

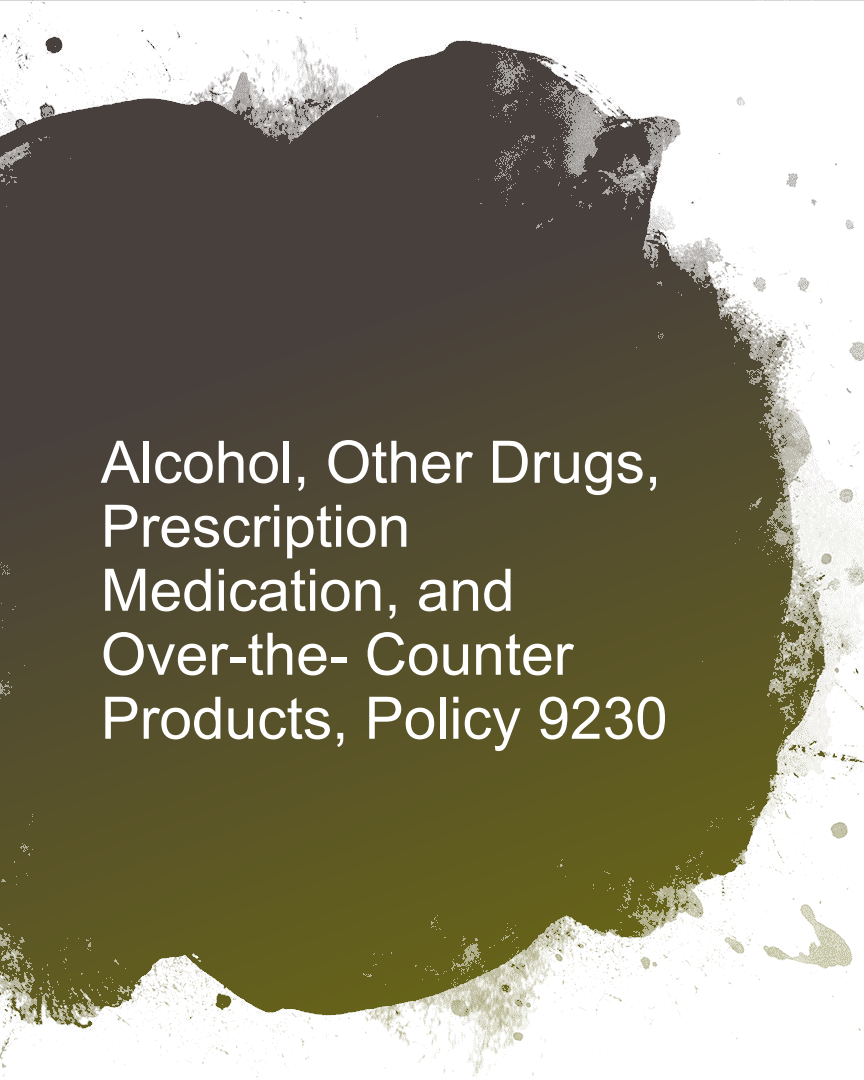
Student Code of Conduct

Elkridge Landing Middle School 2020-2021



Student Code of Conduct

- The Howard County Public School System is committed to providing a safe, engaging and supportive learning environment where all policies are enforced fairly and consistently.
- HCPSS policies and regulations emphasize instruction and rehabilitation rather than punishment, and are designed to foster and reward appropriate behavior and keep students connected to school so they can graduate college and career ready.
- The HCPSS Student Code of Conduct provides a framework to support behavioral goals and disciplinary policies.
- All students are expected to be aware of and abide by this Student Code of Conduct. Parents/guardians are encouraged to read the Student Code of Conduct carefully and to discuss the information with their children. HCPSS employees will follow the Student Code of Conduct when supporting students and determining consequences for violations.



