



**2024-2025**

**Fall Creek Middle School**  
336 East Hoover Avenue  
Fall Creek, Wisconsin 54742  
(715) 877-2809

**Website:** <http://www.fallcreek.k12.wi.us>

**Principal**

John Goodman

**District Administrator**

Brad Ceranski

**Fall Creek School Board Members**

Courtney Kneifl

Amy Kurtz

Jill Geske

Eric Ryan

Brock Wright

## **WELCOME TO THE FALL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Dear Middle School Student:

Welcome to Fall Creek Middle School. We, the middle school staff, believe all middle school students can be successful.

The structure of our middle school and the teaching approaches are designed with the “best practices” as their core and foundation. We are committed to the Origins Developmental Designs guiding principles (Crawford, Tyink, *Developmental Designs for Middle School Students* 2, 2007):

1. *Social learning is as important to success as academic learning.*
2. *We learn best by constructing our own understanding through exploration, discovery, and application.*
3. *The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interactions within a supportive community.*
4. *There is a set of personal/social skills that students need to learn and practice in order to be successful socially and academically: Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Control.*
5. *Knowing the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs of the students we teach is as important as knowing the content we teach.*
6. *Trust among adults is a fundamental necessity for academic and social success in a learning community.*

Overall, we are seeking to develop responsible, competent, independent, and enjoyable teen years launching you into success in high school.

This handbook will provide you with the procedures necessary in providing a calm, safe environment for learning where students can exhibit a high degree of responsibility, kindness, and respect. Our best in your successes at Fall Creek Middle School,

Middle School Staff

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

The Fall Creek School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, age, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital status or parental status, sexual orientation, or disability.

The Fall Creek School District’s coordinator for IX (sex) and pupil non discrimination (multiple protected groups) is Brad Ceranski, 336 E. Hoover Ave Fall Creek, WI 54742, phone 715-877-2123, email: [bradceranski@fallcreek.k12.wi.us](mailto:bradceranski@fallcreek.k12.wi.us)

The Fall Creek School District’s coordinator for section 504/Title II of the ADA (disability) Brad Ceranski, 336 E. Hoover Ave Fall Creek, WI 54742, 715-877-2123, [bradceranski@fallcreek.k12.wi.us](mailto:bradceranski@fallcreek.k12.wi.us)

## **DISTRICT VISION**

The School District of Fall Creek  
“Committed to Academic and Personal Excellence”

## **DISTRICT MISSION**

The School District of Fall Creek, along with the community, through meaningful personal connections, will provide a safe, supportive environment that inspires students to reach their academic and personal potential and to become responsible citizens.

## **FALL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL WHERE EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO SUCCEED**

### **PHYSICAL GROWTH**

Physical growth is fostered by developing an understanding of the unique changes that occur during adolescence. It also involves instruction in proper nutrition and provides for physical development through physical education classes and a variety of sports activities.

### **INTELLECTUAL ACHIEVEMENT**

Fall Creek Middle School offers all students from the intellectually challenged to the gifted, the opportunity for success. A wide range of programs is offered, as well as varied classroom teaching strategies, exploratory classes, and extra curricular activities. All of which offer avenues for individual success.

### **SOCIAL INTERACTION**

Encountering new and changing social relationships, middle school students are frequently confronted with confusing, frustrating, and sometimes seemingly overwhelming situations. These often come and go on a daily basis. Faculty and staff members remain alert to such situations and ready to direct students as they pass through these stages of social growth and adjustment.

Instructional strategies involving different grouping patterns encourage students to practice social skills involved in working together, while extra curricular social activities allow students practice in relating to one another and to the adults around them.

### **WARM EMOTIONAL CLIMATE**

The Fall Creek Middle School provides an emotionally safe environment. The staff strives to make sure that the self-esteem of every student is protected and nurtured. Academic classes provide opportunities for middle school students to learn about their emotional development and how to cope with emotional turmoil. Adults in the Middle School model appropriate coping behavior.

