

Rock Creek High School 2022 / 2023

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Name: _____

Grade: _____

An Equal Employment/Educational Opportunity Agency

The USD 323 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Superintendent of Schools

201 S 3rd Street Box 70 Westmoreland, KS 66549 785-457-3732 Fax: 785-457-3701

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FOREWORD

This handbook is provided by U.S.D. 323 to inform students and parents of its policies, regulations, and procedures. By reading and becoming familiar with the contents of this handbook, students should be able to make the proper decisions concerning their conduct and activities.

Upon approval by the U.S.D. 323 Board of Education, this handbook becomes an addendum to the U.S.D. 323 policy handbook. If you do not understand a policy, regulation, or procedure, you can receive an explanation from the building principal.

ROCK CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

Building Goals

Relationships: Cultivate and strengthen relationships between all Rock Creek stakeholders. (students, faculty/staff, parents, and community)

Relevance: Provide and engage students in authentic learning experiences

Building Mission Statement

Rock Creek High School will provide an orderly, supportive, quality learning environment to challenge all students to achieve, believe, dream, produce, and relate to others with responsibility and integrity in a manner that credits themselves and society.

ROCK CREEK U.S.D. 323

District Vision Statement

USD 323 is a leader in employability skills and civic engagement demonstrated by the success of our students, staff, and community.

Philosophy

U.S.D. 323 is dedicated to a basic mission which prepares learners to live, learn, and work in a global society. This basic mission strives for excellence in education by establishing high expectations for learning. While in many ways the district is traditional in its approach to learning, it remains receptive to new and proven educational methods and ideas that are effective. Monitoring of student achievement is accomplished through the use of multiple assessment techniques.

U.S.D. 323's primary function is to provide a diverse academic program for its students. These educational opportunities include, but shall not be limited to the areas of technology, reading, writing, communication, mathematics, science, social science, the arts, physical education, and the skills for living in a global society.

U.S.D. 323 recognizes that in the information age students need to develop competence with the existing and emerging technologies. The students are expected to actively participate in the educational process to develop their potential for lifelong learning in this diverse society.

Educational activities are designed to develop wholesome attitudes and habits as well as to provide students an opportunity to experience self-satisfaction through commitment, hard work, participation, and accomplishments. These educational objectives are exercised consistently throughout the district.

U.S.D. 323 recognizes the uniqueness of each individual. It is with this knowledge and understanding that the educational philosophy is to provide each student with opportunity to develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically to his/her maximum potential through an eclectic teaching approach.

U.S.D. 323 will provide the staff with an effective professional development program which is focused on the student. The staff development program will ensure that the teachers have the appropriate training needed to grow and develop professionally. This program will also provide administrators with the necessary skills to become better instructional leaders. Professional

growth/development and instructional leadership will result in improved student performance which is a part of the effective school environment.

U.S.D. 323 recognizes its partnership role with students, parents, community, and other institutions in the total educational development of each individual. The students must accept responsibility for their learning. It is the parents' responsibility to send their children to school prepared to learn. Parents need to stress the importance of an education and motivate their children to work to their highest potential. It is the school's responsibility to provide children with a quality education. It is essential that students conduct themselves appropriately at school in order to ensure a safe, orderly environment that is conducive to learning.

U.S.D. 323 recognizes the need for discipline in school. A code of discipline that is fair, impartial, and consistent is essential for learning. The consequences of failure to adhere to the code will be understood by the students, parents, and faculty. The positive aspects of adhering to the code shall be emphasized. The student must be the center of the whole educational process, and this process is a joint effort of parents, the community, and the educational institution.

The Board of Education is elected to represent the community and act in a responsible manner when making decisions for **U.S.D. 323**. The effect and efficiency of the district should be the focus of such decisions. Policies are established by the Board of Education and the administrators' responsibility is to carry out the policies.

U.S.D. 323 recognizes that the image projected by all involved within the educational process is extremely important in relation to students' achievements. **U.S.D. 323** believes that all employees, community, and parents should be expected to exemplify basic values such as learning, honesty, and integrity by setting examples and abiding by the rules which reinforce high educational standards.

U.S.D. 323 recognizes that all employees, parents and students have rights. These rights shall ensure that they are safeguarded from abuse, violence, discrimination and will be treated with respect and dignity.

By operating in accordance with this philosophy and putting the highest priority on academic achievement, **U.S.D. 323** dedicates itself to educational excellence.

General Information

Addendums or deletions to the U.S.D. 323 Board of Education Policy Handbook after approval by the Board of Education shall be immediately enforceable as part of the Student Handbook.

Admission Policies

Communicable Disease Policy

USD 323 will monitor and follow CDC and KDHE guidelines. To minimize the risk of communicable disease to the students of U.S.D. 323, the Board of Education has established guidelines for administrators to follow. Details of this policy may be found in JGCC of the Board of Education Policy Handbook. This policy applies to all forms of communicable disease including COVID, COVID response and the disease known as Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. In all cases, the principal shall use their best judgment in resolving the problem to protect all students.

Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act

For purposes of FERPA (Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act), U.S.D. 323 had designated certain information contained in educational records as directory information which may be disclosed for any purpose without consent.

The following information is considered directory information: name, address, telephone, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of

members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous school attended by the student, class designation, major field of study and photographs. Parent/guardians have a right to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the above information as directory information.

If a parent/guardian refuses to permit the release of this directory information, he/she must file written notification to this effect with the U.S.D. 323 school office at the student's attendance center within 10 days of this notification. If a refusal is not filed, U.S.D. 323 assumes there is no objection to the release of directory information as designated above. Additional information about FERPA can be obtained by contacting District Superintendent, P.O. Box 70, Westmoreland, KS 66549 (785.457.3732).

Foreign Exchange Students

All foreign exchange students must receive prior approval from the building principal before being allowed to enroll. Requests for enrollment must be made in writing. Foreign exchange students are required to be proficient in English upon arrival at Rock Creek HS. All requests to attend must include a transcript in English and all requests must be received at Rock Creek by June 1st prior to each new school year. Furthermore, the student must be enrolled and in attendance prior to September 20th of each year. Diplomas will not be granted to foreign exchange students. Involvement in graduation exercises will be determined by the building principal and senior class sponsor. Exchange students will be awarded a certificate of completion and a certified transcript for their completed coursework. All foreign exchange students will enroll in a full schedule comprised of an appropriate RC standard for Core and Elective classes. The counselor will work directly with the FE student designing a class schedule to their liking and building administration will grant final approval of all scheduled classes for foreign exchange students.

Immunization Policy

The Board of Education of U.S.D.323 requires verification of immunizations as provided by K.S.A.72-5209. The immunization record of each pupil shall indicate that inoculations have been accomplished by a licensed physician or a public health department in accordance with the following schedule (this list is subject to edits/change based on the public health climate and recommendations):

Vaccine: Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP)

Doses Required: 5 doses required for grades K-6th 4 doses required for Pre-School

Administered: 4 doses acceptable if dose 4 is given on or after the 4th birthday.

Vaccine: Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)

Dose: Booster

Administered: All grades, 7th-12th, are required to have one dose of Tdap regardless of the interval since the last dose of Td (Tetanus/diphtheria).

Vaccine: Oral Polio (OPV) or Injectable Polio (IPV)

Doses Required: 4 doses required for grades K-12th 3 doses required for Pre-School

Administered: 3 doses acceptable if dose 3 is given on or after the 4th birthday.

Vaccine: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)

Doses Required: 2 doses required for grades K-12th 1 dose required for Pre-School

Administered: Initial dose to be administered after 12 months old with second dose administered prior to Kindergarten.

Vaccine: Hepatitis B (HBV)

Doses Required: 3 doses required for grades Preschool-11th

Administered: Initial dose at birth or elected date. Second dose one-two months after initial dose. Third dose 6 months after initial doses.

Vaccine: Varicella (chickenpox)

Doses: 2 doses required for grades K-12th. 1 dose required for grades Pre-School.

New Students

Proof of identity and in-district residency must be provided for any child enrolling for the first time. A birth certificate, copy of a court order placing the child in the custody of the Social Rehabilitation Service, a certified transcript, or other documentary evidence satisfactory to the Board of Education may be used at all grade levels. *Please also refer to Out-of-District Student information below.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The district shall maintain a learning environment free from discrimination, insult, intimidation, or harassment due to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability. Any incident of discrimination in any form shall promptly be reported to a teacher, the principal or other appropriate school official for investigation and corrective action by the compliance office.

Any student who engages in discrimination may be reprimanded and counseled to refrain from such conduct. Any student who continues to engage in discriminatory conduct shall be disciplined. Any student who engages in discriminatory behavior may be disciplined in a manner deemed appropriate by the administration, up to and including expulsion from school.

If you have questions regarding the above, please contact the Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator, Superintendent of Schools, U.S.D. 323, St. George, Kansas 66535, telephone 785.494.8597. This policy also applies to federally funded vocational programs.

