

PANAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STUDENT HANDBOOK

2015-2016

August 2014

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Panama Elementary School welcomes each student and parent. We strive to provide a climate conducive to learning, which is our number one priority. There are many aspects of a school that make it effective. One of the most important aspects is school to home and home to school communication. Research in this area has clearly shown that children benefit when schools communicate with home on a regular basis.

This Parent Handbook is an attempt to provide you with the information you need to send your child(ren) to school well prepared to meet each day. Hopefully, we have included the information that will be most useful to you in such a way that you find it easy to read. These rules are intended to help us reach our goal ... to assist students in reaching their highest levels of achievement.

We're excited about Panama Elementary School, and we're proud of the quality of students we serve. We firmly believe that all children can learn and that schools do make a difference. We believe that with consistent and cooperative effort teachers, parents, support staff and administrators can dramatically increase the potential for student success.

As always, feel free to contact any of the staff if we can be of assistance, and feel welcome to make arrangements to visit the school and your child(ren's) classroom at anytime.

We hope that the 2014-2015 school year will be a positive time for you and your child(ren). We look forward to a great year with you and your student(s) as our partners in education.

Sincerely,

**Dearl Tobey
Principal**

PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the Panama School District is based on the belief that all students can learn. The purpose of the school system is to develop students to become citizens who can function as contributing members in a democratic society. An effective citizen is one who is aware of his or her potentialities and limitations, is able to accept him or herself and others different from him or herself, is confident in his or her own feelings, is able to accept his or her society, is self-sufficient vocationally and as a consumer, is able to adapt to his or her needs and to the needs of others, is literate, and is capable to advance his or her academic, vocational, and cultural interests.

NON-DISCRIMINATION

Panama Elementary School shall take all necessary actions to comply with the letter and spirit of Federal and State Law, prohibiting discrimination against any person because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability or veteran status.

***PANAMA ELEMENTARY
WHERE EVERY CHILD IS A WINNER!***

Panama Public Schools 2016/2017 School Year
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Professional Development #1	August 9th
Professional Development #2	August 10th
School Begins/Start of First Quarter	August 11th
No School/ Student Funerals	August 12th
Labor Day/No School	September 5th
Parent Teacher Conference # 1 (3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)	September 15th
No School	September 16th
End of First Quarter	October 7th
Start of Second Quarter	October 10th
Fall Break	October 20th - 21st
Professional Development #3	October 24th
Veterans Day Assembly	November 11th
Thanksgiving Day Break	November 21st - 25th
End of Second Quarter	December 16th
Christmas Break	December 19th - December 30th
Professional Development #4	January 2nd
Return to School/Start of Third Quarter	January 3rd
Martin Luther King/Snow Day #1	January 16th
Parent Teacher Conference #2 (3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)	February 2nd
No School	February 3rd
President's Day/Snow Day #2	February 20th
End of Third Quarter	March 3rd
Start of Fourth Quarter	March 6th
Spring Break	March 13th - 17th
Snow Day #3	March 24th
Snow Day #4	March 31st
Snow Day #5	April 7th
Snow Day #6	April 14th
Snow Day #7	April 17th
Snow Day #8	April 21st
Snow Day #9	April 28th
Snow Day #10	May 5th
Last Day of School for Students/End of Fourth Quarter	May 11th
Graduation/Professional Development #5	May 12th

QUARTER TOTALS		
August 11th/October 7th (39 days taught + 1 PT Conferenc	First Quarter	40 Days
October 10th/December 16th	Second Quarter	42 Days
January 3rd/March 3rd (41 days taught +1 PT Conference=	Third Quarter	42 Days
March 6th/May 11th	Fourth Quarter	<u>36 Days</u>
		160 Total

PROFESSIONAL DAY TOTALS	
August 9th & 10th	2
October 17th	1
January 2nd	1
May 12th	<u>1</u>
	5

TOTAL DAYS	
Total Days Taught	158
Professional Days	5
Parent Teacher Conference	<u>2</u>
	165

DAILY SCHEDULES

Breakfast begins at 7:30 AM School
starts at 8:00 AM School dismisses
at 3:00 PM

LUNCH

Pre-Kindergarten	10:20
Kindergarten	10:35
First Grade	10:50
Second Grade	10:55
Third Grade	11:00
Fourth Grade	11:35
Fifth Grade	11:35

CAFETERIA RULES

1. Everyone is encouraged to take at least two bites of every portion of food on their tray. Everyone is encouraged to drink all of their milk.
2. Students are "not" to trade food off their trays.
3. Students need to exercise appropriate table manners and be considerate of others by using quiet voices when eating.
4. Remove hats or caps when entering the building and form a line.
5. No running, crowding in line, exchanging places in line, or boisterous behavior. This may result in disciplinary action given by the duty teacher.
6. After finishing your meal, place all cups, napkins, silverware, etc. on your tray. Pick up any food you dropped or spilled. Empty trays by dumping food, paper items, and silverware into designated containers before placing your tray in the receiving window.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

The school's primary goal is to educate, not discipline. However, when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions are necessary for the benefit of the individual and of the school. In recognition of that fact, the Oklahoma Legislature has amended Okla. Stat. Tit. 70, §24-100.4 to read as follows:

Each district board of education shall adopt a policy for the control and discipline of all children attending public school in that district. Such policy shall provide options for the methods of control and discipline of the students and shall define standards of conduct to which students are expected to conform. The policy shall specifically prohibit harassment, intimidation, and bullying by students at school and address prevention of and education about such behavior. In developing the policy, the district board of education shall make an effort to involve the teachers, parents, and students affected. The students, teachers, and parents or guardian of every child residing within a school district shall be notified by the district board of education of its adoption of the policy and shall receive a copy upon request. Provided, the teacher of a child attending a public school shall have the same right as a parent or guardian to control and discipline such child according to district policies during the time the child is in attendance or in transit to or from the school or any other school function authorized by the school district or classroom presided over by the teacher.