Alcohol, Other Drugs, Prescription Medication, and Over-the-Counter Products, Policy 9230

- The possession, use, or distribution of alcoholic beverages and other drugs on school premises or at school-related or school-sponsored activities is prohibited.
- Legal searches and seizures related to this policy may be conducted on school property.
- Confidentiality is guaranteed for students who seek counseling for drug or alcohol abuse problems.

Attendance Procedures, Policy 9010

- There is a direct relationship between academic achievement and regular school attendance.
 - Students who attend class every day develop a sense of continuity in the material presented, in the problem-solving techniques used by the teacher, and in the academic and behavioral expectations for all students.
- It is the responsibility of the student to:
 - Take advantage of the educational opportunities offered to them.
 - Attend regularly scheduled classes unless officially excused.
 - Know and fulfill the specific required objectives set by the teacher in each course taken.
- We monitor student attendance carefully. Any student who develops a pattern of frequent or repetitive absences/tardiness, whether for lawful or unlawful reasons, will be placed on a 'Watch List.'



Bullying, Cyberbullying, Harassment, or Intimidation, Policy 1060

- HCPSS is committed to providing safe school environments.
- Policy 1060 establishes expectations for maintaining a safe and respectful school climate where bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment and intimidation are not tolerated.
- The policy requires compliance for any student, staff member, parent/guardian or close adult relative of a student to report any incident of bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment or intimidation that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored activity or event, on a school bus or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Grace's Law 2.0



Grace's Law: Maryland's Anti-Bullying Law



Bullying is behavior that is both repeated and intended to hurt someone either physically, emotionally or both. It can take many forms (teasing, name calling, making threats, physical assault, sexual assault and cyberbullying).

Cyberbullying is bullying using electronic media such as computers, cell phones, and game systems. Our digital interconnectedness makes bullying different and more damaging than ever before, because harmful words or photos can be shared widely in a matter of seconds.

In October 2013, the state of Maryland enacted Grace's Law, making misuse of interactive computer services a criminal offense. Its purpose is to prohibit anyone from using electronic media to maliciously engage in conduct that inflicts serious emotional distress on a minor and/or places that minor in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury. A person who is found guilty of violating this law is subject to imprisonment up to a year and a fine of up to \$500.00, or both.

DANGERS OF BULLYING

There are health risks related to depression for the victim, bully, and those who witness bullying, which may include:

- Irritability or anger
- Nightmares
- Headaches
- Stomachaches
- Inability to concentrate
- Muscle, joint and muscle pain
- Weight gain or loss
- Depression
- Self injury (e.g., cutting)
- Difficulties in falling and/or staying asleep
- Impulsiveness
- Suicide attempts
- Horrifying thoughts



HOW YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

In Maryland's public schools, if you feel you are being bullied, you have the right to report your concerns and the school has the responsibility to investigate those concerns.

- Ask your teacher, counselor, or administrator if you can speak privately about a personal problem. Tell the adult what's happening or making you feel uncomfortable and how long it has been going on.
- Ask for a **Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form**. Complete the form, return it to the administrator, and keep a copy. Feel free to call the Maryland State Department of Education if you have additional questions regarding the completion of the Bullying Form at 410-767-4635.
- Incidences of bullying may also be reported through HCPSS Sprigoes, an online reporting system, at: <http://report.sprigoes.com>.
- Ask the administrator to investigate allegations, develop a plan of support, and schedule a meeting. Tell your parents and ask them to attend.
- If you are being bullied on a social media site, **screen-shot** and **save** the content to share with parents, police and the school administration. Fill out a report as often as you need to.
- Change your password, use privacy settings, and block people who send negative messages, texts, tweets or photos.
- Ask your friends not to share negative media with you or pass it on to others.

Stand Up...when you hear or see hatred and meanness.

Speak Out...tell them it's not OK. Show support or befriend the mistreated.

Get Help - Report It...tell a responsible adult and fill out a bullying report.