With the involvement of parents and community, and with a total commitment to quality, the staff at Fall Creek Middle School instructs and nurtures students through the transient years. It is our mission to develop successful students who are able to cope with the challenges of high school and beyond.

### **SCHOOL HOURS**

On a normal school day, the first bell for students to report to class rings at 7:51 am. Students are dismissed at 3:11 pm. Students should not remain in the building after dismissal unless they are involved in a school activity. The Middle School Office is open each school day from 7:30 am - 4:00 pm. If a parent needs to report an absence or leave a message outside of those hours, you may call 715-877-2511 to get our school's automated service.

### **NOON HOUR**

Fall Creek has a “closed campus”. Students are expected to eat at school. Students will be expected to follow the lunchroom rules set by the lunchroom supervisors.

### **LEAVING THE BUILDING**

Any parents wishing to pick up students during school hours must sign their students out in the middle school office. If possible, please contact the office to let them know prior to picking up your child.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to be present and punctual for all their classes. An absence may be reported in the following ways: through the Skyward Family Access portal, emailing or calling the office (715-877-2511). You can prearrange an excused absence for your child by calling school or sending a note before he/she will be gone. Obtaining work ahead of time for an anticipated absence is left to the discretion of the teacher(s). **It is the responsibility of students to make up work from each class upon returning to school.** Should your child need to see a physician, have the doctor write a note excusing any absences. Excessive tardiness may result in disciplinary actions. The State of Wisconsin allows students to miss up to ten days per school year. Both excused and unexcused absences are counted. We do not count any absences that have been doctor excused towards the ten-day allotment. We are required to send out letters of concern should students approach or exceed that number. Subsequent letters will be sent should the number of absences continue to grow. These letters will ask parents to contact the principal. A phone call or email message is acceptable. Our mission is to work with families while living up to our responsibilities.

### **TARDIES**

A student who is unexcused and is less than 5 minutes late will be considered tardy. A student who is unexcused and 5 or more minutes late will be considered absent. After the 3rd tardy a lunch detention will be assigned. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> unexcused tardy a student will receive lunch detention or each unexcused tardy.

### **BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All notices of meetings, athletic and social events, general information, and specific instructions, are announced in a daily bulletin. Information concerning the school calendar, including athletic and special events, can be found on the school website <http://www.fallcreek.k12.wi.us>

### **STUDENT LOCKERS/STUDENT VALUABLES**

Students are assigned individual lockers at the beginning of each school term. The lockers are the property of the School District of Fall Creek. As a result, the lockers can be randomly searched at any time under the jurisdiction of appointed school personnel. Only school issued locks may be used on lockers and gym lockers.

It is expected that a student's assigned locker will be taken care of and cleaned properly upon checking out at the end of the school term. Any damage to the lockers should be reported to the office. Students are encouraged not to keep anything of value in their lockers. The school is not liable for personal items that are lost or stolen. Things of value can be stored in the office.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

All students are encouraged to keep their books covered and replace covers that become worn. If a textbook suffers excessive wear or is lost it must be replaced. The replacement charge will be the used book price.

### **VANDALISM**

The educational facilities here at Fall Creek are well maintained. A person guilty of vandalism could expect any of the following:

- Payment for the vandalism.
- Suspension from school.
- Expulsion from school.
- Legal prosecution.
- Restitution in the form of labor to clean up or repair any vandalism.

### **MEDICATIONS**

School staff, by law, cannot dispense any medication without written notification from parent and physician. Forms that authorize the dispensing of medications are available in the office. Forms must be signed by the prescribing physician and parent and returned to the office. All medications will be dispensed from the office.

### **FIRE DRILLS**

In case of fire or other emergency, a continuous alarm will be sounded. Students should follow the evacuation plans posted in their classrooms. The plan will tell students which route to exit the building and where to stand once outside. It is important to leave the building in an appropriate manner and listen quietly for instructions.

### **TORNADO/SEVERE WEATHER**

In the event of a tornado or other weather emergency, an announcement will be made over the public address system and students will proceed to designated areas.

