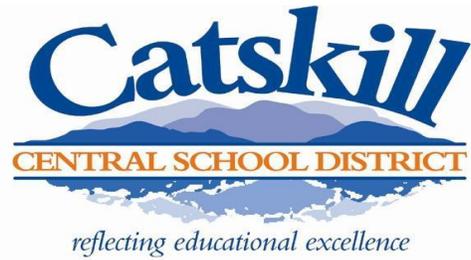




STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

**2025-2026
Academic Year**

**Mr. James DiDonna
High School Principal**



August 2025

Dear Students and Families:

The information found on the following pages is provided as a resource to help guide you through the upcoming school year, and to make you aware of the policies and procedures that we have in place at Catskill High School to ensure your success.

Our goal is to provide every student with safe educational opportunities leading to a high school diploma and preparing all students to be career/college ready. Working together, completing all schoolwork and following the code of conduct, and safety procedures will ensure reaching this goal. As such, it is extremely important for parents and guardians to review the information within this booklet with their children.

Please read the handbook with your child and acknowledge using Parentsquare the receipt of the handbook and the annual health form at the end of the handbook.

We wish you all much success in the coming school year!

Sincerely,

James DiDonna

Mr. James DiDonna
Catskill High School Principal



Catskill Central School District Alma Mater

In the land of Rip Van Winkle
Nestled near the Hudson's shore
Stands our dear old Catskill High School
Day by day we love thee more!
Love thee as our parents loved thee,
Boastful always of thy fame
Even though we leave thy shelter
We will always shout thy name.

All the friends we meet and live with,
Catskill High we'll ne'er forget
Hallowed halls and walls with ivy
Grant that they be with us yet
When our sons and daughters greet thee,
As the days and years go by
Our future Pride, as always
We will hail thee, Catskill High.

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James DiDonna	Annie Coager	CHS	STAFF
Principal	Assistant Principal		
<u>Art</u>	<u>Nurse</u>	<u>Technology</u>	<u>Cafeteria Staff</u>
Wendy Doney	Kara Wager	Brian McDonnell	Clara Becker
			Shi yeu Li
<u>Business/Media</u>	<u>Music</u>	<u>Teaching Assistants</u>	Lydia Pugh
Patrick Hernandez	Seth Dowling	AnnaMaria Alvarado	Kaitlyn Riley
Jaclyn Sirianni	Michelle Storrs-Ryan*	Gina Berzal	Juilette Rivera
		Ruth Fiske	Vernon Scim
<u>District Technology</u>	<u>Physical Education</u>	Robin Maiuri	
Ethan Curtis	Stacy Collier-Deieso	Kathleen Moore	<u>Courier</u>
Donald Marino	Douglas Lampman*	Jennifer Sickler	Amy Haggerty
		Shelly Steenburn	
<u>English</u>	<u>Pupil Personnel Services</u>		<u>Custodial</u>
Nicole Field	Kimberley Bushane	<u>Teaching Aides</u>	Terry Barrett-Newman
Samantha Grober	Beth Daly	Megan Edwards	Artis Brantley
Vanessa Muzzi	Jean Duncan	Karina Jones	John Caniano
Suzanne Ribsamen*	Kelly Konsul*	Christine Reilly	Karen Fusco
	Bettina Young		William Hoffman
<u>ESL</u>	Heather Zacchio	<u>Monitors</u>	John Izzo
Christa Dedrick*		Mary Clanton	Vita Kysil
	<u>Science</u>	Andy Gonzalez	Douglas Sims
<u>EACS</u>	Renee Calvo	Heidi Harte	
Kelly Marino	Jennifer Leibowitz	Vicki Smith	<u>Copier</u>
	Maryellen White	Lovechirnise Vega	Lisa Barra* SHARED
<u>Foreign Language</u>	<u>Social Studies</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	
Jon Veenis	Patricia Gottesman	Tina Klein	
	Tammi Kellenbenz		
<u>Health</u>	Lee Powell*	<u>Secretarial</u>	
Colleen Clancy	Mary Warden	Christine Abrahamsen	
		Claire Honan	
<u>Library</u>	<u>Special Education</u>	Brenda Maggio	
Thomas McAlister	Philip Chirkis	Rosemarie Norman	
	Didi Corrado		
<u>Math</u>	Jamie Nassar		
Melanie Banks	Bryan Smith		
Erin Holdridge-Carlile*	Elizabeth Vermilyea		
Paul Irvis	Sheri Whitney *		
James Maccaline			