The goal of any disciplinary policy shall be to correct the misconduct of the individual and to promote adherence by that student and by other students to the policies, rules and regulations of the district. Administrative response to student misconduct is a matter directly influencing the morale of the entire student body. As such, all discipline should be based on an infraction (i.e., the student's attitude, the seriousness of the offense and potential effect on other students.)

In administering discipline, consideration should be given to alternative methods of punishment to insure that the most effective discipline is administered in each case. In all disciplinary actions, the administration should be mindful of the fact that they are dealing with individual personalities.

The administration should consider consultation with parents on disciplinary measures that might prove most effective in particular instances. Nothing in this discipline schedule shall be construed to deny the students right to fair and orderly hearings, appeals, and be process in cases which may end in suspension.

This schedule shall be interpreted by the principals and their designees in a manner which they deem just, given the circumstances of the individual case. Additionally, administrators shall have the authority to enforce other reasonable disciplinary action which they find warranted by situations not covered in the disciplinary actions schedule. The purpose of a discipline procedure is to let the students know what to expect in each class. This will ensure that students can have the proper environment for learning. This will also give the teacher the opportunity to teach his/her class in an organized manner.

SEARCH OF STUDENTS

The school principal or higher designee is authorized to detain and search any student and any property in the student's possession while on school premises, at school activities or in transit under authority of the school for any item possession of which by the student is illegal or prohibited by school rules or for property believed to have been stolen from another student, an employee or the school. The search will be conducted in accordance with the School District's Student Search and Seizure Policy.

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Disciplinary action will be taken by the school regardless of whether criminal charges result if misconduct occurs in the school building, on school property, on school buses, or going to or from school sponsored or authorized activities.

The following are specific examples of unacceptable behavior which will result in disciplinary action which may include suspension:

1. Arson;
2. Attempting to incite or produce imminent violence directed against another person because of his or her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation by making or transmitting or causing or allowing to be transmitted, any telephonic, computerized or electronic message;
3. Attempting to incite or produce imminent violence directed against another person because of his or her race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation by broadcasting, publishing or distributing or causing or allowing to be broadcast, published or distributed, any message or material;
4. Cheating;
5. Conduct that threatens or jeopardizes the safety of others;
6. Cutting class or sleeping, eating or refusing to work in class;
7. Disruption of the educational process or operation of the school;
8. Extortion;
9. Failure to attend assigned detention, alternative school or other disciplinary assignment without approval;
10. Failure to comply with state immunization records;
11. False reports or false calls;
12. Fighting;
13. Forgery;

14. Gambling;
15. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including gestures, written or verbal expression, electronic communication or physical acts;
16. Hazing (initiations) in connection with any school activity;
17. Immorality;
18. Inappropriate attire;
19. Inappropriate behavior or gestures;
20. Inappropriate public behavior;
21. Indecent exposure;
22. Intimidation or harassment because of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender or sexual orientation, including but not limited to: (a) assault and battery; (b) damage, destruction; vandalism or defacing any real or personal property; or threatening, by word or act, the acts identified in (a) or (b);
23. Obscene language;
24. Physical or verbal abuse;
25. Plagiarism;
26. Possession of a caustic substance;
27. Possession of obscene materials;
28. Possession, without prior authorization, of a wireless telecommunication device;
29. Possession, threat or use of a dangerous weapon and related instrumentalities (i.e., bullets, shells, gun powder, pellets, etc.);
30. Possession, use, distribution, sale, conspiracy to sell or possess or being in the chain of sale or distribution, or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages, low-point beer (as defined by Oklahoma law, i.e., 3.2 beer) and/or controlled substances;
31. Possession of illegal and/or drug related paraphernalia;
32. Profanity;
33. Sexual or other harassment of individuals including, but not limited to, students, school employees, volunteers;
34. Theft;
35. Threatening behavior, including gestures, written or verbal expression, electronic communication or physical acts;
36. Truancy;
37. Use or possession of tobacco in any form;
38. Use or possession of missing or stolen property if property is reasonably suspected to have been taken from a student, a school employee, or the school;

39. Using racial, religious, ethnic, sexual, gender or disability-related epithets;
40. Vandalism;
41. Violation of the Board of Education policies, rules or regulations or violation of school rules and regulations;
42. Vulgarity;
43. Willful damage to school property;
44. Willful disobedience of a directive of any school official;

In addition, conduct occurring outside of the normal school day or off school property that has a direct and immediate negative effect on the discipline or educational process or effectiveness of the school, will also result in disciplinary action, which may include in-school placement options or out-of-school suspension. This includes but is not limited to electronic communication, whether or not such communication originated at school or with school equipment, if the communication is specifically directed at students or school personnel and concerns harassment, intimidation or bullying at school.