### **HONOR ROLL**

At the end of each twelve weeks of the school year, the office publishes an "A" (3.67-4.0) and "B" (2.67-3.66) Honor Roll, which list students who have distinguished themselves by academic achievement.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Students who find articles are asked to take them to the office, where they may be claimed by the owner.

### **STUDENT VISITORS**

At no time or for no reason will student visitors be allowed to attend school during regular hours.

### **STUDENT CONDUCT**

Fall Creek takes great pride in how we are perceived by others. Our conduct is a direct reflection on all the people around us whether it is in school, in the community, or representing the Crickets in any other environment. Respect for others, self-discipline, accountability, etc. are all attributes of maturity. When expected student conduct is not evident and profanity, cheating, physical violence, use of prohibited drugs, disbursement of prohibited drugs, vandalism, etc. is evident, appropriate disciplinary action will be administered.

## **DRESS AND BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES**

We at FCMS expect our students to dress and conduct themselves in a courteous and proper manner. Student dress shall be defined as dress that is reasonable and proper for an educational setting. In accordance with recent court rulings, the school reserves the right to send students home if their dress and behavior are distracting or deemed dangerous to either the student or fellow students. Student dress that is inappropriate and a distraction to the educational environment will not be tolerated.

Examples of inappropriate dress would include, but are not be limited to: clothing that refers to alcohol, coed-naked shirts or other suggestive slogans. Clothing that exposes the midriff, undergarments or cleavage is not acceptable. Tank-tops, sleeveless, or strapless shirts, pajamas are not acceptable attire. Shorts or skirts that are too short can be defined as the bottom of the skirt or short being at thumbs down when arms are draped in a natural position at your side. Any student wearing inappropriate clothing will be provided alternate clothing at the middle/high school office. Refusing to change into the appropriate clothing will result in a suspension.

Chronic offenders will have their parents contacted and may receive further disciplinary action.

No hats, caps, hoods (from hooded sweatshirt), bandanas, chains, metal collars/bracelets are to be worn in the school building. No jackets, coats, backpacks and/or purses, handbags will be allowed in classrooms during the school day.

All students must be clean and well groomed. Because of health and safety regulations, shoes will be worn at all times; this includes all classes, physical education and athletics.

The physical display of affection between students is not considered acceptable behavior in school, on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities.

## **STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Students may use electronic media and communication devices in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Cell Phones/Electronic Media and Communication Devices must be on a silent ring or vibrate tone at all times
- Cell Phones/Electronic Media and Communication Devices may not be used in the bathroom or locker room areas.
- Students may use cell phones/Electronic Media and Communication Devices during the following non-instructional times: ***Before school and After School***

Consequences for improper use of cell phones/Electronic Media and Communication Devices:

***First Offense*** (in one school year): Cell Phone/Electronic Media and Communication Devices will be given to the office. Student will pick up at the end of the day.

***Second Offense*** (in one school year): Cell Phone/Electronic Media and Communication Devices will be given to the office. Parent will be notified. Student will pick up at the end of the day.

***Third Offense*** (in one school year): Cell Phone/Electronic Media and Communication Devices will be given to the office. Parent will be notified. Parent must pick up the phone. Student checks phone in daily to the office for one week.

***Subsequent Offense*** (in one school year): Cell Phone/Electronic Media and Communication Devices will be given to the office. Parent will be notified. Parent must pick up the phone. Student must check in phone to the office for the remainder of the school year. Depending on severity and number of offenses, possible suspension.

### **POSSESSION OR USE OF WEAPONS**

School Board policy states:

No one shall possess, use, or store a weapon or look-alike weapon in or on school property, in school vehicles, or at school-related activities. A dangerous weapon or look-alike weapon is defined in state statutes and may include any object which, by the manner in which it is used or intended to be used, is capable of inflicting bodily harm or could pretend to be capable of inflicting bodily harm or endangering the health and safety of students or staff. Ammunition and explosives are included within the weapons category.

A minor who violates this law is subject to the provisions outlined in Chapter 48 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Weapon(s) or look-alike weapon(s) confiscated from a student shall be reported to the parents/guardians and to law enforcement authorities and disciplinary measures shall include immediate suspension and referral to the Board of Education for expulsion from school.