Out-of-District Students

RCHS has been the beneficiary of many incredible out of district students and families over the years. There is, however, a yearly "Out-of-District" application process which is required for all non-resident RCHS students. *Please refer to district policy for specific details. Otherwise, in-district "Residency" is required and is defined by an immediate family's verifiable **home residence**. False/misleading information or the claiming of false residency for the purpose of enrolling as a district resident, could be considered a theft of service and will be acted upon accordingly. Furthermore, as a KSHSAA member, there are eligibility regulations in place which could negatively impact student and/or team eligibility if circumvented. It is essential that all parties act with honesty and integrity when working through these particular matters.

Parental Grievance Procedures

Any parent or guardian with concerns about their child in the schools of U.S.D. 323, are encouraged to follow these procedures in the order listed:

1. Contact the child's teacher for a conference.
2. Contact the building principal if the parent-teacher conference does not resolve the concerns of the parent.
3. Contact the superintendent only if the problem cannot be resolved at the building level.
4. If the concerns are still not resolved, the parent may request permission through the superintendent to address the school board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Placement of Transfer Students

The placement of students transferring to a school in U.S.D. 323 from private schools, non-accredited schools, home teaching situations, or schools from other states shall be determined by the guidance counselor and building principal. The building principal shall make the final placement decision based upon the available information.

STUDENT INFORMATION

ACT / Work Keys

Juniors will have the opportunity to take the ACT assessment and will take the Work Keys Assessment as a Junior year assessment. Make up dates will be scheduled for those who are not in attendance. Seniors who have missed this opportunity but would like to test, will be able to take the assessment during the same testing window(s) as scheduled for Juniors.

Advisor (Seniors)

Seniors who are not passing all classes are not eligible to be dismissed/excused from campus for either Advisor. This also includes seniors with “Tardy” designations for the week.

Assessments and Remediation

When student assessment results (state, standardized, or classroom) demonstrate the need for remediation, student’s enrollment permissions can/will be limited the following semester. Students can/will be required to enroll in coursework that is designed to assist in improving the skills that have been demonstrated as lacking. Possibilities are as follows:

- Taking an additional non-required course in the assessed area(s)
- Re-taking a course in the assessed area(s)
- Electronic remediation coursework in the assessed area(s)
- Credit Recovery
- Summer School

Student privileges/choices can/will be limited in the areas of Teacher Aiding, Home Hour, and any other areas deemed necessary by a student advisory team made up of administration, counseling, testing coordinator, and subject area teacher. **Class credits will be awarded only after remediation has been successfully completed.**

Class Substitution/Retakes

Rock Creek High School students electing to repeat classes other than strength, aerobics, multimedia, band, choir, debate, forensics, extended core, and study skills, should note that both the original and updated course title/s and grade/s will appear on their academic transcript. Course credit and GPA value will accompany the higher grade.

Classification of Students

Students shall be classified in accordance with the following minimum credits. Classification will be based on the number of credits at the beginning of each semester.

Freshman	Satisfactory completion of the 8 th grade core units
Sophomore	6 units of high school credit
Junior	12 units of high school credit
Senior	18 units of high school credit

College Classes

Seniors and second-semester juniors will be permitted to take college classes during the school day with the permission of the principal. To be eligible for participation, a student must maintain a “B” average in their high school classes.

College classes will not be considered in calculating a student’s grade-point average or class standing. College classes taken will count toward the student’s eligibility for participation in extra-curricular activities at the following rate: 3 college hours equal 1 high school credit; 5 college hours equal 2 high school credits. All costs associated with college classes will be the financial responsibility of the student.

Course Fees

It may be necessary in certain classes to collect fees for consumable supplies. Shop materials used for personal projects will be the full responsibility of the student/family.

Dual Credits

Rock Creek High School offers a selection of Highland Community College, MATC, and KSU concurrent credits for interested/qualified juniors and seniors. Courses offered during the normal school day can count for both high school and postsecondary credit. Credits will be awarded only if the student pays the tuition for the credits as applicable.

Enrollment

Enrollment for classes the next school year is done each spring. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the enrollment process with their student. Enrollment into freshmen classes is

extremely important as it sets the program for all the high school years.

Fire and Tornado Drills

State law requires that the school conduct scheduled drills. Procedures are to be posted clearly in each room. Students are to proceed to the designated areas quickly and quietly.

Graduation Requirements

Eligibility for receiving a certificate of high school graduation shall be as follows:

1. Receive a passing grade in all subject areas required by the Board of Education of U.S.D. 323 and the Kansas State Department of Education.
2. Receive 25 units of high school credit as follows:

English.....	4credits
Mathematics	3 credits
Social Science.....	3 credits
Science	3 credits
Speech / Fine Arts.....	1 credit
Physical Education / Health	1 credit
Computer Applications.....	1 credit
Financial Literacy.....	.5 credit
Electives	8.5 credits
Total	25 credits

All seniors must complete the 25 units of credits in all other subject area requirements and successfully complete their Exit Project prior to participating in commencement.

Graduation Requirements (BOE Policy JFC, JFC-R)

Final Graduation Requirements for RCHS Online Graduates will not exceed the requirements for in-person graduates. Online Graduates will be able to participate in an alternate online course to satisfy the Exit Project requirement and receive an RCHS Online diploma (this will be separate from "Graduation Exercises" below).

Graduation exercises will be under the auspices of the building principal.

All students who have completed the requirements for graduation shall be entitled to participate in graduation exercises unless participation is denied for appropriate reasons.

Except for attending classes or school-sponsored events, any senior student who enters onto school property without prior approval will be considered as trespassing and will be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include suspension or denial of graduation ceremony privileges.

If the trespass occurs after seniors have finished classes for the year and before the graduation ceremony occurs and if the trespass is accompanied by any amount of property damage, littering, theft, graffiti, or any form of vandalism, participation in graduation ceremonies shall be prohibited.

The building principal will make a reasonable effort to share this policy with all senior students and their parents or guardians at the beginning of the school year.

Grading and Credit Policy

Letter Grade	%	Credit Points	Weighted Credit Points
A+	100	4.0	5.0
A	99-93	4.0	5.0
A-	92-90	4.0	5.0
B+	89-87	3.67	4.67
B	86-83	3.33	4.33
B-	82-80	3.00	4.00
C+	79-77	2.67	3.67
C	76-73	2.33	3.33
C-	72-70	2.00	3.00
D+	69-67	1.67	2.67
D	66-63	1.33	2.33
D-	62-60	1.00	2.00
F	59-0	0.00	0.00

The weighted classes are: Advanced Placement Biology, Advanced Placement Calculus, Advanced Placement Physics, and Advanced Placement Language.

Hall Passes

Students should utilize the passing period between classes to go to their lockers or the restroom. If it becomes necessary to leave the classroom during class time, students must have permission of the classroom teacher. Infractions may result in referrals and/or detention.

Honor Roll

The school will maintain and publish an Honor Roll of students for each semester. Honor rolls will be based on GPAs of 4.0, 3.5, and 3.0. In no case will a student be placed on the Honor roll with a grade lower than a "C".

Honors (Senior Graduation)

Beginning with the class of 2018 (as adopted by the BOE in October 2015) graduating seniors will be honored as follows:

1. Three distinct groups or individual students will be honored during graduation
 - Distinguished Scholars – All "A"s" (including all AP Course offerings)
 - Exemplary Scholars – Minimum 4.0 cumulative GPA
 - Honor Students – 3.5-3.99 cumulative GPA
 - *Each level will wear a distinguishing cord color at graduation
 - *Each level will be explained and recognized at graduation

2. "Distinguished Scholars" will be *offered the opportunity* to speak at commencement.

**There will be a 15 minute (maximum) window of time reserved/scheduled during commencement for this honor. Should there be more than one distinguished scholar; the speaker's times will be

divided equally. Should there not be a distinguished scholar to speak; the student elected Class President will deliver a class address.

Early Out Policy

1. An “Early Out” would be graduation at the end of the first semester in a student’s senior year (seventh semester). Students must have completed all graduation requirements for a complete early out (early graduation).
2. Seniors are required to attend a minimum of seven classes during both semesters of senior year.
3. Written application to the principal by the student is required no later than the end of the first nine (9) weeks for either the complete or partial early out.
4. Early out students will be allowed to attend the Jr./Sr. Prom and can participate in graduation exercises.

Eighteen-Year-Old Students

At age 18, by law, students are legally responsible for all their actions. However, Rock Creek will continue to require the parent/guardian of an 18-year-old to be contacted for all issues if that student resides with the parent/guardian.

Incompletes

In most cases, a grade of “Incomplete” must be made up within 14 calendar days after the end of each grading period. Any incomplete work not made up within 14 calendar days will be recorded as a “zero” in the teacher’s grade book and the semester grade figured accordingly.