Because of the disruption it poses to the educational process, all students are subject to disciplinary action including suspension for threatening, intimidating, coercing or harassing any school employee at any time.

RULES FOR STUDENTS REGARDING ILLEGAL CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

- A. Illegal Chemical Substances, Alcohol and Tobacco
 1. Use or possession of illegal chemical substances, alcohol and tobacco is wrong and harmful.
 2. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, manufacturing, distributing, selling, purchasing, conspiring to sell, distribute, or possess or being in the chain of sale or distribution or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages, low-point beer (as defined by law, i.e., 3.2 beer), illegal chemical substances or any substance represented to be an alcoholic beverage, low-point beer or illegal chemical substance, regardless of its actual content at school, while on school vehicles, or at any school-sponsored event.
 3. The term “illegal chemical substance” includes, but is not limited to (a) all scheduled drugs as defined by the Oklahoma Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act; (b) all illicit drugs, such as prescription drugs obtained without authorization and prescription drugs and over the counter drugs being used for an abusive purpose (when they are not used in compliance with the prescription or directions for use and/or are not being used to 78 treat a current health condition of the

student); (c) mood-altering substances such as paint, glue, aerosol sprays and similar substances and (d) mate coca (also known as mate de coca and Eritroxilecea coca), whether ingested in the form of coca tea or otherwise and which can produce a positive result for cocaine in a drug use test.

4. Students are prohibited from possessing or using tobacco products at school, while on school vehicles, or at any school-sponsored event.
5. Violation of this rule will result in imposition of disciplinary measures, which may include suspension for the remainder of the current semester and the following semester.
6. Student violation of this rule that also constitutes illegal conduct will be reported to law enforcement authorities.

B. Necessary Medications

1. Students may not retain possession of and self-administer any medication at school except as otherwise provided by the District's Administration of Medicine to Students Policy.
2. Students who have a legitimate health need for over-the-counter or prescription medication at school shall deliver such medications to the school nurse or principal with a parental authorization, in compliance with Oklahoma law and school policy and procedures regarding administering medicine to students.
3. Violations of this rule will be reported to the student's parents by the principal and may result in discipline, which can include out-of-school suspension.

C. Distribution of Information

1. Information for students and their parents about drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs in this geographic area is available from the principal at each student's school.
2. Copies of these Rules shall be provided to all students and their parents at the beginning of each school year.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

The school's primary goal is to educate, not discipline. However when the behavior of an individual student comes in conflict with the rights of others, corrective actions are necessary for the benefit of the individual and of the school. Below are a set of disciplinary actions that will be administered as a result of misconduct.

1. Student/Teacher Conference
2. Changing Seats - Students may be assigned seats at any time.
3. Correction of Error - For example: cleaning a desk, etc.
4. Student/Counselor
5. Extra Work
6. Clean up - Refers to cleaning up a mess as discipline for making a mess.
7. Writing
8. Detention
9. Parent Conference
10. Teacher/Student/Principal Conference
11. Detention after school.
12. Loss of activity
13. Out-of-school suspension - Covered in the handbook.
14. Shadowing Student - Parents may come and sit with their child after a parent conference.
15. Refer to Social Agency
16. Involvement of Law - The law may be involved in cases that are deemed proper especially on drugs and alcohol and theft.
17. Corporal Punishment - It will be at the discretion of the school administration to use the above in a manner deemed necessary to correct the problems when they occur.

OUTCOMES

- 1)The bully (bullies) may be asked to genuinely apologize. Other consequences may take place.
- 2)In serious cases, suspension or even exclusion will be considered.
- 3)If possible, the pupils will be reconciled.
- 4)After the incident/incidents have been investigated and dealt with, each case will be monitored to ensure repeated bullying does not take place.

BUS BEHAVIOR

All students are under the direct control and supervision of the bus driver while on the bus. Permission for any student to ride a bus is conditioned on his/her observance of the safety and behavior code of bus riders. Any student who violates any of these regulations can be denied permission to ride a bus to and from school.

The parents must assume a major portion of the responsibility for the conduct of their child while riding the bus. If this permission is revoked the parents must provide transportation for their child.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

ILLNESS: Children should be kept home for the obvious communicable diseases such as chicken pox, pink eye, and for any unexplained rash until seen by the doctor. Most doctors feel that a student can return to school after being without a fever and/or on medication for 24 hours. Attempts to contact parents will be made when:

1. Child has a fever in excess of 100 degrees F.
2. Serious injury or illness occurs.
3. Ring worm, pink eye, impetigo, unexplained rash occurs - Students must receive treatment AND have a doctor's statement before they can return to school.
4. Pediculosis (Head Lice) - Occasionally, one of the problems that students have is pediculosis (head lice). Head lice are easily transmitted from one person to another. The school will do the following:
 - A. When a child is suspected of having head lice, the teacher will inform the school nurse. The school nurse will examine the child. If live lice are found, the parents will be notified by the nurse. If nits are found, a note will be sent home.
 - B. All the children in that class will then be examined for infestation. The nurse will also examine all brothers and sisters of the student.
 - C. A child will not be readmitted until he/she has been examined by a doctor or county health nurse and a note stating that the student is free of lice. A notice will be sent home with all students in the classroom or the entire building depending on the number of students involved.