Reporting bullying is not snitching or tattling, it is helping to keep you and others safe. For more information, visit www.stopbullying.gov.

If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, take it seriously and get help. Contact the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention at 1-888-333-4FSP.

Grace's Law 2.0

- Enacted in 2013 and strengthened in 2019 by Maryland advocates and legislators to address the ever-changing digital landscape, Grace's Law **makes the malicious use of internet-based communications with the intent to intimidate or harass a minor, a criminal offense.**
- The law **prohibits electronic communications or conduct that may cause physical or emotional distress**, including inducing a minor to commit suicide.
- A **single incident may violate the law**. A person who is found guilty of violating this law is subject to imprisonment and/or fines up to 10 years and \$10,000.

Civility, Policy 1000

- The Board has set clear expectations for civil behavior that supports a safe, welcoming, and nurturing environment on school property and at school related activities.
- Unacceptable behaviors include but are not limited to:
 - Rude, insulting, or demeaning language / actions.
 - Persistently unreasonable demands.
 - Intrusive and/or interruptive behavior.
 - Displays of temper.
 - Harassment and intimidation.
 - Threatening and/or abusive gestures and behavior.
- Each individual is responsible for behaving in a civil manner and for cooperating in resolving incidents of uncivil behavior.

Discrimination, Policy 1010

- The Board of Education is committed to providing an educational and work environment that fosters equitable opportunities and an appreciation of diversity and commonality in a culturally pluralistic society. Education that is multicultural will be promoted through curriculum, instruction, staff development, and resource selection.
- In order to promote the worth and dignity of all individuals, the Board will not tolerate any act of discrimination, intimidation, harassment, or hate/bias based on race, color, creed, national origin, religion, physical or mental disability, age gender, marital status or sexual orientation by students, employees, or third parties.



Gangs, Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Delinquent Group Behavior, Policy 9290

- The Board of Education of Howard County fully supports the development and implementation of a safe and nurturing school environment. Gangs and gang activity disrupt this environment. Thus, the Board prohibits any gang activity and any similar destructive or delinquent group behavior on school property, on school buses, and at school-sponsored functions.
- It is a violation of this policy for any individual or suspected gang member to threaten or carry out reprisal or retaliation against individuals:
 - Who report gang activity and similar destructive or delinquent group behavior.
 - Who are victims, witnesses, bystanders, or others with reliable information about gang activity and similar destructive or delinquent group behavior.

Grading Procedures: Middle School, Policy 8020

- The Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all students meet or exceed rigorous performance standards.
- Grading and achievement information must be determined in a consistent manner and regularly reported to students and their parents.
- Grading and promotion within the school system is based on the degree of success the individual student has achieved in the educational program. The grading system for kindergarten through Grade 8 includes evaluation, effort, and instructional codes and/or comments. The decision to retain or accelerate a student is based on a number of factors.
- **Middle school students:** must pass all courses and receive a final grade of not lower than “C” in all core subjects (English/Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) or they will automatically be considered for retention. *A student who does not meet this requirement may be recommended to attend summer school.*



Responsible Use of Technology and Social Media, Policy 8080

- Students are responsible for good behavior on the Internet just as they are in a classroom or a school hallway. Acceptable uses of the Internet include activities that support learning and teaching.
- Access to network services will be provided to students who agree to act in a considerate and responsible manner. In addition, students will not be allowed to access the Internet without a staff member monitoring their work.
- Each student will be required to sign a Computer Use Agreement at the beginning of the school year.
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon guidelines may result in suspension or revocation of Internet access as well as other disciplinary actions.
- **Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right.**





Sexual Discrimination, Policy 1020

- The Board of Education is committed to providing an educational and work environment that is free from all forms of sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of gender or sexual orientation.
- Students, employees and third parties may be subject to disciplinary action or consequences for inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature, even when the behavior does not rise to the level of sexual harassment as defined by federal and state laws.
- It is also a violation of this policy for any student, employee, or third party to engage in retaliation toward any individual who reports or makes an allegation of sexual harassment or who participates in the investigation of reported or alleged sexual harassment.
- Sexual harassment of a student is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature by any person that interferes with the student's ability to learn, study, work, achieve, or participate in school activities.