Policy exceptions include:

1. Weapons under the control of law enforcement personnel.
2. Weapons properly registered and handled during the community use of school facilities.
3. Theatrical props used in appropriate settings.
4. Starter pistols used in appropriate sporting events.
5. Items pre-approved by the building principal as part of a class or individual presentation under adult supervision.

### **USE OR SALE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS**

The School District of Fall Creek will not tolerate any possession, use or sale of illegal drugs. The drug free zone will encompass all school buildings, school property, and extend 1,000 feet from the school property line. The School District of Fall Creek will practice "zero tolerance." A student using, possessing or selling illegal drugs will be referred to the police department for prosecution. A student using, possessing or selling drugs will also be referred to the Fall Creek School Board for expulsion consideration.

### **USE OF ALCOHOL OR TOBACCO**

No student enrolled in the Fall Creek School District will be permitted to use or possess alcohol or tobacco products on school grounds, school-sponsored trips, or in school buildings. Any student violating this rule may be referred to proper authorities for legal prosecution. The student may also be disciplined by school authorities with one to three days of out of school suspension.

### **FIGHTING/PHYSICAL CONTACT**

Any physical contact such as punching, pushing, kicking, tripping, etc. will be looked upon as fighting and may result in suspension.

### **HARASSMENT POLICY**

The Fall Creek School District will not permit any form of harassment based upon race, color, religion, gender, national origin, etc. Harassment undermines the integrity of the learning environment. Anything that interferes with a student's ability to learn or participate in extra curricular activities will not be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to verbal or physical intimidation, any manner of threats, ethnic jokes, slurs, cursing, name calling, vulgar remark, unwanted touching, graphic commentaries on a person's body, anything that is sexually suggestive, intimidating or degrading. If a student feels threatened or humiliated, he/she has probably been the victim of harassment and should contact the principal, the guidance counselor, the superintendent, or any staff member with whom the student feels comfortable. Even if a student is not sure that the problem(s) he/she has been experiencing is harassment, it is a good idea to contact someone on staff who can aid in making a judgment and eliminating the problem. It has been the procedure of the Fall Creek School System to handle harassment problems in a low-key and subtle fashion, protecting those who have been harassed from embarrassment and further negative experiences and providing an opportunity for harassers to make amends for past infractions and make positive changes in future behavior. When an opportunity for change has been given and any form of harassment continues, a formal harassment complaint will be filed. Filing a harassment complaint will not reflect upon the individual's status, nor will it affect future employment, grades or work assignments. It can only help to make our school more comfortable for all who learn and work here. Generally speaking, harassment doesn't just go away, it has to be stopped. Those who take steps to stop it, not only improve the learning environment for others, they become stronger individuals themselves.

### **BULLYING**

The Fall Creek School District shall promote a safe, secure and respectful learning environment for all students and staff in school buildings and on school grounds, on school buses and at school sponsored activities. Bullying is repeated, deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions intended to cause fear, intimidation or harm. If it is determined that student(s) participate in bullying behavior or retaliated against anyone due to the reporting of bullying behavior may face disciplinary action including: detention, suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement officials for possible legal action as appropriate.



### **REMOVAL FROM CLASS**

A student is removed from a class if the behavior is disruptive, unacceptable or deprives other students from learning. Refusal to participate in class in an appropriate manner or consistent refusal to perform assigned tasks is considered disruptive to the learning environment. The student is sent to the office to meet with the building principal.

When a student has been removed from a class, he/she may be required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian for a conference with the teacher before being readmitted to the class.

### **MAKE-UP WORK FOLLOWING SUSPENSION**

Students will be expected to make up any work missed during either in-school or out-of-school suspensions. Failure to complete make up work within a period of time equal to the length of the suspension time may result in failing grades.

### **SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION RULES**

Riding the bus to and from school is a PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT. The primary responsibility of the driver is to safely transport the student to and from school therefore video cameras are installed on the bus to monitor behavior.