RULES FOR MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

MEDICATION POLICY: Many medications are sent to school for the nurse or designated personnel to give to students. For the safety of your child, the school staff will follow policies and procedures for administration of medication as stated:

1. Medications prescribed by a doctor that are given three times daily or less should be given at home. You are encouraged to give a dose BEFORE school, one AFTER school and one at BEDTIME, unless otherwise advised by your doctor.
2. All medications must be delivered to the school principal, nurse, or teacher by the parent, and the medication will be placed in a secured area. **Absolutely no medication should be brought to school by the child.**
3. The label of ALL prescribed medications must include the following information: Name of Child, Name of Medication, Dosage of the medication with Instructions on Administration, Name of doctor, and Date.
4. If medication is a prescription, ask your pharmacist to prepare **TWO** labeled containers, **ONE** for school and **ONE** for home. **THE VERY FIRST DOSE OF THIS MEDICATION FOR CURRENT CONDITION/ILLNESS MAY NOT BE GIVEN AT SCHOOL.**
5. All Over-the-counter medications must be FDA approved and must be in the original container. Parental instructions must be written specifically for their child.
6. All over-the-counter medications will be given according to package directions and limited to three (3) days for the same complaint without a doctor's orders.
7. A parent permission slip must accompany ALL medications. You may obtain a medication permission slip in the nurse's office.
8. Medication purchased in a foreign country will not be given.
9. Tylenol or Advil may be given at the nurse's discretion, providing the parent/guardian has indicated no allergic reaction to Tylenol or Advil on the medical form.
10. Any change in prescription medications, such as dosage or brand, must be verified by written doctor's orders until the new prescription bottle can be brought to school.
11. Medication on field trips is the responsibility of the parent. Teachers are not responsible for administering daily medication to children while out of school on a field trip. It is in the best interest of all if a parent or guardian is able to chaperone on these occasions. If this is not possible, please contact the school for other arrangements.

ATTENTION:

COUGH DROPS: Students may bring in cough drops with a parent permission note clearly noting when the cough drops may be taken. In the Pre-K thru 5th grade buildings, the cough drops will be administered to the student by the classroom teacher. A copy of the note will be placed in the student's file in the nurse's office.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

It is the responsibility of each parent or guardian to provide the school office with a phone number where he or she can be reached in the event of an emergency. We MUST have a current home or work phone number. If this is not possible, provide the office with the name and number of a relative, friend, or neighbor that could be contacted in the event that your child has an emergency at school.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

2010-2011

FIRE EXIT PROCEDURES

In the event that the school needs to be evacuated either on a drill basis or in the event of an actual fire, an appropriate alarm will sound. Teachers are to line their students up in an orderly fashion and leave the building via the designated routes.

Teachers will take their attendance book with them and check attendance when clear from the building. If the class is involved in music or physical education, the classroom teacher will go to the area where the special teacher has directed the students. Re-entry into the building will occur upon the direction of the principal, his or her designee, or the fire department.

TORNADO PROCEDURES

During a tornado drill or in the event of an actual tornado, the bell will ring one long ring. At that time students and staff will move to the interior hallways closest to their heads. If the class is involved in music or physical education, the classroom teacher will go to the areas where the special teacher has directed the students. The building principal will announce the end of the drill and/or an all clear in an actual tornado situation.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES

If for any reason it becomes necessary to close school for a portion of the day, a day or several days the school will notify the local radio and television stations. We ask that each family develop their own plan for such instances and that the plan be reviewed with the child on a regular basis. Access to phones during such closures is usually very limited. Please advise your child's teacher as to what your family plan is so that they can reassure the child during such instances. The following stations will be notified in case of an emergency closure.

Channel 40

Channel 5

KPRV 92.5

KMAG 99.1

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ATTENDANCE

Consistent attendance at school is one of the most important keys to quality education, and we depend on you to achieve that consistency! We encourage you to see that your child attends school every day so that they may receive the step by step instruction that is basic to education.

We realize that there will be times when your child may be absent and we encourage you to make arrangement with your child's teacher to complete the work that is missed. When your child is ill and can't attend school please call the elementary school office at 963-2218 and notify the secretary. Our goal is to account for every student every day! **STUDENTS MAY ONLY MISS 9 DAYS OF EACH SEMESTER. ANY STUDENT ABSENT MORE THAN 9 DAYS PER CLASS SEMESTER WILL NOT EARN CREDIT FOR THAT SEMESTER.**

1. No distinction is made between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. If a student is not at school, he or she is absent.
2. During the 9 days allowed absences all work may be made up.
3. Appeals may be made to the administration for extreme cases such as major surgeries, extended hospital cases, etc. Documentation for appeals must be made and documentation turned in to the office, within the first three days upon returning to school.
4. Student absences due to school-sponsored activities will not count against the student. Each office will determine which absences are for school sponsored activities. (example 4th & 5th basketball, quiz bowl)

TARDIES

1. Each three tardies will constitute an absence from that class.

MAKE-UP WORK

When a student is absent from class, many learning activities missed cannot be duplicated for make-up work purposes. It should not be assumed that this work reflects the same accomplishments as a student who was in attendance. When a student is truant, he or she will receive a zero for the periods truant and will not be allowed to make up any work missed because of truancy.

