal. If there is school during bad weather, the final decision concerning school attendance must rest with the individual parent. Announcements of bus breakdowns or other delays will be broadcast through the same outlets whenever possible.

SAFETY GLASSES are required in Career Technical School shops by Chapter 71, Section 55C of the Massachusetts General Laws. Glasses will be issued free of charge to each new student. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that the glasses are always in place. If the glasses are lost during the student's tenure the student will be charged the cost of replacement. If a student wears prescription glasses, he/she must provide this him/herself. Visitors must wear safety glasses in shop areas.

ACCIDENTS/ EMERGENCIES

Students must report all accidents or emergencies to the school office.

EVACUATION PLAN

All public gathering places, e.g. cafeteria, auditorium, etc., will have posted instructions describing evacuation procedures.

FIRE DRILLS

Detailed instructions for fire drills will be explained by teachers. Directions for leaving the building are posted in every classroom. Students should become familiar with them. If in doubt, ask individual teachers to show you where the directions are and to explain the evacuation route from that room. Students are notified of fire drills or emergencies by repeated blasts of the fire alarm. Students must follow directions given by the teacher, and speedily evacuate the building. If in the cafeteria, students should follow teachers' directions for leaving. Students are not allowed to use the elevator during fire drills or emergency evacuations. Provisions have been made for physically handicapped students. All students needing special consideration during fire drills should notify the school nurse or the administration. Handicapped students should follow the procedures set forth in their IEP. Fire drills are practiced at WTA several times during the school year.

LOCKDOWNS/SHELTER IN PLACE

Detailed instructions for lockdown and shelter in place drills will be explained by teachers and staff. Drills are practiced at WTA several times during the school year.

STUDENT IDENTIFICATION

All students at Westfield Technical Academy must have a photo identification (ID) card. Photographs for these cards will be taken at dates and times to be announced. All students are required to identify themselves when questioned to do so by any staff member, bus driver, or other school personnel. School employees are responsible for creating a safe and secure school environment, and they must have the cooperation of all students. There will be a charge of \$5.00 for a replacement card.

FACULTY AUTHORITY

All faculty members have full authority to correct any disruptive attitude or misbehavior as deemed necessary during official school activities. This pertains to official activities that occur during after-school hours as well as during the regular school day.

PERSONAL CONDUCT

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a socially acceptable manner. Please demonstrate respect for yourself and others by conducting yourself in a manner appropriate for a public place. School authorities may request students to refrain from inappropriate affectionate behavior.

WTA 5 B'S

Students are expected to adhere to school norms: Be prepared. Be on time. Be respectful. Be accountable. Be consistent.

DRESS

Students are expected to dress in accordance with the Student Dress Policy of the Westfield School Committee. A face covering that covers that nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings, on school grounds and on school transportation. Exempted from this policy are students requiring a medical and/or safety exemption as determined by the building principal in accordance with the District Face Covering Policy.

It is largely the responsibility of the student, with parent guidance, to determine what appropriate dress for school is or school related activities, however, Westfield Public Schools reserves the right to prohibit clothing or manner of dress which constitutes a health or safety concern or is so unusual as to be disruptive or distracting to the educational process. Students are required to dress in a manner that is not distracting to other students or teachers. No shirts that advertise alcohol, drugs, or cigarettes will be allowed. The school has the right to ban any clothing that indicates any criminal act or affiliation, or that advocates the violation of school policy. Clothing is forbidden if it contains profanity, indecent, or offensive language or graphics. Examples of appropriate attire for boys include jeans, slacks and walking shorts, as well as short-sleeved shirts, long-sleeved shirts, sweaters and polo-type shirts. Short cut-off shorts and play shorts are not permitted, nor are tank tops and midriff-styled tops. Examples of appropriate attire for girls include dresses, skirts, slacks, walking shorts and jeans, along with short-sleeved blouses, long-sleeved blouses, short-sleeved shirts, long-sleeved shirts, sweaters, and polo-type shirts. Short cut-off shorts and play shorts are not permitted, nor are halter or midriff-styled tops and tank tops. **Pajamas, slippers, sunglasses, hats, visors, bandanas, headbands, or similar head covering may not be worn or visibly displayed in school upon entering the building, throughout the school day and until the students exit the building.** **SHOP WEEK:** Hats may be permitted in a shop (where shop classes are provided) for safety reasons. Shop instructors establish proper clothing regulations in their shops that follow industry standards and provide a safe, healthy environment. This may include appropriate clothing, shoes, head, and eye protection. The **MINIMUM SHOP DRESS STANDARD** is closed toed shoes, long pants, and a short or long sleeve crewneck t-shirt. If you have any questions on appropriate dress consult your shop instructor.