Safe and Supportive Schools, Policy 1040

- The Board of Education is committed to providing a nurturing, respectful educational and work environment, where the worth and dignity of individuals is valued and their safety and rights protected.
- Behaviors that compromise this commitment, interfere with school operations, or are otherwise contrary to the basic mission of public schools will not be tolerated. Threats, profanity, defamation, harassment, assault, battery, hazing and intimidation are prohibited in the school system.
- Students, employees and third parties engaging in these behaviors are subject to disciplinary and/or legal action. Students who violate this policy may also be subject to appropriate educational interventions and/or counseling.

Personal Communication Device Guidelines

- Students are permitted to carry and use portable electronic devices during the school day.
- Devices must be turned off or in silent mode at all times and should not be visible during, or disrupt, instructional time unless under the express direction and supervision of a school staff member.
- Devices may be used during non-instructional times: before/after school, lunch/recess, during transition times.
- Students may not use devices to take photographs, video, or voice recordings without adult permission.
- Violations will result in device being confiscated and turned in to the office. (Policy 8080 and 3040)



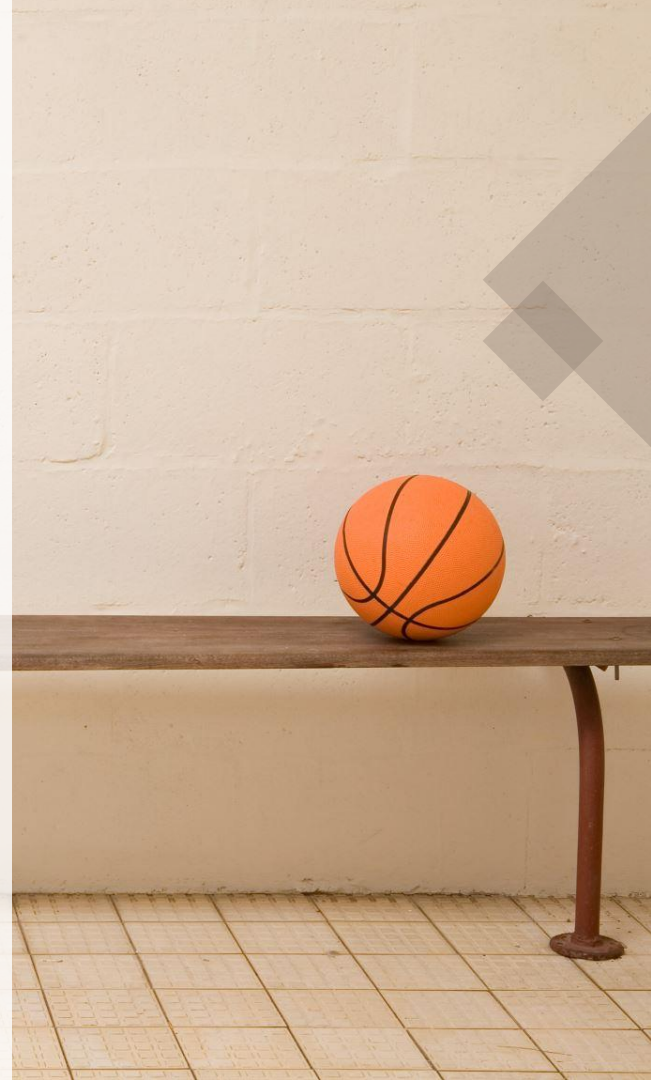
Student Assault and/or Battery on School Staff, Policy 9270

- In order for learning to take place, the school environment must be safe and orderly. Therefore, any physical assault by a student on a school staff member is strictly forbidden.
- Any student who violates this policy will be suspended from school and subject to transfer.
- Any student involved in a second assault on school staff will be expelled.