It is the student's responsibility to see that all make-up work is obtained and submitted on time. The student is to contact his/her teacher the day he/she returns from being absent to obtain his/her work. When a student is absent for three or more days, the school should be contacted about make-up work requirements and responsibilities.

Students have 3 days to turn in work missed for absences. Work turned in after the three days will not count, and students will receive a 0 (zero) for the assignment. When a student misses for an extended period of time the principal will set a time line if requested by parent/student with the first three days of returning to school.

SCHOOL VISITATIONS

It is our belief that the school environment should remain as consistent as possible. We therefore discourage visits of school age children from outside the district. If there is a need for this type of visit, please contact the principal. Parent visits are welcomed and may be prearranged with the classroom teacher.

STUDENT DRESS

The Board of Education of Panama Public Schools believes that Student Dress Code is appropriate to maintain good order and decorum as an essential part of the School District's educational mission. Although it is impossible to identify and label every variation in student attire as acceptable or unacceptable, the District provides the following guidelines concerning student attire at school, at school-sponsored or authorized functions and on school vehicles:

1. Students will not wear clothing or accessories that displaysymbols, pictures, lettering or numbering that is profane, vulgar, repulsive or obscene or that advertises or promotes dangerous weapons, tobacco, alcoholic beverages, low-point beer, illegal chemical substances, drug-related items, drug paraphernalia or other items or activities that are illegal for the general population or for minors.
2. Students will not wear clothing that unduly exposes the body, such as tops that do not cover the midriff, halter tops, spaghetti strap blouses or dresses, see through clothing, bike shorts or "short shorts." This prohibition includes wearing otherwise acceptable clothing in a revealing manner. Shorts may not be shorter than the student's fingertips when his/her arms are hanging naturally at his/her side with fingers straight. Shorts and skirts must be finger tipped length and hemmed. (No cutoffs)
3. Students will not wear underwear, such as bras and boxer shorts as outerwear.
4. Students will wear shoes at all times.
5. STUDENTS MAY NOT WEAR ROLLER SKATE TYPE OF SHOES.
6. Students will not wear hats or caps in school buildings.

7. Students may wear hair coloring in their hair. However, students will not wear unnatural hair colors (for example, blue, green, purple).
8. Students will not (a) wear any type of clothing or accessory, any style of makeup, or any hair style or arrangement or (b) display a decoration, body piercing, that is likely to cause a substantial and material disruption of school operations or a threat to the safety of the student or others.
9. Students will not wear sagging pants, students will belt or otherwise adjust oversized or sagging pants to fit.
10. Students will not wear wallet chains, whether or not the chain is attached to a wallet.

Where a bona fide religious belief or health need of a student conflicts with the school dress code, reasonable accommodation shall be provided. Any student desiring accommodation shall notify the school principal in writing of the requested accommodation and the factual basis for the request.

The responsibility for upholding this dress code rests with students and parents. While responsibility for enforcement with teachers and administrators, the building principal will determine whether a student has violated the dress code and will determine an appropriate consequence for such violation.

The district's student dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, instills discipline, prevent disruption, avoid safety hazards, and teach respect for authority.

Penalty for violations of the dress code:

1st Offense: Written warning/notify parents for change of clothing.

2nd Offense: The student is prohibited from wearing shorts for the remainder of the semester.

3rd Offense: The student will be punished accordingly.

LOST AND FOUND

Every year as the school year progresses our "Lost and Found" box goes from full to overflowing. Please mark your child's personal belongings, and then check the box periodically for missing items. The Lost and Found box is located in the office.

MUSICAL DEVICES/PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

The Panama School District can find no educational value for students to bring portable radios, radio head sets or items commonly referred to "boom boxes" on our campus. It is now an established school board policy that these music devices are not necessary for education purposes on our campus and will not be allowed.

The district assumes no responsibility for equipment/supplies/clothing brought to school by a student, and will not be responsible for any repairs or replacement of damaged equipment, supplies, or clothing.

Cell phones/electronic paging devices are not to be USED in the building during the regular school day or on campus. Students caught with a cell phone in use during the regular school day will be in violation of school policy and subject to appropriate discipline. (Note: When students travel off school campus for extra curricular activities, they take cell phones for emergency use only). Cell phones/electronic paging devices taken in violation of the policy may be retained by the district up to the end of the school year.

SCHOOL PARTIES

There are three annual room parties within the elementary building as determined by the classroom teachers. All special school programs and activities are on a voluntary basis. Children who are not to participate MUST bring a signed note from home and will be dismissed to the library at the time of the event.

REPORT CARDS/GRADING

There are four grading periods during the school year which fall at the end of each quarter (see calendar). Parent teacher conferences are held twice each year for all parents. Parents are encouraged to schedule a conference any time they want to discuss their child's progress. Five week reports will be sent out each quarter. The following percentage standard is used in grading student work.

95 -100	A	70 - 74	C-
90 - 94	A-	65 - 69	D
85 - 89	B	60 - 64	D-
80 - 84	B-	0 - 59	F
75 - 79	C		

HONOR ROLL

Students in Grades 1 through 5 will be eligible to compete for the Superintendent's Honor Roll and the Principal's Honor Roll. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

Superintendent's Honor Roll - Students must have an "A" in all subject areas during the marking periods.