FRESHMAN SHOP EXPLORATORY UNIFORM POLICY

In addition to the policies regarding uniforms and dress code in the school's Student/Parent Handbook, ALL grade 9 students are also required to adhere to the following expectations during their shop exploratory.

- Wear long pants (NO shorts, P.J.'s, sweatpants, or excessively baggy pants).
- Safety Glasses (issued by WTA). Students who lose or forget their safety glasses may purchase another pair in the Main Office for \$5.00.
- Closed toed and back closed shoes with a rubber sole. Shoe/boot material must be made of leather, plastic, or rubber (NO canvas or ballet type shoes).
- Short or long sleeve shirts (NO tank tops or spaghetti strap style shirts).

PASSES

Students must have a signed pass when leaving the classroom. This means every time a student is outside the classroom except during passing time, they should have a pass. Only one student at a time will be allowed to leave the room to go to the lavatories. Students may not loiter while out on a pass and should go directly to their destinations. Students leaving classrooms with a pass must use the sign out sheet.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLASS

Students reporting to their assigned academic support period will come prepared with homework or other academically worthwhile material to keep them occupied for the full period. Students will not receive credit for academic support but will receive a Pass/Fail grade on their report cards for academic support classes. Passes to other areas of the building must be presented to the teacher supervising the study at the beginning of the period. Only authorized passes will be honored.

USE OF HANDHELD ELECTRONIC DEVICES

1. Cell phone, iPod or MP3 player use will be allowed before school (7:22 am) and after school (1:56 pm) and during student lunch time.
2. Cell phones may be used for technological purposes at the discretion of the classroom teacher or vocational program. Individual classroom cell phone policies will be outlined by the teacher and must be honored by students.
3. Cameras or laser pointers are not allowed except for use with teacher supervised projects. Videos and photographs are not allowed without the consent of the individual being filmed or photographed. Infractions will result in disciplinary consequences ranging from detention to suspension.
4. Electronic devices used at inappropriate times may be confiscated by the teacher or administration.

Consequences

1. First Offense – electronic devices will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day.
2. Second Offense - electronic device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day. The student will be assigned an Office Detention.
3. Third Offense - electronic device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day. The student will be assigned School on Saturday. Parents will be notified.
4. Subsequent Offenses - electronic devices will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day. The student will be internally or externally suspended. Parents will be notified.

*Students who refuse to turn their cell phones over to an administrator will be considered insubordinate and will be externally suspended.

CAFETERIA

All items purchased in the cafeteria or at the school store must be consumed in the cafeteria. Cans/ bottles or food are not to be removed from the cafeteria. When finished eating, students are expected to clean up after themselves by disposing of all paper and garbage using the proper receptacles. Students in Grade 9 are to remain in the cafeteria until the bell rings.

TEXTBOOKS

Students who are issued materials by the school are responsible for the care of those materials. Restitution must be made for lost or damaged materials.

CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY BY STUDENTS

It is the responsibility of students to ensure that materials belonging to the Westfield Public Schools are returned in acceptable condition. Lost, damaged or defaced property must be paid for by the student who signed the materials or the individual responsible for any destruction. Non-payment may result in the withholding of official school documents. Any student deemed responsible for the willful destruction of school property will be subject to the financial cost of repair or replacement and may also be subject to disciplinary consequences including detention, suspension or expulsion from the school system and potential judicial action.