Insurance

U.S.D. 323 strongly recommends that all students engaging in shop classes, science labs, cooking classes, physical education classes, or any other potentially hazardous school activity be covered with some type of individual/family accident and/or health insurance.

K.S.H.S.A.A. catastrophic insurance contains some limitations on its coverage including no coverage for outpatient medication. Parents may want to consider purchasing individual student activity insurance.

Job and Educational Visits

Seniors will be allowed time away from school to attend job and educational visits not to exceed 14 hours per year. Juniors will be allowed time from school to attend educational interviews not to exceed 7 hours per year. All days must be pre-arranged with the counselor 2 days in advance. Failure to do so may result in an unexcused absence. ***Seniors and Juniors Need to Bring Signed Verification of Attendance at College or Job Interviews.***

Leaving the Grounds

Permission to leave the building grounds while school is in session will not be granted by the principal or office designee without a signed note, personal phone call, or personal email, from the student’s parents. Before leaving the building, the student must “sign-out” from the office.

Leaving school grounds without permission of the building principal or office designee is considered grounds for suspension. If the student returns to school on the same day, they must sign back in at the office. Students departing campus without permission will not be eligible for same day evening activities.

Locker

Each student will be provided the opportunity to have a school locker. Lockers are the property of the school and may be searched as needed. The unauthorized changing of locks or lockers is prohibited.

Rock Creek High School will not assume responsibility for the security of your personal belongings at school nor assume responsibility for security of the assigned lockers. In order to protect your property, you must use your lock.

Medical

Students must be excluded from school if they have a fever of 100 degrees F or greater. Students must be fever free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication (such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen) in order to return to school.

Students should not return to school until 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea.

Students who exhibit symptoms of illness should not be sent to school. School personnel will reserve the right to decide whether or not the student will remain in school.

Medication

In order to comply with the U.S.D. 323 Board of Education policy on the administration of medication, school personnel are not to dispense any medication unless:

Prescription medication has been prescribed by a licensed physician or dentist. There must be a "Permission for Medication" form giving complete instructions from the physician or dentist and signed by the parent on file in the school office. Forms can be found at the school office or website under district nurse. Any medication must be in its original container with the label and directions on it. Medication is required to be kept in the school office.

Self-administration of medication for asthma inhalers may be allowed by a student to carry and self-administer only if the "Permission for asthma medication" form is completed and on file in the school office. The form requires a physician, parent and student signature.

Non-prescription or over the counter medication may be given for only 2 weeks with only a parent's signature. If longer than 2 weeks, a physician's signature is required. "Permission for over the counter medication" form must be completed and on file in the school office. Medication must be sent in the original container, labeled with the student's name and stored in the school office. *The school shall NOT provide any over the counter medication.*

***Under no circumstances should students share medications of any kind or dispense medications to other students to be administered in any way. This includes prescription and over the counter medications. Due to the seriousness of and risk involved with this potential practice, violation of this policy will be subject to consideration for suspension from school.**

Parking Regulations

At Rock Creek, **students may park their vehicle only in the designated student parking areas (south parking lots).** Students may not park in the circle at the front of the building, in the back of the school, at the shop areas, or in the east or west parking areas. Students may not gather in the parking lot or sit in their cars prior to school, during lunch, or at any time while school is in session without office permission. Cars should be parked according to markings in the lot and should be fully parked on the hard surfaces. **Students must receive permission from and sign out in the office to go to their vehicle or the parking lot during the school day.** Any acts of reckless driving or violations of the above could warrant loss of parking/driving privileges on USD #323 property.

In the event students drive to and are parked at either SGES or WES, students will park according to the building practices or at that building principal's discretion. HS rules and discipline applies.

First Offense – Warning / Conference with building administration (parental contact)

Second Offense – Up to 10-day loss of parking privileges (parental contact)

Third Offense – Up to 30-day loss of parking privileges (parental contact)

Fourth Offense – Loss of parking privileges (parental contact)

Progress Reports

Progress Reports/grade updates are available via Power School and the Parent Portal. For those without internet access, grades may be picked up in the office by students. Call 785.494.8591 to make a request to have reports mailed through USPS.

Report Cards

Students will receive a grade for each class. Grade reports are available via Power School and the Parent Portal. Hard copy reports for grades 7-12 can be mailed to parents at the end of each semester by request (call 785.494.8591).

Schedule Changes

Students have until the end of the third class period (each semester) to change classes. Any schedule change requires the permission of the student's parents, the respective teacher(s), and the guidance counselor. Classes dropped after five class periods will be recorded as an **F** on the official transcript.

School Closings

In the event that it becomes necessary to cancel classes or delay the start of a school day, announcements will be made via SwiftAlert text, and/or emails. Announcements will also be made on **WIBW-13 TV**, **KSNT- 27 TV**, **KTKA - 49 TV**, **KMAN 1350 Radio/B104 radio** and **WIBW 94.5 radio** and Twitter @RockCreekHS. In some cases, school may be in session with limited or no bus service provided. View *Limited Bus Schedule* at www.rockcreekschools.org under District Information section.

Rock Creek U.S.D. 323 will keep schools open during cold and inclement weather when possible. Parents who consider temperatures and/or weather conditions unsafe for their children can keep their children home. Student absences because of weather conditions can be excused. Parents should make this request by calling the school.

Student Records

Access to student records is restricted to parents, guardians, or legally appointed persons, students 18 years of age or older, and appropriate school personnel. Requests for access to student records must be made in writing to the Superintendent of the District specifying the nature of the information requested and the date of the request. The request for access to student records shall be granted as soon as practical but in no case in excess of 45 days following the date of the request.

Teaching Assistant "T/A" (Seniors)

Acceptable Attendance/Tardy rates, passing grades and meeting Exit Project deadlines are required to be/remain eligible as a T/A. Students who are not passing all classes (after the first four weeks of school each semester) or are missing Exit Project deadlines will have T/A privileges suspended. They will be enrolled in Study Support and required to attend both Advisors for the remainder of the semester or until the grade has been maintained at a minimum of 70% for four consecutive weeks. Only at this point in time, can eligibility for T/A be reviewed. To request T/A be reinstated, the student will be responsible for maintaining documentation of improved scores and will be required to organize a meeting between themselves, parents, and counselor/administration to present documentation of improvements and a personal plan to sustain passing scores prior to consideration.

Visitor Regulations

Persons conducting school business are welcome on campus. Appointments should be made in advance if at all possible. Visitors are required to check in at the school office upon arrival. Visitors will not be allowed in active classroom settings/hallways unless planned for (permission requested and granted by the classroom teacher and building administration with 12-24 hour advanced notice). Students should not invite or encourage outside friends or relatives to visit them at school or shadow them in classes. Anyone found on campus without having checked into the office or with a legitimate reason will be asked to leave immediately.

Withdrawal from School

Students withdrawing from school must be cleared by the school office. A checklist of activities must be completed including fees paid, technology & textbooks checked in, locker cleaned out, lock returned to the office (if applicable), and the signatures received from the teacher of each class in which the student is enrolled indicating that the student has turned in all materials and books which are school property.

Failure to comply with the above procedures will prohibit the release of student records.

STUDENT SERVICES

Counseling

A counselor is provided by U.S.D. 323 to assist students in a number of ways including standardized testing, career counseling, selection of post-secondary educational opportunities, financial assistance to college-bound students, substance abuse counseling, and counseling on personal matters affecting school performance.

Students are encouraged to utilize the counseling services provided to maximize their personal, school, college, and career decisions. **Students should pre-arrange all visits with the counselor and (if possible) notify their teachers that they will not be present in class.**

Media Center

U.S.D. 323 provides a media center for the benefit of its students. A variety of media is contained in the MC for the academic enrichment and enjoyment of students. A student bar code will be issued to each student for check out. This bar code must be presented/utilized in order to check out materials. Loss or damage to materials should be reported to the circulation desk at once. The student will be responsible for all materials checked out on his/her account.

Meals

USD 323 encourages its students to maintain an adequate, healthy diet. Students wishing to eat school breakfast and/or lunch may purchase a meal or bring their own meals. Approved items may be purchased ala carte at lunch time (as available). USD 323 supports a closed campus for students during lunch time.

Charging of school lunches is discouraged. The negative balance will continue to accrue until paid. To ensure that parents are kept aware of their child(ren)'s meal balance please look in Powerschool. The balance is updated daily. An alert email will be sent home for **low balances** on Tuesday and Thursday. An alert email will also be sent Monday through Friday for **negative balances**. Free/reduced lunch applications are always available upon request or online. Payments can be sent to the office in the form of a check or cash (please attach the student's name) or can be made online at EZSCHOOLPAY.com

Special Education Services

Comprehensive special education services are provided to students through an agreement with the Wamego Special Services Cooperative. The SPED Director can be reached at 785.456.9195.