Principal's Honor Roll - Students must have no grade less than a "B" in all subject areas during the marking periods.

SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY

Student Eligibility During a Semester

- A. Scholastic eligibility for students will be checked at the end of the third week of a semester and each succeeding week thereafter.
- B. A student must be passing in all subjects he/she is enrolled in during a semester. If a student is not passing in all subjects enrolled in at the end of a week he/she will be placed on probation for the next one week period. If a student is still failing one or more classes at the end of his or her probationary one week period, he/she will be ineligible to participate during the next one week period. The ineligibility periods will begin on Monday and end on Sunday.
- C. A student who has lost eligibility under this provision must achieve the minimum scholastic standard in order to regain eligibility. A student regains eligibility under Rule 3 with the first class of the new one-week period (Monday through Sunday).
- D. A student must attend school all day the day of and the day following a ball game or other activity to be eligible to participate in the activity or practice sports, cheerleading, etc. after school. If a student is too sick to attend school, the student is too sick to participate in any school activities. No student will be able to go on any school sponsored activity or trip if he/she does not meet the eligibility requirements.

P.A.S.S.

All state adapted Priority Academic Student Skills will be covered by instructors for each curriculum component tested for study.

P.A.S.S. will be documented through weekly lesson plans submitted to the principal during the preceding week. P.A.S.S. will be cited and documentation will be given for instructional methods used to accomplish the P.A.S.S. Objectives are available for review in the administration office and objectives by subject area are available for review in each classroom.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS ON ACTIVITY TRIPS

Generally a student participating in a school activity that requires travel will go and return with the group. Such trips have educational merit, and traveling as a group promotes spirit and unity within the group. Exceptions are permitted as follows: Students may be released to their parents to return home. A parent must secure the release from the sponsor or principal. Students may travel to an activity

with their parents if conflicts or family situations make it impossible for them to travel with the group. Permission to participate when a student travels with his or her parent will be given only after a conference between the sponsor or principal and the parent or guardian has occurred. In special cases, the student may be released from an activity to adults other than the parents, providing the parent makes the arrangements with the principal or sponsor by telephone or a personal contact prior to the trip.

REPORT CARDS

Student report cards will be given to each student by the end of the tenth week of each quarter. If a teacher feels that it is necessary, a progress report will be mailed to the parent at the end of the fifth week.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Special programs are available for students needing additional assistance in order to improve or support educational development. All federal guidelines related to appropriate placement of a child in a special program will be followed. Further information may be obtained through the school office.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Panama Public Schools prohibits any form of sexual harassment of any student or employee. In the case of a student of the School District, “sexual harassment” is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature by any person towards a student. Any student engaging in sexual harassment is subject to any and all disciplinary action which may be imposed under the School District’s code of student conduct.

Examples of prohibited sexual harassment are: Touching someone in ways that are not OK with him/her, making fun of someone’s private body parts, passing a note with sexual content about someone’s body, continuing to tell dirty jokes after being asked to stop, making slurs about someone’s sexual orientation, and pressuring someone for sexual touches.

Reporting Sexual Harassment

Any student who is or has been subjected to sexual harassment or knows of any student who is or has been subjected to sexual harassment should report those incidents to his or her principal, counselor or teacher, or to a board member, the superintendent or one of the School District’s compliance coordinators. If a report of sexual harassment needs to be made after normal school hours, then the student or his or her parent may contact the superintendent, principal or any board member at home.

It is preferred that all such reports be made in person or in writing
signed 18

by the reporting party. However, in order to encourage full and complete reporting of such prohibited activities any person may report such incidents in writing and anonymously by providing such reports to the personal attention of any of the above-designated persons.

All reports of sexual harassment should state the name of the student or employee involved, the nature, context and extent of the prohibited activity, the date of the prohibited activity and any other information necessary to a full report and investigation of the matter.

For Further Information

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities. Contact the School District's Title IX coordinator, Panama, OK 74951, (918) facsimile (918) for further information concerning Title IX or to initiate a complaint under the School

District's Grievance Procedures for Filing, Processing and Resolving Alleged Discrimination Complaints. Students and their parents can obtain a copy of the Grievance Procedures from their school principal or the superintendent.

DISABILITY HARASSMENT

Panama Public Schools also prohibits disability harassment under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Disability harassment includes intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on disability that creates a hostile environment by interfering with or denying a student's participation in or receipt of benefits, services or opportunities in the school's program. Harassing conduct may include verbal acts and name-calling, nonverbal behavior such as graphic and written statement, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful or humiliating.

The following are examples of disability harassment:

1. Several student continually remark out loud to other students during class that a student with dyslexia is retarded or deaf and dumb and does not belong in the class; as a result, the harassed student has difficulty doing work in class and her grades decline.
2. A student repeatedly places classroom furniture or other objects in the path of classmates who use wheelchairs, impeding the classmates' ability to enter the classroom.
3. A teacher subjects a student to inappropriate physical restraint because of conduct related to his disability, with the result that the student tries to avoid school through increased absences.
4. A school administrator repeatedly denies a student with a disability access to lunch, field trips, assemblies and extracurricular activities as punishment for taking time off from school for required services related to the student's disability.
5. A teacher repeatedly belittles and criticizes a student with a disability

using accommodations in class, with the result that the student is so discouraged that she has great difficulty performing in class and learning.