LOCKER POLICY

Upon request, each student is assigned a hallway locker with a corresponding combination padlock. Students are responsible for the padlock that is issued to them. If the padlock is missing or damaged, the student must make immediate restitution in order to be issued a new lock and to maintain his/her locker privilege. Lockers must be always locked. Lockers are the property of Westfield Public Schools and are subject to inspection at any time without prior notice. The school administration maintains a list of locker combinations and possesses a master key that opens every locker. Regular inspections of all lockers may be conducted to determine if the lockers are being maintained in a safe, clean, healthy and organized manner and that there is adherence to federal, state and local laws and regulations. **Students should have no expectation of privacy in their school lockers.**

The school is **not** responsible for property kept in the lockers. Students are given locks to secure materials that have been issued to them as well as other valuables. Students are cautioned about making their combination known to others. No food or beverage is to be stored beyond one day.

USE OF ELEVATOR

The use of the elevator is prohibited for those not authorized by the office. The elevator is for those who are either temporarily or permanently physically unable to use the stairs. Students in need of the elevators at WTA should contact the school nurse. This key must be returned to the school nurse when it is no longer needed and at the end of every school year. Loss of this key is subject to a \$5.00 replacement fee. Anyone caught utilizing the elevator without authorization will be subject to disciplinary action, ranging from Saturday School to possible suspension. **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR IN CASE OF FIRE, FIRE DRILL OR EMERGENCY EVACUATION.**

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Parents and guardians are our partners in combating student substance abuse and when a problem arises, mutual efforts will be implemented in order to secure a resolution that ensures the wellbeing of all of our students. WTA provides a tobacco, alcohol, and drug free environment. Substance related offenses include but are not limited to consuming or having consumed, under the influence of, use, possession, transfer, having domain over, sale, intent to sell, distribution, growing or manufacturing possession of drug paraphernalia, misuse of prescription drugs or violation of the district's medication policy, and violation of state and or federal law relating to drugs and or alcohol.

1. WTA will not tolerate any tobacco, alcohol, or other drug related offenses in school buildings, on school grounds, on school transportation, or at school related events. All legal means will be utilized, as appropriate, to identify and discipline offenders.

2. WTA prohibits the possession or use of electronic cigarettes or any other paraphernalia relating to tobacco. These items include but are not limited to electronic chemical cigarettes and or nicotine delivery products, smoke free tobacco, liquid or solid based vapor/non vapor originating substances, devices, and products.
3. When there is a reason to suspect that a student has been consuming alcohol in school, on school property or at a school sponsored event, a breathalyzer test may be administered by school officials. The student's failure to comply is insubordination and may be treated as such. The refusal also raises the inference that the student is hiding something, and further action may be taken.
4. WTA will attempt to assist students in accessing appropriate treatment as needed. The school will also encourage and support efforts within the community to provide healthy and legal alternatives to substance abuse.

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SUPPORT RESOURCES

If you or your loved one are looking for mental health or substance abuse intervention support, there are several resources available. Please see the following State and local resources.

For Behavioral Health:

If this is a mental health crisis and you need immediate assistance, please contact 911 or the local crisis center at 413-733-6661. Westfield also has a walk-in Mental Health Urgent Care Center through Behavioral Health Network (BHN), located at 77 Mill St, entrance B. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For non-emergency mental health care, the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Help Line is available to provide you resources for accessing clinical help. It is free, confidential, and health insurance is not required. They also provide real-time interpretation in 200+ languages.

Call or Text 833-773-2445

<https://www.masshelpline.com>

For those who are deaf or hard of hearing you may contact MassRelay at 711. MassRelay is a free and confidential communication relay service for those who may be deaf, hard-of-hearing, late deafened, or speech disabled. Depending on the type of disability, relay services are specialized to fit your needs.

For Substance Abuse:

If you or a loved one need substance use services, you can contact the MA Substance Use Helpline. The Helpline is a statewide, public resource for finding substance use treatment, recovery, and problem gambling services. It is a free and confidential resource that is available 24/7 where you can speak with someone for information and a referral.

Call 800-327-5050

<https://helplinema.org/>

Vaping:

If you suspect your child is vaping, first, you are not alone. Surveys indicate almost 30% of youth report they have vaped nicotine in the last 30 days. Massachusetts offers several resources to help youth who want to quit.