The students are responsible for their behavior on the bus. Misbehavior could result in the bus driver being distracted. Such distractions could endanger the lives of all students being transported. Therefore, behavior infractions will be reported to the proper authorities. Parents will be notified. The student's privilege to ride the bus may be suspended.

Students should be at their designated stop five minutes before their scheduled pickup time. The bus will not wait.

#### **The following is a list of bus rules:**

Upon entering the bus, get seated and remain in that seat until you arrive at your destination. No standing or moving around in the aisle will be permitted.

Food, drink, gum, etc. will be allowed on the bus as long as all wrappers, cans, etc. are placed in the garbage can. If wrappers, cans, etc. are found on the floor or between the seats, this privilege will be taken away.

No hitting, wrestling, spitting, shouting, whistling, etc. will be allowed. Stays seated and face the front of the bus.

Keep hands, head, etc. inside the bus at all times.

No boom boxes or musical instruments of any kind will be played on the bus.

Notes will be required, dated and signed by either the parent or school official if you are to get off at a different location than your assigned one.

No birthday parties or various groups will be allowed to ride unless proper authorization is given by the driver.

### **IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION FROM THE SCHOOL BUS**

1. The following behaviors will merit immediate suspension from riding the bus.
  - a. Insubordination: Defined to mean a direct refusal to follow the instructions of the bus driver or others in charge. This also includes derogative remarks to the driver.
  - b. Smoking, chewing tobacco, drugs and alcohol: Defined to mean any act leading to or participating in the activities.
  - c. Fighting/weapons: Defined to mean any act leading to aggression or harm, verbal or physical assault upon a person or persons, regardless of whether or not promoted by the action of others.
  - d. Opening or tampering with the emergency door: Defined to mean any act regarding the opening of an emergency door or latching or unlatching the lock on the door.
2. The following behaviors will merit suspension from riding the school bus.
  - a. Profane Language, Suggestive Comments or Body Language: Defined to mean abusive or derogatory remarks intended to be uncomplimentary or unacceptable.
  - b. Destruction of the Bus: Defined to mean any act relating to the marring, cutting, tearing or general destruction of bus facilities. Students involved will pay for the damage incurred.
  - c. Repeat Offenders: Defined to mean students who have been referred for minor infractions of bus safety not less than one or more than three times inclusively.

The above rules and regulations will apply to any trip under school sponsorship.

### **LIBRARY RULES**

The following rules apply to all students using the Library.

1. Students are expected to be Responsible, Respectful and Productive.
2. Students are expected to have a school pass, their agenda signed by a teacher, or the study-hall sign out list.
3. Students will sign-in when they arrive and sign-out when they leave. This rule applies before, during and after school hours.
4. All materials that leave the Library must be checked out. Reference and reserve materials must be returned the next morning. Other materials may be kept for a minimum of three weeks with renewal as an option. Current issues of magazines do not leave the Library.
5. Students who have overdue materials and/or fines will have their borrowing privileges restricted. All students must present their library card when checking out materials.

## **CLASS OFFERINGS**

Below are the current class offerings. The middle school operates on trimesters. Students can only make changes to their schedule before the end of the first week on a new trimester with the approval of the Middle School Principal. Students in 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> will need to take Band and/or Choir. If they choose to only take Band or Choir then they will have Launch the opposite day. Exploratory classes rotate on a trimester basis.

### **Grade 5**

#### **Required**

- Art
- Band
- ELA
- Guidance
- Keyboarding
- Launch
- Library
- Math
- Music
- Phy Ed
- Science
- Social Studies

### **Grade 6**

#### **Required**

- ELA
- Math
- Music
- Phy Ed
- Science
- Social Studies

#### **Exploratories**

- Art
- Agriculture
- Keyboarding

#### **Optional**

- Band
- Choir
- Launch

\*Students must take Band and/or Choir

### **Grade 7**

#### **Required**

- ELA
- Health
- Math
- Phy Ed
- Science
- Social Studies

#### **Exploratories**

- Art
- Computer Technology 7
- Spanish

#### **Optional**

- Band
- Choir
- Launch

\*Students must take either Band and/or Choir

### **Grade 8**

#### **Required**

- ELA
- Health
- Math
- Phy Ed
- Science
- Social Studies

#### **Exploratories**

- Art
- Computer 8
- Tech Ed

#### **Optional**

- Band
- Choir
- Launch

\*Students must take either Band and/or Choir

\*Launch class for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will have a \$40 fee to cover supplies used in class.