Textbook Policy

Textbooks utilized in U.S.D. 323 are approved by the Board of Education. These textbooks are provided by the district to students who must pay an annual textbook rental fee. Textbook fees are established annually by the Board of Education and are due at the time of enrollment. A student who enrolls in U.S.D. 323 after the first day of class, textbook fees will be pro-rated. Students will be held financially accountable for textbooks which become lost or damaged.

Student Improvement Team

The Student Improvement Team is a team of teachers and staff which helps to create, implement, and monitor improvement plans for students struggling academically and/or socially. Students may be referred to the team by a teacher, administrator, parent, self, or friend.

Tutoring

As a positive expression of our interest in student success, a tutoring program is provided to assist students who are in need of additional academic guidance. Tutors/Aides are generally available before and after school. Specific hours are set at the beginning of each semester based on student need.

Vocational Technical School

There is opportunity for students of U.S.D. 323 to receive credit for classes taught through MATC. Enrollment is limited to juniors and seniors. Students interested in pursuing vocational education classes should see the counselor for details.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

To facilitate the total development of students in U.S.D. 323, a variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities are provided. Students may choose to participate in one or more activities to make their high school experiences more enjoyable and rewarding. Students must remain in “good standing” and meet both building and KSHSAA requirements as applicable to participate.

Advisor Period / CORE Time

Advisor classes are designed as an opportunity for students to work with their Advisor teachers and other classroom teachers on class extension, homework completion, remediation, enrichment, personal organization, and prioritization of student responsibilities. This is also a time to work on Exit Projects, Career Exploration, and required IPS.

Advisor period is also utilized for conducting student organizational business meetings, teacher/student grade check conferences, Habitudes (Character Ed.) lessons, and Career Education, and Teambuilding, and Career Cruising/Xello. Organizational meetings must be placed on the Activities Calendar with the prior permission of the administration.

After School Activities

The policies, rules and regulations of U.S.D. 323 apply to all activities sponsored by the district, including those held on or off school property and while traveling in school-sponsored transportation. Behavior of students at activities should also follow school policies as stated above when they have provided their own transportation.

**Students who are on suspension or expulsion are not eligible to attend any school sponsored activity regardless of location.*

Class Rings, Letter Jackets, and Letters

Items such as class rings, letter jackets, and letters which are purchased at the school must be approved by the building principal. Such items must designate official school name, mascot, and school colors. The school’s athletic director and coaches will recommend letter jacket styles and letters to the principal for approval.

Dances and Parties

The school will sponsor various dances and parties throughout the school year. Dates for these dances and parties will be placed on the Activities Calendar with the prior permission of the administration.

The following regulations apply:

1. All dances and parties must be sponsored by a certified staff member of U.S.D. 323 and must maintain appropriate adult supervision of all areas being used.
2. Dances and parties will start and end at a predetermined time, but in no case end later than 12:00 A.M.
3. No dances/parties will be held on a night preceding a school day.
4. Attendance at school-sponsored dances and parties is denied to any person who consumes, possesses, uses, transfers or is under the influence of any narcotic, hallucinogenic, depressant or stimulant drug, alcoholic or cereal malt beverage, inhalant, intoxicant of any kind, or using tobacco products (smoke or smokeless) on school property. Student violators will be dismissed from the event and given a five-day school suspension. Allowance at future events will be in question. Guests under the influence will be dismissed and will no longer be able to attend RC dances or parties (including prom).
5. Attendance at school-sponsored dances/parties is limited to students who are currently enrolled and attending classes. High school students only may invite one outside guest with prior permission of the administrator on duty.
6. After a student and/or guest has entered the building to attend the dance/party, they may not leave and be re-admitted.
7. The group sponsoring the dance/party is responsible for the conduct of the dance/party and the clean-up afterward.
8. Junior high students may not attend high school dances/parties.

Earning a Letter

Students who participate in certain high school activities may earn a school letter for their efforts. The criteria for earning a letter are established by the coach or sponsor with the approval of the principal. The coach or sponsor will inform students and parents of criteria for earning a letter. All criteria will be approved by the Activities Director.

Eligibility (Daily/Weekly)

Student will be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities if they are passing (60% or better) at least six classes

A student becomes ineligible to compete if:

- 1.They are failing two classes
- 2.They have failed to uphold an acceptable standard of behavior in school

A student may become eligible immediately if they no longer fall under either of the two conditions listed above. Students must be in attendance all day to practice or play in an activity or have an excused absence for the time missed. Saturday events will be considered part of the calendar week and all eligibility rules will apply.

Eligibility (Semester)

Students must pass five of seven classes during a semester to be eligible the following semester.

Homecoming

The Student Council organization will sponsor fall and winter homecoming activities for the school. Appropriate activities will be allowed with the prior approval of the building administration which contribute to the general atmosphere of promoting positive school spirit and good sportsmanship.

The nomination and selection of Homecoming Kings and Queens shall follow these guidelines:

1. Candidates for king and queen must be high school seniors who are active members of a school organization such as sports, FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, band, choir, forensics, cheerleading and enrolled as a full-time, in-person student.
2. Students in grades 9-12 will vote for seniors to nominate candidates for king and queen.
3. The candidates receiving the most votes will become members of the Homecoming Royalty.
4. The King and Queen will be determined by the highest number of votes.
5. At the Homecoming Game, the royalty will be introduced and the winners announced.

*Seniors can be candidates for only one of the homecoming royalties.

Organizational Fees

Various classes and organizations have fees which are conditional to membership. The amount of the fee is set by a vote of the membership of the class or organization. Any person who fails to pay the required fees will not be considered an active member of the class or organization and will not be entitled to any privileges thereof. Please contact a sponsor, counselor, or administration if fees are or become a financial hardship. Rock Creek HS has access to confidential resources to assist with student/family hardships.

Physical Examinations

Each student must receive a physical examination prior to participation in any athletic activity or cheerleading. Examinations should be taken prior to the first day of classes each year (but after May 1). Rock Creek does NOT pay for physical examinations.

Prom

Attendance at prom is limited to juniors, seniors, and their dates. Dates must be freshmen in high school or older. **The same rules that apply to other school dances and parties apply to proms.**

Sportsmanship

The Board of Education, in conjunction with the Kansas State High School Activities Association, supports the concepts of good sportsmanship at all school-sponsored activities. All spectators and participants are encouraged to model the following ideals:

- ✓ Be courteous to everyone.
- ✓ Know the rules; abide by and respect the decisions of the officials.
- ✓ Win with character and lose with dignity.
- ✓ Display appreciation for good performance regardless of the team.
- ✓ Display positive actions for yourself, your team, and your school.
- ✓ Permit only positive sportsmanlike behavior to reflect on your school and its activities.

Actions which do not fall within the above guidelines will not be tolerated at home or away activities. Anyone acting in a manner construed by the administration to be unsportsmanlike will be asked to leave the site of the event and may be denied attendance to future school-sponsored events. *All flags, banners, signs, etc... must be approved by administration **before** entering the building/gymnasium/facility at both home and away events.

STUDENT REGULATIONS

The Board of Education has charged the principal or his designee with the task of maintaining an orderly educational environment. To aid in the achievement of that task, regulations have been established that provide students, parents, and school officials, guidelines for appropriate behavior. Due to variations in the degree of infractions of the regulations, it is difficult to specify punishment for every possible circumstance. Therefore, the principal has the authority to administer reasonable punishment for the infraction of stated rules that will best serve to remediate the student's behavior, regardless of whether or not it is stated specifically in this handbook.

Students will be expected to behave in such a way that they will be a credit to themselves, their parents, the school, and the community. Basic rules for behavior while under the jurisdiction of the school and its personnel are:

1. ***Keep your hands to yourself***
2. ***Walk, don't run, in the school building***
3. ***Respect the rights and property of others***
4. ***Be courteous at all times***
5. ***Respect all students and staff members***

Kansas law provides adequate authority for certified staff members to establish an atmosphere in which learning is not disrupted by student misbehavior. If a student feels he has been unjustly treated, he must first obey, and then discuss the matter with the principal. Procedures for suspension and expulsion may be found in the Student Regulations section of this handbook under the heading entitled "Due Process Procedures."

Affection (Public Display of Affection)

Holding hands will be permitted at but more passionate displays of affection are neither appropriate nor acceptable. Violations will be reported to administration. At the 3rd report, a discipline referral will be submitted.

Affectionate relationships between MS and HS students will not be permitted.

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco Products and Vapes

A student shall not consume, possess, use, transfer or be under the influence of any narcotic, hallucinogenic, depressant or stimulant drug, inhalant, alcoholic or cereal malt beverage, or intoxicant or drug paraphernalia of any kind on school grounds at any time or at any other such place where one or more students of U.S.D. 323 are participating in any activity, athletic event, or any school function sponsored by the district. This includes the possession and/or use of tobacco

products, vapes, or vaping products/supplies. This paragraph shall include, but not be limited to, situations where a student is a participant or spectator, and while traveling in any type of transportation sponsored or provided by U.S.D. 323.