6. Students continually taunt or belittle a student with mental retardation by mocking and intimidating him so he does not participate in class.

Contact the School District's Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Panama, OK 74951, (918) facsimile (918) for further information concerning disability harassment or to initiate a complaint under the School District's Grievance Procedures for Filing, Processing and Resolving Alleged Discrimination Complaints. Students and their parents can obtain a copy of the Grievance Procedures from their school principal or the superintendent.

RETENTION AND FAILING GRADES

Parents have the right to appeal decisions to retain their child and to assign him or her a failing grade in a course. Parents may request review of such decisions by letter to the building principal. If no letter is received within five days of the parent's receipt of notification of the decision to retain or to assign a failing grade, then that decision will be final.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

- A. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- B. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading or in violation of student rights.
 - i. Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of student rights.
 - ii. If the School District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a

hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- C. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
- i. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student participating in a school service program or serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.
 - ii. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.
 - iii. Upon request, the School District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- D. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Parents and eligible students may request a copy of this FERPA policy in writing or in person from the Superintendents's Office, Panama Public Schools, P.O. Box 1680, Panama, OK 74951. Copies of education records may be obtained from the appropriate Elementary, Middle, or High School Principal's Office. If needed, the district will arrange to provide translations of this notice to non-English speaking parents in their native language.

All rights and protections given parents under the FERPA and Panama Public Schools policy transfer to the student when he or she reaches age 18 or enrolls in a post-secondary school. At that time, the student becomes an "eligible student."

LOCKERS

To maintain discipline and to insure the proper functioning of the educational process, school personnel must have access at all times to all school property, including lockers, desks, etc., assigned to students. Although students have privacy rights in their locker or desk contents from other students, they do not have privacy rights in their lockers or desks from school administrators or teachers. School officials will have access to lockers or desks periodically for cleaning purposes and to locate overdue library and class materials.

In addition, school officials may open and examine student lockers, desks and all school property assigned to students for general and specific inspections at any time.

PHONE CALLS

The telephone is to be used for business purposes only. Students will not be called from their class to answer the telephone except in case of an emergency. Students are NOT to ask to use the telephone unless the call is absolutely necessary.

VISITORS

All visitors are to report to the office before conducting any business in the school building or on the school premises. Students are cautioned not to bring visitors.

LOST AND FOUND

All lost and found articles are to be placed in the principal's office. A student may obtain his/her property by making an inquiry before or after school.

COLLECTION OF FUNDS

No person may solicit contributions or collect funds on school property without permission from the principal or superintendent.

TEXTBOOKS

Students will be issued free textbooks for each class and will be responsible to pay for lost or damaged textbooks and library books.

STUDENT ARRIVAL

Students should not arrive at school before 7:30 a.m. each morning. We do not have teacher supervision before this time.

Elementary students may not walk to school in the mornings or walk home after school. Elementary students must either ride a bus or be picked up by a parent/guardian or an adult designated by the parent/guardian. Please make sure that you have made these arrangements with your child each morning before they

come to school. If your child will be riding the bus home with someone else, or if, they will be picked up by someone you have not specified on their enrollment, they must bring a written note from a parent/guardian giving permission for them to do so. These arrangement will help ensure the safety of your child.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOM CHANGES

Students are divided as evenly as possible between the teachers at each grade level. If school personnel believe that it is necessary to change a student from one class to another, then the building principal has the discretion to authorize such a change. However, if a parent desires a reassignment for his or her child from one teacher to another, then that parent has the responsibility to locate another parent in the desired class who agrees to change his or her child's class assignment. Both parents must make a request for the change to the building principal, in writing, within five (5) calendar days from the first day of the school year or five (5) calendar days from the placement, whichever occurs first. It is within the principal's discretion to determine whether or not to grant the request.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION AND PASS/FAILURE OF A COURSE POLICY

Introduction

The Board of Education of the Panama School District, having determined that a need exists for a uniform policy governing the circumstances and considerations to be weighed in determining whether to promote a student to the next grade or retain him or her in the same grade for an additional year, has established the following policy to govern this question. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for teachers to follow in determining whether to promote or retain students in the School District, and to establish a uniform procedure to be followed in cases where retention is appropriate. The policy also establishes an appeal procedure by which parents may challenge the decision to retain a student or to assign a student a failing grade in a course.

As used in this policy, “promote” or “promotion” means to pass a student who has successfully completed the requirements of a particular grade into the next higher grade at the end of the school year and to record on the student’s record that he or she has successfully completed his or her current grade.

As used in this policy, “retain” or “retention” means to withhold a student from advancing into the next higher grade at the end of the school year and to indicate on the student’s record that he or she has not successfully completed his or her current grade.

Policy Regarding Promotion and Retention

Each school will form a committee to review and make decisions regarding retention and promotion. The committee will be composed of a classroom teacher,

a counselor when available and additional personnel who may be assigned by the principal when appropriate.

Strong supportive evidence must be presented to the student and parent regarding retention. This evidence must be based on:

- A. Testing which actually covers the subject matter presented to the student.
- B. Assignments directly related to the subject matter being taught.
- C. Consideration will also be given to the student's level of maturity (physical, mental, emotional, and social) and to the student's attendance record, although these matters will not bear the same weight as items 1 and 2.