Telephone Numbers - District Directory

Name	Title	Phone Number	Fax Number
Deborah Johnson	Acting Superintendent	518 943-4696	518 943-7116
Dr. Freya Mercer	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction	518 943-4696	518 943-7116
Mr. Matthew Parker	Business Manager	518 943-4550	518 943-7108
Ms. Alyssa Dyer	Director of Pupil Personnel Service	518 943-0574	518 943-5396
Mr. James DiDonna	Principal, High School	518 943-2300	518 943-7700
Mrs. Annie Coager	Assistant Principal	518 943-2300	518 943-7700
Mr. Brian J. Smith	TBD	518 943-2300	518 943-7700
Ms. Kelly Konsul A-L	Guidance Counselor-HS	518 943-2345	518 943-7470
Ms. Jean Duncan M-Z	Guidance Counselor -HS	518 943-2345	518 943-7470
Mr. William Hoffman	Head Custodian	518 819-9877	518 943-7108
Mr. Patrick McCulloch	Director of Transp.	518-943-4550	518 943-7108
Mrs. Kelly Schenkman	Food Services	518-943-2300	518-943-5396

	Contact	Number	Ext.
TBD	Mr. Smith	518 943-2300	2318
Attendance	Ms. Klein	518 943-2300	2174
Bus Schedules / Problems	Mr. McCulloch	518 943-4550	3451
Cafeteria	Mrs. Schenkman	518-943-2300	2124
Chronic Illness Policy	Mrs. Wager	518 943-2300	2111
Courses, Guidance Office	Mrs. Duncan/Mrs. Konsul	518 943-2300	2181/2182
Extra-Curricular Accounts	Main Office	518 943-2300	2171
Health Issues	Mrs. Wager	518 943-2300	2111
Lost & Found	Main Office	518 943-2300	2171
Military Release	Main Office	518 943-2300	2175
Parking Permits	Main Office	518 943-2300	2175
School Pictures	Main Office	518 943-2300	2175
General Scholarships	Guidance	518 943-2300	2180
Clarke Scholarship	Main Office	518 943-2300	2170
Textbook Obligations	Main Office	518 943-2300	2170
Use of Building	Main Office	518-943-2300	2170

Catskill High School Bell Schedule

Faculty and staff in the building: 7:25 a.m.

Warning bell for students: 7:35 a.m.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Time</u>	
<u>1</u>	<u>7:35-8:17</u>	
<u>2</u>	<u>8:20-9:02</u>	
<u>3</u>	<u>9:05-9:47</u>	
<u>4</u>	<u>9:50-10:32</u>	
<u>5</u>	<u>10:35-11:17</u>	<u>LUNCH</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>11:20-12:02</u>	<u>LUNCH</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>12:05-12:47</u>	
<u>8</u>	<u>12:50-1:32</u>	
<u>9</u>	<u>1:35-2:17</u>	

Dismissal: 2:17

Extra Help Period: 2:20-2:55 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday

Late Bus: 3:00

Schedule For Inclement Weather

<u>2 Hour Delay</u>	<u>3 Hour Delay</u>
Faculty and staff in the building: 9:25 a.m.	Faculty and staff in the building: 10:25 a.m.
Teachers report to 1st hour class: 9:33 a.m.	Teachers report to 1st hour class: 10:33 a.m.
Warning bell-students in class: 9:35 a.m.	Warning bell-students in class: 10:35 a.m.