## **COMPUTER USAGE**

An Acceptable Use Agreement must be signed and on file in the office in order for a student to use the Fall Creek School's computer network. The District has the right to remove computer and networking privileges, take any disciplinary action and/or take legal action, for any activity characterized as unethical and/or unacceptable in the use of any of the Fall Creek School District's technology resources. Users should not expect stored files to be private.

The following fees will be charged for any lost or damaged technology:

- Chromebook \$290
- Chromebook bag \$20
- Chromebook charger \$30

## **USE OF VIDEO MATERIAL IN CLASSROOMS**

Video materials that are rated above the grade level in which they will be shown must be approved by the building level principal or designee prior to their presentation in class. Likewise, movies shown as rewards or other student incentives on non-designated days or times should be also approved by the building level principal or designee. Examples of designated days and times would include such items as movie days for the entire high school, movies shown during snack time at the elementary, or when students are kept inside during recess during inclement weather. Complaint procedures for video materials shall follow the same form and format as public complaints concerning all other instructional materials.

“G” Rating    These films may be shown at any grade level with the principal's approval. “PG” These films may be shown at grades 5-12 with parent/guardian and principal approval necessary in grade 5.

“PG 13”        These films may be shown at grades 7-12 with parent/guardian and principal approval.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR**

The extracurricular program at Fall Creek is part of the total educational program for those who desire to participate in it. Before a student is allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity, the student and their parent/guardian must first read, agree to and sign the “Fall Creek Extracurricular Code.” Also, before a student is allowed to participate in any athletics, they must be able to show that they have had a physical examination by a qualified doctor within the required time or an alternate year card on file in those years where a physical is not required. All physical and alternate year cards may be obtained in the office.

The following extracurricular activities are available to middle school students:

### **Grade 5**

- PAC
- SAFE
- Student Council
- Yearbook

### **Grade 6**

- Cross Country
- FFA
- Forensics
- PAC
- SAFE
- Student Council
- Wrestling
- Yearbook

### **Grades 7 & 8**

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- FFA
- Football
- Forensics
- PAC
- SAFE
- Student Council
- Track
- Trap
- Wrestling
- Yearbook

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL RETENTION**

1. The principal, counselors and teachers will monitor students not doing passing work in the required academic courses from the beginning of the school year. Required academic courses are subject to review and may change from year to year. The required academic courses are currently as follows:

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade (15 trimester grades)**

Science (3 trimesters)  
Mathematics (3 trimesters)  
Social Studies (3 trimesters)  
English/Language Arts (3 trimesters)

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade (15 trimester grades)**

Science (3 trimester)  
Mathematics (3 trimesters)  
Social Studies (3 trimesters)  
English/Language Arts (3 trimesters)

#### **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (15 trimester grades)**

Science (3 trimesters)  
Mathematics (3 trimesters)  
Social Studies (3 trimesters)  
English/Language Arts (3 trimesters)

2. As the year progresses, plans and programs will be prepared to help failing students. Contact with parents and guardians will be maintained throughout the year.
3. Parent cooperation is considered important and will be expected in moving failing students through any problem areas or special programs that may be arranged.
4. All decisions are building level and may be appealed to a higher school authority (e.g., the district administrator, Board) or legally through due process.

### **GUIDELINES FOR GRADE ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF K-8 STUDENTS I LOCAL REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO WISCONSIN SECTION 118.33:**

Effective September 2002, in order to advance from Grade 4 to 5 or from Grade 8 to 9 students in Fall Creek School District shall meet the requirements included in section 118.33 of the state statutes, as revised by 1999 Wisconsin Act 9.