- **This is Quitting** powered by truth®, a free and confidential texting program for young people who vape. Text VapeFreeMass to 88709 to get started!
- **My Life, My Quit™** has youth coach specialists trained to help young people by phone or text. Call or text Start My Quit to 855-891-9989 for free and confidential help. For more information or to sign up online, visit mylifemyquit.com.
- Visit teen.smokefree.gov for tools and tips to help youth quit.
- Teens can also reach out to their school nurse or counselor, athletic coach, doctor, parent, or other trusted adults.

In addition, many insurance companies cover nicotine replacement products if deemed appropriate, and some insurances also provide some coverage for hypnotherapy for nicotine cessation.

WALKING STUDENTS

The same rules apply to a walking student as to a bus student. Bus student rules are in the district portion of this handbook. Once students leave home to attend school, they are not allowed to congregate or loiter off the school grounds.

PARKING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Parking on school property is a privilege and not a right, therefore the following rules and regulations are intended to help monitor student traffic and enforce campus policy. The school reserves the right to suspend driving privileges for infractions of rules and to remove, at the owner's expense, any vehicle violating traffic or parking regulations of Westfield Technical Academy. Each student wishing to park on campus must register their car and obtain a parking pass. The parking pass must be displayed clearly behind your rearview mirror. Students can ONLY park in the student parking lot. Spaces are available on a first-come first-serve basis. **DRIVERS MUST:**

- > Adhere to the speed limit of 10 mph anywhere on school grounds
- > Drive within the designated lines, not through the parking lot
- > Park on school property at their own risk
- > NOT drive in front of the buses during loading, unloading, and exiting the parking area.
- > All automobiles on school grounds are subject to search by school personnel, with or without the student present, if deemed necessary.

Students are not to return to cars during the school day unless given permission and accompanied by a member of the staff.

DETENTION

Due to violations of district or school policy, students may be required to remain in, or be at, school outside of normal school hours. When given detention, students must appear at the designated time and place, unless specifically excused by the building principal or staff person having assigned the detention.

TEACHER DETENTION

Teacher detention is assigned by an individual teacher and the time spent after-school will be with that teacher. Teacher detention has priority over any other after-school activity including office detention. Any teacher or administrator has the authority to assign detention.

OFFICE DETENTION

Office detentions must be served Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday after school in the cafeteria. Time will be set at 30 minutes and 60 minutes. Students may also serve office detentions before school at the discretion of the assistant principal. Un-served detentions will result in Saturday School.

Office detentions are assigned to a student by the principal/assistant principal. The infractions below may result in a minimum of one thirty-minute office detention or one sixty-minute office detention

1. Unexcused tardiness to class/school
2. Insubordination
3. Disruptive, rude or discourteous behavior
4. Unexcused absence from lunch
5. Failure to sign in immediately upon entering the building when tardy
6. False dismissal request/absence call
7. Misuse/falsifying school passes or tardy slips
8. Unexcused absence from class/shop
9. Failure to serve a teacher detention

Employment, athletic practices/games, club meetings, artistic rehearsals, or any other after school commitments do NOT exempt students from completing their assigned detentions.

SCHOOL ON SATURDAY

Saturday detention begins at 8:00 am and ends at 10:30 am in the high school cafeteria. Students assigned School on Saturday should arrive no later than 7:55 am with academic work to keep busy for the entire time. Students that arrive after 8:00 am to Saturday School will not be admitted. Students that are assigned School on Saturday but do not attend will be assigned two days of Student Support. The infractions listed below may result in a Saturday School Detention.

1. Leaving school without permission.
2. Skipping class/office detention
3. School Truancy
4. Inappropriate language in the classroom or in the halls.
5. Insubordination
6. Defacing school or personal property-restitution may also be required upon completion of an investigation by administration and police department.

Students that wish to attend School on Saturday for makeup work purposes are also welcome to attend. The school calendar lists the dates that School on Saturday is held.