Student Discipline, Policy 9200

- The Board of Education recognizes the need for a school environment that is orderly and safe for all students and staff. It also recognizes that the behavior of a student is the shared responsibility of the student, the home and the school.
- The school staff has the responsibility for taking appropriate action when a student is involved in a situation that does not contribute to a safe and orderly environment.
- Discipline is intended to foster student growth, to teach students methods of self-responsibility, and to ensure an acceptable environment for teachers to teach and students to learn.
- The student has the right to know the reasons for disciplinary action.
- School personnel have the responsibility for determining the appropriate disciplinary action based upon how severe the student's behavior is and/or how often the student's behavior takes place.





Student Dress Code, Policy 9210

- Elkridge Landing Middle School maintains standards of dress and appearance to ensure that our school is a safe and respectful place to learn.
- All dress and grooming shall meet health and sanitary standards.
- Any type of apparel that is considered to be disruptive, dangerous, or provocative shall not be permitted during school hours or during school sponsored activities.
- These dress guidelines will present no difficulties if students remember to avoid extremes of dress.
- Exceptions will be made for religious and medical reasons only.

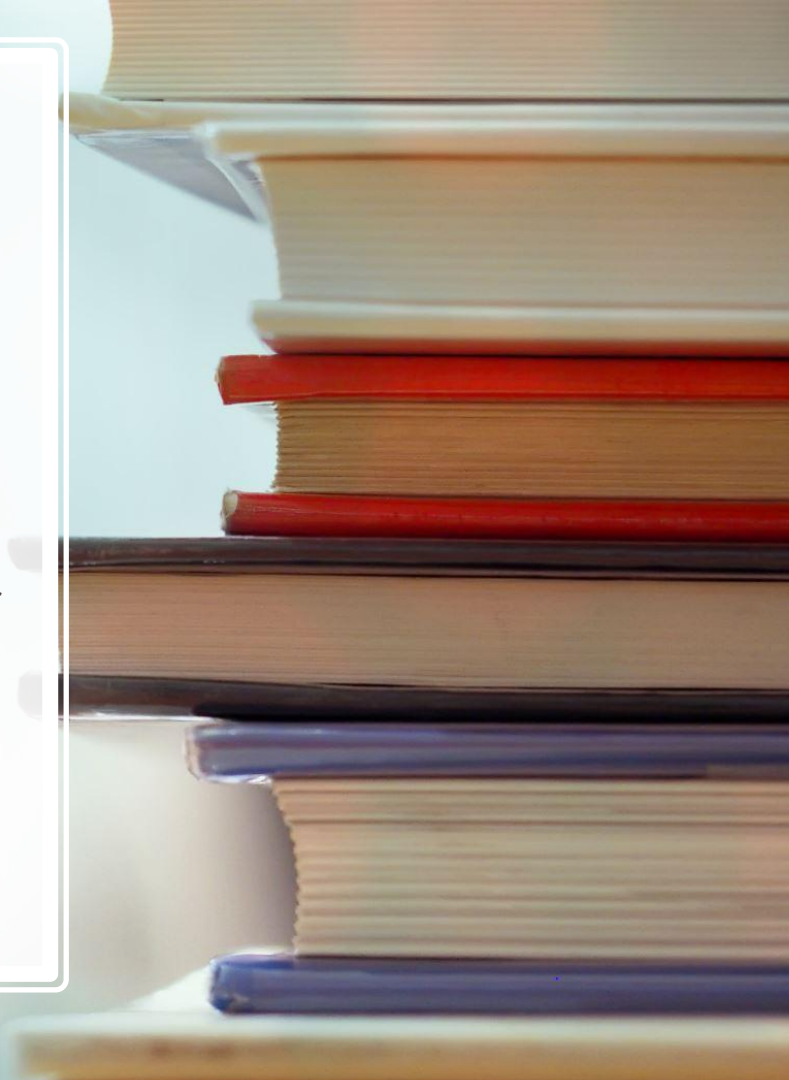
Student Representation, Policy 9210

- The student dress code will be implemented equitably and consistently regardless of students' race, color, creed, national origin, immigration status, religion, physical, mental, or educational disability, pregnancy, age, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, sexual orientation, marital status, veteran status, socioeconomic status, body type, body size, or personal style.