Students shall not unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use illicit drugs, controlled substances or alcoholic beverages on school district property, or at any school activity on or off USD #323 property. This includes tobacco products, vapes, or vaping products/supplies. (See Discipline Plan - Immediate Disciplinary Action)

For the purpose of this policy student activities are defined as: football, volleyball, cross country, cheerleading, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, track, forensics, debate, band, choir, FFA, FCCLA, dances or any other school activity deemed applicable by building administration. If a suspension from an activity negatively affects a student's classroom grade, that student will be provided an opportunity to make-up any loss of grade through established policy (See: Make-Up Work - Suspensions).

Students identified by law enforcement or USD 323 administration as being in violation of this policy will be dealt with as follows:

First Offense:

- a. A punishment up to and including short-term suspension.
- b. The administrator will notify the parent/guardian of the student in violation. Notification may include a request for a conference to discuss evaluation and assessment.
- c. The administrator will notify the appropriate law-enforcement or juvenile agencies.
- d. Suspension from ALL student activities for 20 calendar days.
- e. Students are encouraged to complete an approved drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Names of acceptable programs are on file with the clerk.

Second Offense

- a. The administrator will notify the parent/guardian of the student in violation.
- b. The administrator will notify the appropriate law-enforcement or juvenile agencies.
- c. Suspension from ALL student activities for a period of not less than one semester.
- d. Students who have been through treatment as a result of their 1st offense will be subject to short-term suspension. Continued enrollment will be contingent upon following through with recommendations made by health care professionals.
- e. Students who have refused assessment or treatment recommended at the time of their 1st offense will be subject to long-term suspension or expulsion.
- f. A student placed on long-term suspension under this policy may be readmitted on a probationary status if the student agrees to complete an approved drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Names of acceptable programs are on file with the clerk.

Third and Subsequent Offenses:

- a. A punishment up to and including expulsion from school.
- b. A student placed on long-term suspension under this policy may be readmitted on a probationary status only if the student maintains regular attendance at an approved drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Names of acceptable programs are on file with the clerk.

Proper and appropriate use of a drug authorized by a medical prescription from a registered physician shall not be considered a violation of this rule if properly registered with the school nurse/office **as is required.**

Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco Products and Vapes – Activity Policy

Students IN ACTIVITIES that manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use illicit drugs, controlled substances, inhalants, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products or vapes OFF of school grounds or OFF of school time shall be subject to the punishment set forth below. For the purpose of this policy student activities are defined as: football, volleyball, cross country, cheerleading, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, track, forensics, debate, band, choir, FFA, FCCLA, and dances or any other school activity deemed applicable by building administration. Students

identified by law enforcement or USD 323 administration as being in violation of this policy will be dealt with as follows:

First Offense

- a. Suspension from ALL student activities for a period of 20 calendar days.
- b. Students will be allowed to practice at coach's discretion.

Second Offense

- a. Suspension from ALL student activities for a period of not less than one semester.
- b. A student placed on long term suspension under this policy may be readmitted on probationary status if the student agrees to complete a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program acceptable by the administration.

Third and Subsequent Offenses

- a. Suspension from participation and attendance at all school activities for the year.
- b. A student who is suspended from activities under the terms of this policy may be readmitted during the term of the expulsion only if the student has completed a drug and alcohol education and rehabilitation program acceptable by the administration

Absentee Make-Up Work

Students who are absent from class for any reason are required to make up missed work or equivalent. Failure to do so will result in the teacher recording a grade of zero (at least temporarily) in the grade book for the work missed. **Upon returning to school (the day of return)** it is the **student's responsibility** to locate their teacher(s) and make arrangements to get the work missed (without class disruption). At that time, the teacher and student can discuss a "**fair deadline**" for turning in the work. This agreement should fit under the guidelines and expectations outlined in writing by each classroom teacher.

Absentee Make-Up Work (Suspensions)

All missed work (or comparative alternative assignments) should be completed by the student at a (at minimum) passing standard. Upon return to school, ISS, detentions, or EDL may be assigned and served (as available and necessary) to catch up incomplete assignments until the suspended student is in "good standing" (meaning that all work, before, during, and after the short term suspension, is caught up and completed to a passing standard) ... The student will be given a passing grade for passing work. ***Make-Up Work "fair deadline" pertains.**

Absentee Make-Up Work (Parent Requests)

When requesting your child's make-up work please follow the guidelines listed below:

1. Notify the office or contact teachers directly via email before 9:00a.m.
2. Make arrangements for someone reliable to pick up the assignments from the office and collect student supplies from their lockers (**please do not rely on office personnel to make the arrangements**)

Attendance and Tardy(s)

Parents Should Call School by 9:00 A.M. to Notify School of Reason for Absence

1. **Attendance:** Absences and late arrivals (tardiness) from/during the classroom learning experience disrupt the continuity of student progress and instruction. The benefits of classroom instruction include but are not limited to: project based learning, class discussion, teacher and electronic presentation, and active student participation. Many of the benefits of these instructional strategies are lost during extended or frequent absences or tardy(s) and cannot be regained even by other means of make-up assignments. Consistent school attendance is also necessary to be in compliance with state law.
- The State of Kansas requires schools to have an attendance rate above 90%. By Kansas Statute 72-111, all children between the ages of 7 and 18 are required to attend school on a regular basis. By law, five unexcused absences a semester, three unexcused absences in

a row, or seven unexcused absences in a year will lead to referral to the appropriate authorities (KSA 72-113).

- In case of student absence, a parent/guardian should call the school office by 9:00am on the day of the absence stating the reason for the absence. If the office has not received a call by that time, school officials will attempt to make contact to determine the reason for the absence. If the parent is unable to take or return the call, a note must be sent by the parent the day the student returns to school. An unexcused absence will be recorded for the student until proper notification/documentation for the absence has been received.
All events that are in excess of 10% of a class period will be recorded as an absence.
- The principal will be responsible for determining whether an absence/tardy is excused or unexcused. Contacting classroom teachers prior to planned absences is highly recommended but teachers are not able to excuse students from school.
- Building administration, with appropriate documentation, may excuse the following examples of absences: student illness, student doctor appointments, family emergencies, military family leave, etc. Student absences will not be excused for shopping trips, babysitting, hair appointments, family vacations, or personal business which does not directly involve the child or could be handled outside of the school day, etc.
- When student attendance falls at or below 90%, a letter of concern will be sent home to the parents of the child. There are three levels of notification letters. These levels include a Letter of Concern, Steps for Improvement, and Notification of the County Attorney/Court Services.
- In addition, frequent tardiness negatively adds up over time and is detrimental to student learning. Please help us to be sure that your children do not miss out on instructional opportunities by encouraging and helping them to be prepared and on time for all classes.
- When students have accumulated four tardy(s) in a semester, they will receive a two-hour extended day/detention to be served after school. They will receive the same for each tardy thereafter. Due to the instructional opportunities that are being missed, parents are encouraged to meet with administration and teachers for the purpose of developing a plan to resolve the situation from both inside and outside of the school day.

Attendance (Excessive Absences)

Students must be in attendance in each class 90% of the time, per semester. Absences which do not count against the 90% are school sponsored activities, hardship cases, and prolonged illness during which time the student is hospitalized or under the documented care of a physician.

The principal may exclude any or all pre-approved absences which are deemed to have educational merit for the student (parents must have made contact with the principal before this absence occurred to receive exemption for the missed time).

Students who are not in attendance 90% of the time will receive a letter of notice. If the situation does not improve, they will receive a second letter that requires written documentation for all further absences (to be excused). Students with unexcused absences of three in a row, five in a semester, or seven in a year will receive a third notice and be referred to the County Attorney for truancy. If the situation fails to improve at that point in time, there will be an attendance hearing to determine whether the student will receive credit for class work that was completed.

Attendance (Tardy)

Students coming to school after the beginning of first period must report to the office to sign in and secure a tardy slip.

Students are expected to be in their classrooms on time and prepared for class. Arriving to class late will result in the teacher recording a tardy. Students are to be notified by the teacher when they are assigned a tardy. Repeated student tardies (in the same room) are considered a classroom discipline issue and require both a teacher/student meeting and parental contact from the teacher.

Students who arrive more than 10 minutes late to class will receive an absence for that class.

Bullying and/or Harassment

All Rock Creek students, faculty, and staff should be treated respectfully at all times. As well, they should feel safe and comfortable in their everyday school environment.

Bullying and/or harassment will not be tolerated and is strictly prohibited. Any repeated unwanted behaviors toward another **person or group** will be considered to fall under the heading of “Bullying and/or Harassment”.