SOCIAL PROBATION: Social Probation may be assigned to students whose behavior has placed others in danger, whose behavior has caused them to be suspended from school for more than 5 days, has a record of chronic misbehavior, or has ten or more unexcused tardy arrivals in a marking period. Students placed on Social Probation will not be eligible to attend after school functions, e.g. clubs, dances/socials, performances, athletics, etc. and may be on school grounds from 7:22 am - 1:56 pm (2:30 pm if extra help or detention is scheduled). Social Probation will be reviewed regularly to determine if behavior has improved and if Probation should be rescinded.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER

Students/Parents must notify the office if they have a change of address or phone number at any time while enrolled.

TELEPHONE MESSAGES

Telephone messages usually cannot be delivered to a student without interrupting the teacher and the class; so, except in emergencies such as illness at home, telephone messages will not be delivered until

an appropriate time. If a student works after school, he/she should inform the employer of this rule so that other arrangements can be made to notify the student of changes in work assignments.

TELEPHONE USAGE

Use of the telephone, other than before school, after school or during lunch, is not allowed without prior permission from the Principal or Assistant Principal. Unauthorized use of phones will result in disciplinary consequences. Under no circumstances are students allowed to call a parent/guardian to dismiss them from school because of illness; they should report to the Health Office.

LOST AND FOUND

Students who have lost an item should report it to the office immediately. Items that have been found and returned to the office are kept in storage until July 1. After July 1, items that remain in lost and found are donated or discarded.

STUDENT INSURANCE

A reasonably priced accident insurance policy is available for all students. Information regarding the options may be obtained from the main office. You should remember that the school department's only function in this matter is one of service. All matters relating to claims are the responsibility of the family and the insurance company.

HAZING

The term "hazing" shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

On or before October 1 of each year, the principal of every secondary school shall file a report as required by M.G.L. c.269§19 with the bureau of Student Services. Such reports as required by 603 CMR 33.04(1) shall include the following certifications: (a) that the school has issued a copy of M.G.L. c.269§17 through 19 to every group of organization under its authority and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization; (b) that the school has issued a copy of M.G.L. c.269§17 through 19 to every non-school affiliated organization; (c) that the school has obtained an acknowledgement of receipt from an officer of every group or organization under its authority, and every individual which has received a copy of M.G.L. c.269§17 through 19; (d) that the school has obtained an acknowledgement from a contact person for each non-school affiliated organization that such organization has distributed a copy of M.G.L. c.269§17 through 19, to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization; (e) that the school has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers of and participants in hazing which has been approved the school committee, is available to anyone upon request and has been filed with the Bureau of Student Services as required M.G.L. c.71§37H.

SECTION II - DISTRICT POLICIES

The District Section is composed of district-wide policies. If any provisions of Section 1 are in conflict with Section 2, district policy shall prevail. To view the complete School Committee Policy manual visit our website: <https://www.schoolsofwestfield.org/page/policy-manual>

Section A: Foundations and Basic Commitments

Provides a repository statements related to the district's legal role in providing public education and the underlying principles on which the district.

Section B: School Board Governance & Operations

Provides a repository for statements about the school board—how it is elected, organized; how it conducts its meetings and operates. This section includes bylaws and policies establishing the board's internal operating procedures.

Section C: General School Administration

Provides a repository for statements about the school district management, the administrative structure, and school building and department administration. It also is the location for personnel policies that pertain to one individual – the superintendent.

Section D: Fiscal Management

Provides a repository for statements concerning fiscal affairs and the management of district funds. Statements relating to the financing of school construction, however, are filed in the F Section: Facilities Development Section.

Section E: Support Services

Provides a repository for statement on non-instructional services and programs, including most of those that fall in the area of business management such as safety, buildings and their management (not construction), transportation, and food services.

Section F: Facilities Development

Provides a repository for statements on school construction, remodeling and modernizing, temporary facilities, and facilities retirement plans.

Section G: Personnel

Section G provides a repository for personnel policies. This section has three main subdivisions: subsection GB presents policy topics that pertain to professional personnel, including administrators, who must hold educational certification by the state to serve in their positions; subsection GD is for policies pertaining to all other personnel.

Section H: Negotiations

Section H provides a repository for statements pertaining to the process of negotiating with staff units recognized by the school committee.

Section I: Instruction

Section I provides a repository for statements on the instructional programs: basic programs, special programs, activities programs, instructional resources, and academic achievement.