Students' Rights and Responsibilities, Policy 9020

- The responsibilities and rights of all citizens are guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, the due process amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and federal and state laws. The rights of the individual are preserved only through the protection and preservation of the rights of others.
- Students have a responsibility for their own learning, for their personal conduct, and for the manner in which they exercise their rights. Students must accept the consequences of their actions. Students have the responsibility to participate in the educational program offered by their schools and, in doing so, are bound by the policies of the HCPSS.
- Students have specific responsibilities and rights related to school attendance, student expression, disciplinary action, due process, search and seizure, student records, student activities, use of school facilities, and nondiscriminatory practices.



Student Search and Seizure, Policy 9260

- Students are protected against unreasonable search and seizure by school officials by the Fourth Amendment (New Jersey v. TLO , 1985). However, school officials do not need a search warrant to conduct a search of a student, and the level of suspicion required to warrant a search is not 'probable cause' – as is the case in most parts of our society – but rather a standard of 'reasonable belief' or suspicion.
- Therefore, a school administrator may make a reasonable search of a student on school premises upon a reasonable belief that the student is in criminal possession of an item, the possession of which is a criminal offense under Maryland law. A third party should be present during the search.
- Searches may include backpacks, purses, lockers and other items used by a student. Furthermore, the locker space provided to your student is the property of the school and may be searched at any time.

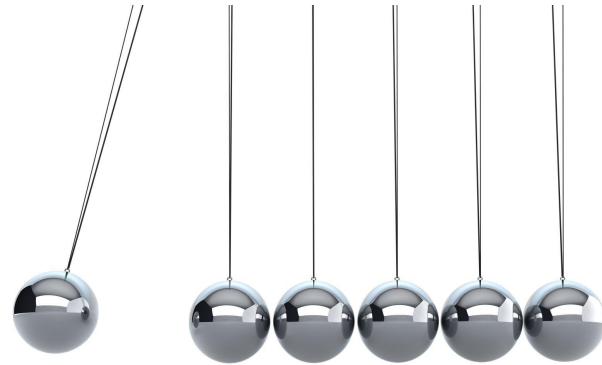
Student Use and Possession of Tobacco Products, Policy 9240