Any person who believes that he/she has been subjected to bullying or harassment should discuss the alleged incident(s) with a parent **and** report it to an administrator, guidance counselor, or a certified staff member as soon as possible.

Any person who witnesses what they believe to be bullying or harassment are strongly encouraged to report it to a school administrator, guidance counselor, or a certified staff member as soon as possible

In addition to reporting these events, witnesses to bullying or harassment are also strongly encouraged to positively support those individuals they feel may be the subject of bullying or harassment.

***Isolated incidents of poor behaviors does not necessarily constitute bullying or harassment but should nonetheless be promptly reported to an administrator, guidance counselor, or certified staff member so that it is documented and does not become a bullying or harassment situation by being repeated.**

Classroom Rules (Minimum Standard)

1. All students should show respect for themselves, others and property. Disrespectful behaviors toward teachers, staff or other students will not be tolerated.
2. Profanity is not tolerated in the classroom or any other part of the building.
3. Disruptive noise or behavior will not be tolerated.
4. Each tardy after the third, (beginning with the 4th) will earn the student a two-hour extended day/detention opportunity to make up time missed.
5. Sleeping in class is not permissible (it is also a sign that something else may be wrong).
*Parents should be notified by classroom teacher and repeated occurrences should be referred to counselor and/or administration for follow-up).
6. Students will follow all additional rules as set by individual teachers.
7. District policy supersedes building policy which supersedes classroom policy

Cheating / Plagiarism

Cheating, whether on homework, tests, or projects will receive a zero for that assignment. Make-up/Do-over opportunities will be at the discretion of the teacher. Any intentional use of plagiarism (to take and use the writings, work, or ideas of another and intentionally present as one’s own) may result in a zero for that assignment.

Detention

Students who receive a referral may be assigned to detention by administration. Detentions are served after school for two hours. Students failing to serve assigned detentions will serve in-school suspensions.

Disciplinary Action (Classroom Referrals)

This “Referral Process” concerns classroom disruptions by a student who takes away from other students’ learning activities in the class. It is not meant to be used for **Immediate Action** discipline problems which will be outlined later.

Step	Teacher Action	Student Action	Administrator Action
Inform	Explain school & class rules on the first day of class	Listen to rules.	
Verbal Warning	Make note of warning		
First Report	Send student to office with referral or contact office. Prior to administrative action, student-teacher conference must be held.	Sign referral.	Review
	Contact parents on the day of the referral.	Meet with counselor, administrator, or other mediator as needed.	Make contact with student and teacher. Assign up to two hours detention.
Second Report	Send student to office with referral or contact office. Prior to administrative action, student-teacher conference must be held.	Sign referral.	Review. Conference with student and teacher.
	Set up teacher, student, parent, and possibly mediator conference. Create behavioral contract and contact parents on the day of the referral.	Call parents.	Assign up to four hours detention. Contact parents (possibly in conjunction with student call).
Third Report	Send student to office with referral or contact office. Prior to administrative action, student-teacher conference must be held. Contact parents on the day of the referral.	Sign referral.	Set up administrator, parent, teacher, student conference. Assign up to three days in school suspension.
	Send student to office with referral or contact office. Prior to administrative action, student-teacher conference must be held. Contact parents on the day of the referral.	Sign referral	Possible removal from class. Possible class credit loss and/or in-school or out-of-school suspension

Disciplinary (Immediate Action)

Disciplinary problems such as fighting, use of tobacco/vapes, use of alcohol /drugs, and insubordinate behavior or inappropriate/profane language, etc... will result in immediate action. These actions are deemed to be extremely disruptive to the school environment and will not be dealt with under the above plan. All of these actions, as stated in the handbook, are punishable by immediate suspension and possible expulsion from school.

Dress Code

Rock Creek High School believes there is a close relationship between proper dress, good grooming, and student conduct. Although changing styles in dress and grooming make it difficult to provide strict guidance from the school on these matters, it is felt that appropriate dress and grooming which avoids the extreme, contributes to a desirable learning atmosphere. While U.S.D. 323 does not set rigid standards that define appropriateness, Students should dress for the occasion and should not be a disturbing influence to the educational setting or dress contrary to good taste. The parent and pupil should develop standards of acceptable dress and grooming.

The building administration (or designee) is granted the authority to counsel students in the matter of dress and grooming. Pajamas (tops and bottoms), short shorts, mesh shirts (without appropriate layers), low cut tops, cut/ripped-out tank tops, and clothing that exposes undergarments are inappropriate. Exposure of bare midriffs, chest, or rear-ends, is not acceptable for any gender.

Any article of clothing displaying tobacco, vape, drugs, or alcohol brand names or references to such brands or use will not be allowed. Any garment that depicts or in any way suggests obscenity or vulgarity, or is in any way in bad taste or offensive to others will not be allowed. Hats, skullcaps, bandanas, headbands, sunglasses, or other disruptive accessories are not to be worn in the building except on special occasions as announced. Shoes must be worn at all times (house slippers are not considered shoes).

Students who wear inappropriate or disruptive articles of clothing or accessories will be asked to remove them, cover them up, adjust them, or change into clothing which is appropriate. Sagging pants or other clothes which expose undergarments, wearing hoods indoors, and/or wearing articles of clothing in ways that are contrary to their design, will be considered disruptive. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action by administration.

Drink / Food Items

Only "pure water" in clear plastic containers is allowed outside of the cafeteria area before, during, and after school hours. Food and snacks should be limited to the cafeteria. Exceptions will exist, during evening school events and select school events. Energy drinks/products are NOT to be distributed or consumed on the RC Campus.

**There will be situations where approved class activities or lessons are not in compliance with this policy but are appropriate to our learning environment and are therefore acceptable.*

Due Process and Acts Leading to Suspension or Expulsion

The principal or his designee shall have the authority to suspend for a short term (not more than ten school days) any student within his attendance center who shall:

1. Willfully violate any published regulation for student conduct adopted or approved by the Board of Education, or
2. Engage in conduct which substantially disrupts, impedes, or interferes with the operation of the school, or
2. Engage in conduct which endangers the safety of others or which substantially impinges upon or invades the rights of others at school, on school property, or at a school supervised activity; or
3. Engage in conduct which if the student is an adult, constitutes the commission of a felony or, if the student is a juvenile would constitute the commission of a felony if committed by an adult; or
4. Engage in conduct at school, on school property, or at a school supervised activity which, if the student is an adult, constitutes the commission of a misdemeanor, if the student is a juvenile would constitute the commission of a misdemeanor if committed by an adult; or
5. Disobedience of an order of a teacher, peace officer, school security or other school authority when such disobedience can reasonably be anticipated to result in disorder, disruption or interference with the operation of any public school or substantial and material impingement upon or invasion of the rights of others.

* The suspension (short-term or long-term) or expulsion of a student with an IEP will be considered on an individualized basis.

Short-term Suspension, Long-term Suspension, Expulsion:

In addition to the violations referred to in the above section on Short-Term Suspension, the following acts of behavior engaged in by students during classes, while on school grounds, or at extracurricular activities are deemed to be grounds for suspension (short- or long-term) or expulsion.

1. Conduct which describes an offense under Chapter 21 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and any amendments thereto, or
2. Failure to comply with a reasonable request (the willful disobedience) of a certificated employee or other school authority, or
3. Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of alcoholic or cereal malt beverages, tobacco, inhalants, or unauthorized medications (including the disbursement of such).
4. Possessing, consuming, selling, delivering, dispensing, or using any controlled substance as defined in Chapter 65 of Kansas Statutes Annotated and Amendments thereto, in such a manner as to constitute a misdemeanor or felony crime, or

Long-term Suspension:

Before a student shall be suspended for a short-term (not to exceed ten school days), the principal or his designee will afford the student a hearing which shall include:

1. Oral or written notice to the student of the charges against him and explanation of the evidence supporting such charges, and
2. Provide the student with an opportunity to present his side of the story (the student shall be told what they are accused of doing before being given an opportunity to explain his version of the facts), and
3. At the conclusion of the hearing the principal or his designee shall determine whether the student should be suspended for a short term or returned to class. The decision of the principal or his designee shall be final, and
4. Within 24 hours after the imposition of such suspension, the length thereof, and the reasons therefore. The principal also shall request a conference with the parents of the student to discuss the reason for the suspension and the student's behavior problem. The conference should be held before the expiration of the student's short-term suspension.

Long-term Suspension or Expulsion:

No suspension for an extended term (more than ten school days) or expulsion shall be imposed upon a student until a hearing on such suspension or expulsion is afforded the student. The principal or his designee will give written notice to the student and his parents of any proposal to suspend the student of an extended term or expel him, stating the charges upon which the proposal is based, and the names of the principal witnesses supporting such charges. The notice shall state the time, date, and place of the hearing, but in no event be later than 10 days after the date of the notice.