Section J: Student

Section J provides a repository for statements concerning students - admissions, attendance, rights and responsibilities, conduct, discipline, health and welfare services. However, all policies pertaining to the curriculum, instruction of students and extracurricular programs are filed in the I (Instruction) Section.

Section K: School - Community Relations

Section provides a repository for statements on relations with the general public and with other community and public agencies except other educational agencies or groups.

Section L: Education Agency Relations

Provides a repository for statements which concern the district's relationship with other education agencies – other school districts, regional or service districts, private schools, colleges and universities, educational research organizations, and state and national education agencies.

Summary of Westfield Public Schools Safety Policies

Criminal Offender Registration (CORI): The Human Resources Office processes all CORI checks. The CORI will be utilized only for employment purposes and not disseminated to any other party.

Emergency Procedures: Advance planning for emergencies and disasters is essential to provide for the safety of students and staff. Schools must be prepared to respond immediately and responsibly to any combination of events which threaten to result in an emergency and/or disaster.

Fire Safety: Building principals will meet all requirements for conducting fire drills to give students practice in moving with orderly dispatch to designated areas under emergency conditions.

Identification of Students and Staff: A picture identification system enhances the control and management of the school system.

Injury Reports: All injuries must be reported to the classroom teacher/school nurse as soon as possible. The injury report form must be completed.

Inspections (Playgrounds, Buildings, Buses, Etc.): Regular inspection of buildings, grounds, facilities, equipment and buses to uncover hazards and/or dangerous conditions in an ongoing effort to address any safety concerns.

Westfield Police Department: The Westfield Police Department and the Westfield Public Schools are committed to safe schools. The parties agree to meet to collaborate and establish lines of communication to support a safe, secure school and community.

Reporting requirements to the Department of Children & Families: Any school official or employee shall report any suspected child abuse or neglect as required by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 119, Section 51A. (File: JL)

Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests: The School Committee recognizes the right of students to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. Nevertheless, it is the duty of the School Committee and school officials to maintain order and discipline in the schools, thereby ensuring a positive educational environment. In furtherance of these duties, inspections and searches for prohibited and/or illegal substances or items may be conducted. (File: JIH)

Reporting Requirements to Law Enforcement: It is the policy of the Westfield Public Schools to cooperate with law enforcement and social service agencies in the interest of the larger welfare of all citizens. At the same time, Westfield Public Schools have a responsibility to parents/guardians for the welfare of the students while they are in the care of the school.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

The Westfield Fire Department requires a standard evacuation procedure for all Westfield Public Schools. This procedure allows students to learn the evacuation procedure when they first enter the school and follow the same instructions until they leave the Westfield Public Schools.

Visitors and Parking

VISITORS: Our policy is to accept visitors who have legitimate business at school. Visitors and guests must register in the school office immediately upon entering the building. All visitors and guests must display, at all times, an appropriate identification badge assigned by the school office. Upon completion of their business all visitors and guests must sign out in the school office, return their badge and promptly leave the building.

Parking Regulations: Parents/guardians, students, and visitors should familiarize themselves with the parking regulations of the school and park in a legal parking space only. Violators will be subject to fines or towing of their vehicles. This applies to morning drop-off and after school pick-up as well as evening programs, workshops and conferences.

Summer Reading

The Westfield Public Schools remain committed to the improvement of reading, a primary component of the learning process. The goals of summer reading are to reinforce the habit of reading **to gain knowledge, to exercise the brain, and to provide entertainment.** ~~for pleasure, enrichment and gathering information.~~ Research indicates that the more students read or listen to books, **the more they will develop as readers.** ~~the better they will read.~~ Research also indicates that Students who do not read regularly throughout the summer lose reading skills that must be rebuilt once school begins again. Our expectation is that every student will read over the summer. ~~Please refer to the Westfield Public School district webpage at under Students for detailed information about summer reading.~~ **If you have specific questions about summer reading, please contact your child's school.**

Teacher Mailboxes

Teacher mailboxes are private and under no circumstances are students or visitors to REMOVE OR PUT ANYTHING in a teacher's mailbox.