The student and the parent must be made aware of the possibility of the student's impending retention or failing grade in a course. Any student in danger of being retained or failing a course shall be notified prior to the end of the school year that his or her performance is insufficient, and the student's parents will be mailed a written notice. The school staff will make every effort to help the student improve his or her academic standing.

Appeal Process

Any parent may request reconsideration of a retention decision or the assignment of a failing grade in a course by taking the following steps:

First Level of Appeal:

The parent may request review of the initial decision by letter to the building principal. If no request is received within five (5) days of the parent's receipt of written notification of the initial decision, the initial decision will be final.

Second Level of Appeal:

The parent may request review of the principal's decision by letter to the superintendent. If no request is received within five (5) days of the parent's receipt of the principal's written notification of his or her decision, the principal's decision will be final.

Final Level of Appeal:

The parent may request review of the superintendent's decision by letter to the superintendent or the Clerk of the Board of Education. If no request is received within five (5) days of the parent's receipt of the superintendent's written notification of his or her decision, the superintendent's decision will be final. The parent will be notified in writing of the date, time and place of the Board meeting at which the decision will be reviewed. The Board's decision will be final.

If a parent disagrees with the Board's decision, he or she may prepare a

written statement stating the reason(s) for disagreement, which will be placed in and become a part of the student's education record.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING AND THREATENING BEHAVIOR BY STUDENTS

The School Bullying Prevention Act and School District policy prohibit peer student harassment, intimidation, bullying and threatening behavior. This policy is in effect while the students are on school grounds, in school transportation, or attending school-sponsored activities, and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the school district. The term “harassment, intimidation and bullying” includes, but is not limited to any gesture, written or verbal expression, electronic communication or physical act that a reasonable person should know will:

1. harm another student;
2. damage another student’s property;
3. place another student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or damage to the student’s property; or
4. insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the School District’s education mission or the education of any student.

The term “threatening behavior” means any pattern of behavior or isolated action, whether or not it is directed at another person, that a reasonable person would believe indicates potential for future harm to students, school personnel or school property.

The Board of Education has adopted a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation, bullying and threatening behavior that defines and explains this conduct and the District’s response to the requirements of state law. Students and their parents can obtain a copy of the policy from their building principal or the superintendent.

Students should immediately report acts of harassment, intimidation, bullying or threatening behavior toward them or other students to school personnel.

Parents should:

1. Report harassment, intimidation, bullying and threatening behavior when it occurs;
2. Take advantage of opportunities to talk to their children about prohibited conduct;
3. Inform the school immediately if they think their child is receiving or initiating prohibited conduct;
4. Watch for symptoms that their child may be a victim of prohibited conduct and report those symptoms;
5. Cooperate fully with 2 56 school personnel in identifying and

- resolving incidents; and
6. Participate in all activities designed to eliminate harassment, intimidation, bullying and threatening behavior, including activities designed to address confirmed incidents.

PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW POLICY

At the beginning of each school year, any district that receives funds under NCLB Title I shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

- (i) Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- (ii) Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- (iii) The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- (iv) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition, parents may request and a school shall provide to each parent

- (i) Information on the level of achievement of their child in each of the State academic assessments as required under NCLB; and,
- (ii) Timely notice that their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.

The notice and information provided to parents under this paragraph shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER THE PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

- Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if

the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED)

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
 2. Mental and psychological problems of the student or student's family;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or
 8. Income, other than as required by law to determine eligibility.
- Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of
 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
 3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.
 - Inspect, upon request and before administration or use
 1. Protected information surveys of students;
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

The School District has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The School District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The School District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her

child out of participation of the 278 specific activity or survey. The School

District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of school activities and surveys.

Parents will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution.
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

DIRECTORY INFORMATION NOTICE

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that the Panama Public Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain the written consent of the parent or eligible student prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from a child's education records. However, the School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless the parent or eligible student has advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School District to include this type of information from a child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

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

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside

organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws required local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

The School District has designated the following information as “directory information,” and it will disclose that information without prior written consent:

- The student's name;

- The names of the student's parents;

- The student's address;

- The student's telephone listing;

- The student's electronic mail address;

- The student's date and place of birth;

- The student's dates of attendance;

 - The student's grade level (i.e., first grade, tenth grade, etc.);

 - The student's participation in officially recognized activities and sports;

 - The student's degrees, honors and awards received;

 - The student's weight and height, if a member of an athletic team; The student's photograph; and

 - The most recent educational agency or institution attended.

Within the first three weeks of each school year, the School District will provide to parents and eligible students via the student handbook the above list of items of directory information it proposes to designate as directory information. The parents of students and eligible students enrolling after that time will also receive a copy of the handbook upon enrollment.

After the parents or eligible students have been notified, they will have two weeks to advise the School District in writing (a letter to the superintendent of schools' office) of any or all of the items they refuse to permit the School District to designate as directory information about that student.

At the end of the two-week period, each student's records will be appropriately marked by the records custodian to indicate the items the School District will designate as directory information about that student. This designation will remain in effect until it is modified by the written direction of the student's parent or the eligible student.