At the hearing the student shall have the right to be represented by the counsel of his own choice and to receive the advice of such counsel or other person whom he may select. The parents of the student shall have the right to be present at the hearing. The student, his counsel, or other person who he has selected to represent him shall have the right to:

1. Hear or read a full report of testimony given by witnesses against the student;
2. Examine all witnesses presented against the student;
3. Present witnesses on behalf of the student in person, or present their testimony by affidavit;
4. Present witnesses on his own behalf and give reasons for his conduct;
5. Have an orderly hearing;
6. Have a fair and impartial decision based on substantial evidence;
7. Deny the credibility of any witness whose testimony is not presented in person at the hearing whereupon such witnesses shall be called to testify in person and under oath unless the majority of the hearing committee determines that such testimony is of minor importance or cumulative of nature. If the witness testifies he shall be subject to cross examination by the student charged, his counsel, or other person representing him.
8. At the conclusion of the hearing, the members of the hearing committee shall

determine whether the principal's recommendation for suspension or expulsion is reasonable and justified.

Fighting

Students who provoke and/or participate in fights while in school, at a school event, or on school grounds, will be subject to the probability of suspension or expulsion.

Gambling

Any form of gambling is prohibited on school property. Infractions are considered cause for suspension or expulsion.

Gaming (Chromebooks, etc...)

Games which are not specifically designed to enhance classroom instruction and/or are not pertinent to the subject area should not be played at any time during class time. When gaming becomes an issue for a student, they can/will be restricted. Parents wanting to request gaming be restricted on their student's technology should contact the student's Advisor Classroom teacher. Games with inappropriate content and first-person shooter games should not be installed under any circumstances and will be removed.

Hazing

Hazing and/or initiations of any kind are prohibited. Infractions are considered cause for suspension and/or dismissal from team/activity.

Insubordination

Failure to comply with a reasonable request of faculty, staff, or administration, OR any other purposeful or outward defiance of authority and/or regulations governing U.S.D. 323, will be considered insubordination and will result in disciplinary action.

iPads/Chromebooks/Laptops

iPads/Chromebooks/Laptops should be utilized in one of three ways when in the classroom:

- Up/Open – face up and flat on desk (unless otherwise instructed by teacher)
- Down/Closed – face down on desk
- Put Away – Device is inaccessible to the user (as instructed by teacher)

School issued devices are the property of the school. Devices have been purchased for the purpose of enhancing instruction and learning at Rock Creek Jr-Sr High School. There should be no expectation of privacy regarding the personal contents that some students place on school issued devices. As a general rule of thumb, any teacher can check any school device at any time. Gaming is not considered appropriate use of learning or instructional time.

Knives

No matter the size, type, or configuration, (pocket knives, pen knives, utility knives, multi-tool, hunting knives, etc...) knives are not to be brought to or carried at school, during school activities, or on school transportation (openly or concealed). Damaging property with knives will be considered vandalism. Causing fear or creating a dangerous situation by possessing, displaying, or making threats with a knife will result in suspension.

*Should there be a need for a knife to be used as a "tool" in the shop or classrooms, the school will provide them.

Profanity and Vulgarity

The Board of Education discourages the use of any form of profanity or vulgarity (i.e., written, verbal, electronic messages, etc.). Students are encouraged to seek more appropriate and acceptable ways in which to express themselves. Infractions are considered cause for suspension or dismissal from school or activity.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the school district. Sexual harassment of employees or students of the district by board members, administrators, certified and support personnel, students, vendors, and any others having business or other contact with the school district is prohibited.

It is a violation of this policy for any employee to sexually harass a student, for a student to sexually harass another student or for any employee to discourage a student from filing a complaint or to fail to investigate or refer for investigation, any complaint lodged under the provisions of this policy.

Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate oral, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made by a member of the school staff to a student or when made by any student. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to: verbal harassment or abuse; pressure for sexual activity; repeated remarks to a person, with sexual or demeaning implication; unwelcome touching; or suggested demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning a student's grades, participation in extracurricular activities, etc.

When acts of sexual harassment or violations of this policy are substantiated, appropriate action will be taken against the individual. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against students who are found to have falsely accused district board members, administrators, certified or support personnel, other students, vendors or others having business with the school district of sexual harassment.

Any student who believes that he/she has been subjected to sexual harassment should discuss the alleged harassment with the principal, guidance counselor, or another certified staff member. If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student in this meeting, the student may initiate a complaint under the district's discrimination complaint procedure, (See U.S.D. #323 BOE Policy KN).

The filing of a complaint or otherwise reporting sexual harassment will not reflect upon the individual's status nor will it affect grades, future employment or assignments. Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the complaint procedure.

Telephones

Students may use the telephone in the school office with permission. Use of the phone is restricted to non-classroom hours except in the case of an emergency.

Theft

Theft is morally and ethically wrong and will not be tolerated. Infractions may result in suspension of the guilty student and where applicable, restitution to the victim. In addition, the matter may be turned over to county law enforcement officials. All events of theft will be reviewed by RC Administration and the RC School Resource Officer.

Threats

Verbal or written threats of harm toward others will be considered for suspension.

Tobacco / Vapes

Students are prohibited from possessing or using any form of tobacco or vapes at any time while on school property or at any other location while attending school-sponsored activities. Infractions are considered cause for suspension or expulsion. **See: Alcohol, Drugs, Tobacco Products and Vapes**

Vandalism

The intentional destruction of school property or the personal property of others on school grounds will not be tolerated. Infraction may result in suspension of the guilty student, restitution to the victim for the amount of damage incurred, and referral to law enforcement officials.

Violation of Civil/Criminal Statutes

Students who violate any civil or criminal statutes of the city, county, state, or nation while on school property or at any other location while attending school-sponsored activities are subject to suspension. Violators will be referred to the proper law enforcement official.

Weapons

Possession or use of any device that is considered a "weapon" by statute will be considered grounds for suspension and/or expulsion. *This includes any other device, object, or facsimile of a weapon that is used in a threatening manner toward others.

Bus Safety Rules and Regulations

Bus Accident Procedure

This procedure is modeled after the safety manual provided by the Kansas State Board of Education-Transportation Division.

1. The driver immediately notifies the Director of Transportation of the accident by radio and walks through the bus checking for injuries. First aid is administered if necessary.
2. The driver informs the Director of Transportation if there have been injuries and the perceived severity of the accident. The director notifies the sheriff and the ambulance, if necessary.
3. Driver places reflective triangles at appropriate places on the roadway.
4. Students stay on the bus until the sheriff and/or EMTs arrive. Evacuation procedures shall be implemented if in the judgment of the driver the safety of the passengers will be jeopardized if they remain on the bus.
5. While the bus driver is waiting for emergency personnel to arrive he/ she secures the accident scene, writes down all of the names of the students on the bus including age/grade and where each was seated, and re-checks for injuries that require immediate first aid.
6. When the sheriff and EMTs arrive on the scene of the accident, they become responsible for the accident scene. The EMTs check out the students and make the decision on whether any student should be transported by ambulance. Only the EMTs, in cooperation with the sheriff's department, can make this decision.
7. The Director of Transportation, or his designee, immediately comes to the scene of the accident to help coordinate emergency activities. If necessary, another bus is called to the scene to transport students back to school. The Director of Transportation, or designee, assists the bus driver in keeping students calm, orderly, and comfortable.
8. When the EMTs and sheriff's department have released the student to be transported, the students are taken back to the school where they are met by the school nurse, school counselor and principal. The school nurse examines the students for injuries and the counselor and principal assist with any emotional trauma.
9. Parents of all children on the bus are called by the secretary, or designee, from the school at which the students attend, regardless of whether the EMTs or the school nurse have found an injury.
10. Parents are strongly encouraged to come to the school and examine their children. Parents shall make the decision on whether medical examination and/or treatment is necessary.
11. Parents are informed that medical expenses related to the accident will be covered through the District's insurance carrier.
12. When students are physically and emotionally ready, they return to class.
13. All faculty and staff are informed of the accident and of the students that were involved.
14. Students are watched for evidence of injury the rest of the day.
15. The District's insurance carrier is notified by the Director of Transportation.
16. A letter is sent home with students that were riding the bus describing the possible injuries that may have occurred and explaining symptoms to watch for. Parents are informed in writing that medical expenses related to the accident will be covered by the District's insurance carrier (1998-99 - United Insurance Co., 519 Broadway, Marysville KS 66508, 785-562-2926).

17. School principal notifies all parents about the accident through the school newsletter or with notes sent home with students.
18. If the accident occurs on an activity trip, the driver will notify the Director of Transportation, principal or superintendent. The school's Crisis Team will then be notified to assist in coordination of steps 2-17.