Cancellation of School

There will be days when the Westfield Public Schools will be closed or have a delayed opening due to inclement weather, hazardous traveling conditions and/or other emergencies. We have a telephone notification system that will place calls to parents notifying them of closings, delays, or an early release. Please be sure that your student's contact information is up-to-date. The decision to close or not close school is made as early as possible to cancel all school transportation and lunch programs and to notify the media, traffic, and school personnel. On occasion, it may be wiser to have a two-hour delayed opening of school instead of closing for the full day. There may also be weather conditions that would necessitate the closing of school during normal school hours. Every child should know what to do and where to go in case of an early dismissal. If there is school during bad weather, the final decision concerning school attendance must rest with the individual parent.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) - Model Notice for Directory Information

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Westfield Public Schools with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Westfield Public Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised your student's building principal to the contrary in accordance with Westfield Public School procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Westfield Public Schools to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. [Note: These laws are Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. § 7908) and 10 U.S.C. § 503(c).]

If you do not want the Westfield Public Schools to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify your child's school principal in writing by **September 14, 2023**. The Westfield Public Schools has designated the following information as directory information.

- **Student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address**
- **Photograph**
- **Date and place of birth**
- **Major field of study**
- **Dates of attendance**
- **Grade level**
- **Participation in officially recognized activities and sports**
- **Weight and height of members of athletic teams**
- **Degrees, honors, and awards received**
- **The most recent educational agency or institution attended**
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user
- A student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2023-2024

August 25
August 28 & 29
August 30

New Teacher Orientation Day
Staff Development Days
Schools open for grades 1-12

September 4
September 6
Preschool

Labor Day Holiday/No School
First Day of Kindergarten & Fort Meadow Early Childhood Center

October 9
October 25

Columbus Day Holiday/No School
Early Release Day for Elementary Students
Full Day for Secondary Students
Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences

November 7
November 10
November 22,23,24

Staff Development Day/No School for Students
for November 11 Veterans Day/No School
Thanksgiving Recess/No School

December 25-29

Holiday Recess/No School (schools reopen January 2, 2024)

January 15

Martin Luther King Day Holiday/No School

February 7

Early Release Day for Elementary Students
Full Day for Secondary Students
Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences
Winter Vacation/No School

February 19-23

March 8
March 29

Staff Development Day/No School
Good Friday/No School

April 15-19

Spring Vacation/No School

May 27

Memorial Day Holiday/No School

June 6

June 7

June 21

Westfield Technical Academy graduation ceremony
Westfield High School graduation ceremony
Last Day of School - early release for students

*Includes 5 emergency closing days.

A day will be deducted from calendar for every emergency closing day not used

**Last day will be June 13 (if no emergency closing days are used)

Support Resources and Hotlines

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

Dilmira Liquori, Police Department: 562-5411 extension 5

YWCA ARCH Program: 733-7100 (hotline) Shelter, counseling and information for battered women and their children, sexual assault services

New Beginnings: 562-5739 counseling and information

Safe Link 24-hours 877-785-2020

Psychiatric Services

Westfield Crisis Intervention Program: 568-6386 24-hour service for psychiatric crisis and suicidal behavior

Individual, group and family counseling for youth and families:

The Carson Center: 572-4132

James Levine and Association: 534-7400

MSPCC, Holyoke: 532-9466

Child and Family Services, West Springfield: 737-4718

Agawam Counseling Center: 786-6410

Substance Abuse Services

MASS Substance Abuse Information Helpline: 800-327-5050

Providence Hospital, Holyoke

Clinical Assessment Center for outpatient services: 539-2973

Clinical Assessment Center for inpatient services: 539-2981

Baystate Medical Center, Central Intake for inpatient and outpatient services: 794-5555

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting schedule: www.westernmassaa.org or listed in your local paper

Al-Anon and Alateen: 782-3406/ 888-425-2666

Hotlines and Other Support Services

United Way: 737-2691

AIDS information and support: 800-235-2331

Missing children: 800-843-5678

National Runaway Switchboard (24 hours): 800-RUNAWAY

Department of Children and Families, Holyoke Office: 493-2600

Parental Stress Line: 800-632-8188

Western Mass Legal Services (Legal Aid): 781-7814