In addition to meeting any local requirements outlined above, in order to advance a student shall demonstrate proficiency by earning at least eight points from these categories:

- A. Forward Examination
- B. Academic Performance, and
- C. Other Academic Criteria

Reference: 344.3

## **FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHING OR VIDEOTAPING IN THE SCHOOLS**

State and federal laws safeguard children and their families against release of student information used by schools or provided by schools to parties external to the school district. Photographs, films and videotapes of children in schools are subject to the provision of these laws.

The Fall Creek School District shall observe measures intended to protect children from their involvement in photographs, films or videotapes to which they or their parents or guardians might reasonably object under the law. The following provisions outline the extent to which that protection can and will be provided.

- a. A signed parental consent form for each student shall be required at all times when photographing, filming or videotaping is to occur in private places (e.g., rest rooms, locker rooms, detention centers, and offices) where intrusion upon the privacy of a student of a nature highly offensive to a reasonable person may occur and for which charges of trespass may be actionable.
- b. A signed parental consent form shall be required at all times to videotape, photograph or film an individual student where that student is not a public figure by choice (e.g., victim, informant, witness), where the private life of the student is likely to be invaded, where the student's misconduct has come to public attention, or where a student's physical, mental or emotional condition/behavior is likely to be publicly exposed.
- c. Prior parental consent shall not be required for photographing, filming or videotaping purposes when a student has voluntarily chosen or been allowed by parents to participate in or be a spectator at a school-related activity that is open to the public (e.g., an athletic event, music concert, school play) or has chosen to be an officially designated school leader or role model (e.g., athlete, musical or drama star, student council president, homecoming queen, valedictorian). Rather, it will be assumed that the student and his/her parent or guardian has given tacit approval for the student to be photographed or videotaped. Such footage may also be replayed without parental permission.
- d. Prior parental consent shall not be required when stock or generic pictures, film or video footage is being obtained in public places (e.g., hallways, auditoriums, gymnasiums, general classrooms, playgrounds, athletic fields) by school district or external media sources. The staff and student body will be informed in advance when such photographing, videotaping or filming is to occur. Individual students will be allowed to exclude themselves from such shots if they so desire.
- e. Prior parental consent shall not be required when a photograph, film or videotape will be made of individual students for professional purposes, will be controlled by school district employees responsible for the setting in which the photographing, filming or videotaping occurred, and will be erased or destroyed when the original purpose for which the record was made has been satisfied.
- f. Parents may exclude individual students from other photographing, filming or videotaping activities not covered above by filing with the school principal an Opt-Out Form (491 Exhibit A). This form can be found in any of the school offices. This form will normally be filed at the beginning of the school year, but may be filed at any time that such privacy is needed. School personnel will be responsible for protecting the rights of these

students. It is expected that students who have reached the 4th grade will assist school personnel in protecting their own rights.

- g. Because school grounds (e.g., playgrounds, athletic fields, parking lots) cannot be effectively shielded from the public, no assurance can be provided to students or parents that they are protected from photographing, filming or videotaping while using such facilities.
- h. During normal school hours' representatives of the press/media will be expected to obtain permission from the building principal or his/her designee prior to interacting with staff or students on school property for any purpose.

### **OBSERVATION AND GROUP-BASED INTERVENTIONS**

The Fall Creek School District has implemented an equitable multi-level system of support. Equitable multi-level system of support means providing equitable services, practices, and resources to every learner based upon responsiveness to effective instruction and intervention. In this system, high quality instruction, strategic use of data, and collaboration interact within a continuum of supports to facilitate learner success. Schools provide varying types of support at differing levels of intensity to proactively and responsively adjust to the needs of the whole child. These include the knowledge, skills, and habits learners need for success beyond high school, including developmental, academic, behavioral, social and emotional skills.

In addition, educational support specialists may, from time to time, conduct observations within the classroom setting. These people may include resource teachers, school psychologists, counselors, speech and language clinicians, occupational therapists or physical therapists. These observations by themselves will not result in any curriculum changes for your child.