Discipline Plan for Bus Students

Safety is the most important part of bus transportation in U.S.D. 323. One of the components of a safe bus is the conduct of the students on the bus. For that reason, this two-part discipline plan will be in effect for all transportation on U.S.D. 323 vehicles. Each time that a student misbehaves on the bus, the driver will follow the discipline action set forth below. Once a student receives a Bus Discipline Report form it will be on file with him/her for the school year. Copies of Bus Discipline Reports will be sent to 1) Parent 2) Administration 3) Bus Driver.

Behaviors listed under the title **Immediate Action** will constitute an infraction that will result in one of the following actions: 1) Student will be removed from the bus for five (5) school days, or 2) more appropriate action as deemed necessary will be taken by the administration. The driver will file a Bus Discipline Report for **Immediate Action** incidents to the administrator and transportation supervisor as soon as possible. Parents will be notified as soon as possible of all actions.

Immediate Action

- Fighting
- Obscene behavior - witnessed by driver
- Throwing objects inside of the bus or out of the windows
- Use or possession of any form of tobacco
- Vandalism or destroying bus property (damage will be paid for by offender)
- Display or Possession of weapons, knives, guns, sharp objects, etc...
- Use or possession of drugs or alcohol
- Refusal to obey driver
- Standing/Switching Seats while bus in in motion
- Leaving school property when changing from bus to bus

*As well as other infractions which may jeopardize bus safety (as determined by driver, transportation director, and building administration)

Disciplinary Plan

Violation of Bus Safety Rules that warrants the bus driver to give a student a verbal warning or a Bus Discipline Report slip will result in the action listed under the title "**Disciplinary Plan.**" Warnings or reports will be issued if the student violates the district bus rules.

Bus Discipline Reports	Bus Driver Action	Administrator Action
Verbal Warning	Warn student of action. Remind student of bus rules.	None
First Report	Fill out discipline slip Meet with Transportation Supervisor	Mail slip home Meet with student Contact Parent 1 school day off bus
Second Report	Fill out discipline slip Meet with Transportation Supervisor	Call parents Mail slip home 5 school days off bus
Third Report	Fill out discipline slip Meet with Transportation Supervisor	Call parents Mail slip home 20 school days off bus
Additional Reports	Fill our discipline slip Meet with Transportation Supervisor	Call parents Mail slip home 20 school days off bus

*Administrator refers to the building administrator who is in charge of the student being disciplined.

Service & Regulations

Parents are encouraged to read and discuss with their children the rules for riding the school bus. The help of parents in promoting obedience to school bus rules and supporting adherence to these rules greatly assists the drivers in maintaining proper discipline.

Please reinforce with your children the importance of being seated properly on the bus, staying seated while the bus is moving, and conducting themselves in such a manner that the bus driver can devote his or her time to the task of driving a bus.

U.S.D. 323 drivers have ongoing safety training and work continuously to maintain proper student discipline on the bus. The district has a good safety record; and with the pupils' cooperation and your support, we believe the district can maintain a safe and efficient transportation program.

All students, including kindergartners, must have a designated pick-up location and a designated drop-off location. The pick-up and drop-off locations may be different but each must remain constant. These locations shall be declared during enrollment.

1. Prior to loading:
 - A. Students must be on time! The bus cannot wait beyond its regular schedule for students who are tardy.
 - B. Bus riders should conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting for the bus. Students shall not stand in the traveled portion of the roadway while waiting for the bus.
 - C. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before attempting to enter the school bus.
 - D. Students must have parental permission, in writing, in order to ride home from school with another student. The building administrator or his/her designee will then notify the bus driver of the change (in writing). Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than their regular bus without prior permission.
2. While on the bus:
 - a. Driver is in charge of the students and the bus. Students must obey the driver promptly.
 - b. Unnecessary conversation with the driver is prohibited. Do not talk loudly or distract the driver's attention
 - c. The driver may assign a specific seat to a student whenever necessary.
 - d. Keep arms and head inside the bus at all times.
 - e. Assist to keep the bus clean and free from trash.
 - f. Any vandalism to the bus will be paid by the offender
 - g. Students should never tamper with the controls or the equipment on the bus.
 - h. Do not throw anything inside the bus or out of the bus windows.
 - i. Keep books, packages, coats, feet and all other objects out of the aisle. Any object that cannot be contained under the seat area will Not be allowed on the bus.
 - j. Students are to remain seated while the bus is in motion.
 - k. Absolute quiet is necessary when approaching a railroad crossing.
 - l. Students shall not board, exit, or move about while the bus is in motion.
 - m. No glass containers, animals, firearms, explosives or other dangerous objects are permitted on the bus.
 - n. Possession or use of tobacco, liquor, or illegal drugs is prohibited.
 - o. Students are not permitted to eat or drink on the bus.
 - p. Inappropriate or offensive language will not be tolerated on the bus.
3. After leaving the bus:
 - a. Cross the road at least 10 feet in front of the bus. Observe the driver's directions; then look to be sure no traffic is approaching from either direction.
 - b. The driver will not discharge students at places other than the regular bus stop unless authorized by proper school officials.
 - c. Parent or another adult should meet preschool thru kindergarten students at door, assuring the driver that the child was not left alone.

4. Extracurricular trips:
 - a. The above rules apply to any trip under school sponsorship.
 - b. Students shall follow the directions of a teacher or sponsor appointed by the school.
 - c. Eating on an activity trip may be necessary if approved by the sponsor. The sponsor must ensure that the bus is clean at the end of the trip.

Shuttle Bus Students

USD 323 is providing activity shuttle bus services as a courtesy and convenience. Both the **Immediate Action** and the **Disciplinary Plan** will apply to the shuttle.

Technology

Electronic Devices

The use of cell phones/communications devices will be permitted within Rock Creek Senior High School but never during instructional/classroom time without direct permission and supervision of the teacher. Failure to comply will be considered insubordination, the phone will be confiscated, and turned into the office. A parent/guardian may need to arrange to pick up the phone from the office in person. Students should not expect to leave class to use a cell phone. In the event of an emergency, students will seek permission of a teacher or administrator to use their cell phone. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to utilize the school phone-system in the office for emergency purposes. Student cell phone use during instruction time will be considered a violation.

Students should note that possessing and/or utilizing a cell phone within the building or on school grounds is not a violation of the rules. However, if at any time a faculty/staff member feels that your utilization of a cell phone is disruptive or improper anywhere in the building or on school grounds you will be reported to the administration for possible disciplinary action.

1st Violation (per semester)- The student's device will be confiscated by the teacher turned into the office and returned to the student after school.

2nd Violation- The student's device will be confiscated and turned into an administrator. The student may be assigned a two-hour detention.

3rd + Violations- Parent picks up device. Penalties will be assigned which may include the possibly of detention and/or losing the privilege to have electronic devices in school.

Electronic Devices (Camera Use)

Cameras may be used at school, on school property or at school activities or functions only if they are not disruptive, as determined by the school staff. Cameras shall not be used in the classroom unless the photographs or videos taken are for an official or authorized school publication or broadcast. Cameras shall not be used in such a fashion as to inappropriately invade the privacy of others. No camera shall be used in any restroom, dressing area, or locker room. Cameras shall not be used to record confidential material, such as classroom material, tests, or grade book entries.

For the purposes of this section, "camera" shall be defined to include film cameras, movie cameras, digital cameras, video cameras, cellular telephone cameras (capable of recording either still images and/or video), videophones, web cameras, and any other device capable of taking, storing, transmitting, or viewing pictures or video.

Electronic Devices (Computers and Technology)

U.S.D. 323 has purchased a variety of computer software. This software is copyrighted. The District does not have the right to copy the software or related documentation, unless authorized by the software developer. Unauthorized reproduction of software is a violation of U.S. copyright law. Students, school personnel, or any other person using equipment owned by the district shall not make, acquire, or use unauthorized copies of computer software. Prior approval from the district is required before any software is installed to school equipment.

Students, school personnel, or any other person using school equipment shall have no expectation of privacy when using district e-mail or computer systems. E-mail messages shall be used only for approved educational purposes. Appropriate language must be used in all messages. All users of school equipment are expected to use the system following guidelines established in the *U.S.D. 323 Acceptable Use Policy for Technology and the Internet* and by the district personnel.

Any e-mail or computer application, or information in district computers or computer systems, is subject to monitoring by the staff and/or administration. The school retains the right to duplicate any information created by any user in a computer system or on any individual computer. Students who violate these rules or any other classroom rules relating to computer use are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from school

Agreement Authorizing Student Use of a District-Owned Mobile Device

This agreement is electronically signed during enrollment. Please refer to the “District Technology” and “Acceptable Use Policy” tabs on the district website www.rockcreekschools.org for the full contents of this agreement.

https://www.rockcreekschools.org/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/445a26d166c7d/AUP_21-22_SY.pdf

Changes to Handbook

Rock Creek Building Administration reserves the right to make adjustments to this handbook as necessary. Administrative interpretations of all handbook policies are final. Adjustments to the approved handbook will be presented to the Rock Creek BOE at the earliest possibility.