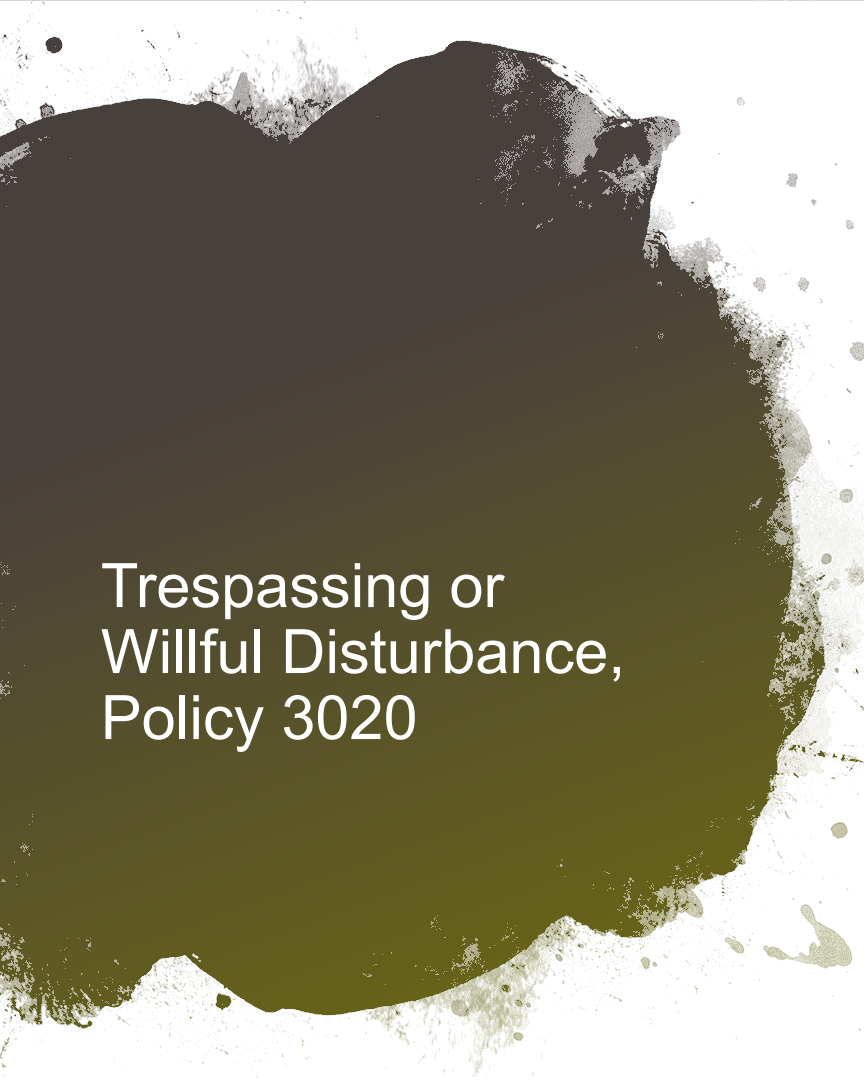
- The use or possession of any tobacco product or cigarette, including rolling papers, lighters, and matches by students is prohibited in school buildings and on school grounds.
- Middle and high school students found in violation of the policy will, upon first offense, be required to attend a tobacco management class. Failure of the student to attend the tobacco management class will result in a 5-day suspension.
- For a second offense, a student will be suspended for a period of up to 10 days and will be required to complete a tobacco management program.
- A third offense results in a suspension of up to 30 days and requires completion of a tobacco management program.
- Any further violations may result in expulsion.



Students Charged with Community or Reportable Offenses, Policy 9280

- The presence of a student in school who has been charged with a community offense may pose a serious threat to the safety and well-being of students and/or staff. Additionally, their appearance in school may disrupt the educational process in the school.
- When it is determined that a student charged with a community offense represents a serious threat to others, or whose presence in school has a direct effect on the order and general welfare of the school, the student may be assigned to an Alternative Educational Placement.





Trespassing or Willful Disturbance, Policy 3020

- School properties belong to the citizens of Howard County. Appropriate use of the properties is necessary for the normal educational functions for which these facilities are designed.
- When the administrators in charge of the building determine that certain individuals:
 - misuse the property
 - are officially suspended from the school system
 - have no lawful business to pursue, or
 - are acting in a manner that disrupts or disturbs the normal educational functions of the institution,
...these individuals can be instructed to leave the school buildings or grounds immediately.
- Failure to comply may result in further school or legal consequences.

Weapons, Policy 9250

- The presence of weapons on school property poses a serious threat to the safety and well-being of students and staff.
- It is unlawful for any person to carry or possess any rifle, gun, knife, or deadly weapon of any kind on any public school property in the state of Maryland.
- Weapons, as defined by school system policy, include: any gun (real or represented as such), form of knife, throwing star, razor, metal knuckles, nunchakus, explosive device, or any other object or implement intended to, or used in such a way as to, cause harm to another.
- Students found in possession of a weapon on school property will be suspended and the police will be notified and the possession may result in expulsion



For More Information
visit

[HCPSS Student/Parent Handbook](#)