	<i>34 minute classes</i>				<i>22 minute classes</i>	
Period 1	9:35-10:09			Period 1	10:35-10:57	
Period 2	10:12-10:40			Period 2	11:00-11:22	
Period 3	10:43-11:11			Period 3	11:25-1:47	
Period 4	11:14-11:42			Period 4	11:50-12:12	
Period 5	11:45-12:13	LUNCH		Period 5	12:15-12:37	LUNCH
Period 6	12:16-12:44	LUNCH		Period 6	12:40-1:02	LUNCH
Period 7	12:47-1:15			Period 7	1:05-1:27	
Period 8	1:18-1:46			Period 8	1:30-1:52	
Period 9	1:49-2:17			Period 9	1:55-2:17	

Catskill Central School District 2025-2026 School Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

19 Student/ 21 Staff

DECEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

17 Student/ 17 Staff

MARCH 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

21 Student/ 22 Staff

JUNE 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

18 Student/ 19 Staff

KEY

	District Offices Closed
	Classes Not In Session
	Superintendent Conference Day
	Regents Testing
	Professional Development Day
	Early Dismissal Day

BOE APPROVED: 4/01/2025 REVISED: 3/27/2025

OCTOBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

22 Student / 22 Staff

JANUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

19 Student/ 19 Staff

APRIL 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

16 Student/ 16 Staff

NOVEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

15 Student/ 16 Staff

FEBRUARY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

15 Student/ 15 Staff

MAY 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

20 Student/ 20 Staff

2025

- September 1 Labor Day
- September 2 & 3 Superintendent Conference Day
- September 4 Classes Begin
- October 13 Columbus Day
- November 21 Emergency Release Drill
- November 10 Superintendent Conference Day
- November 11 Veterans Day
- November 24 & 25 ½ Day Dismissal, P/T Conf.
- November 26-28 Thanksgiving Recess
- December 23 ½ Day Dismissal
- December 24-Jan 2 Holiday Recess

2026

- January 5 Classes Resume
- January 19 Martin Luther King Jr Day
- January 20-23 Regents Testing
- February 16 Presidents Day
- February 16-20 Winter Recess
- February 17 Asian Lunar New Year
- March 13 Superintendent Conference Day
- April 1 & 2 ½ Day Dismissal, P/T Conf. CES
- April 3 Good Friday
- April 6-10 Spring Recess
- May 25 Memorial Day
- June 9, 10, 17 & 18 Regents Testing
- June 19 Juneteenth
- June 22 - 25 Regents Testing
- June 22-25 ½ Day Dismissal for CES & CMS
- June 25 Last Day of Classes
- June 26 Staff Last Day/Graduation



DAYS OF STUDENT INSTRUCTION 182
SUPERINTENDENT CONFERENCE DAYS 4
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 1



CHS Marking Period Dates 2025-2026

SchoolTool Unlocks	9/30/2025
Marking Period 1 Interim Ends	10/3/25
SchoolTool Locks (11:59pm)	10/9/2025
Schooltool Unlocks	11/4/2025
End of Marking Period 1	11/7/2025
SchoolTool Locks (11:59pm)	11/12/25

SchoolTool Unlocks	12/8/2025
Marking Period 2 Interim Ends	12/12/2025
SchoolTool Locks (11:59pm)	12/16/2025
SchoolTool Unlocks	1/20/2026
End of Marking Period 2	1/23/2026
SchoolTool Locks (11:59pm)	1/27/2026

SchoolTool Unlocks	2/24/2026
Marking Period 3 Interim Ends	2/27/2026
SchoolTool Locks (11:59pm)	3/3/2026
SchoolTool Unlocks	4/13/2026
End of Marking Period 3	4/17/2026
SchoolTool Locks (11:59pm)	4/21/2026

SchoolTool Unlocks	5/12/2026
Marking Period 4 Interim Ends	5/15/2026
SchoolTool Locks (11:59pm)	5/19/2026
SchoolTool Unlocks	6/9/2026
End of Marking Period 4	6/25/2026
SchoolTool Locks (11:59pm)	6/25/2026

ParentSquare

The Catskill Central School District will continue to use ParentSquare as our primary method of communication with student families for important alerts and updates. All important text messages, phone, and email alerts from the District about early dismissals, closures, bus delays, and more will be sent to families through this platform.

Catskill High School uses for ParentSquare will include, but are not limited to:

- Student tardiness
- Student absences
- Emergency situations
- Special announcements

It is imperative that the school have updated telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for these purposes. Please update these numbers immediately by contacting Ethan Curtis:
ecurtis@catskillcsd.org.

Beverages / Snack Foods

Food or beverages, aside from water, may not be consumed in the classroom without teacher permission. Your teacher will advise you of his/her procedures. Advance approval is needed to take food to special areas of the building (i.e., rehearsal rooms). No food or drinks, aside from water, are to be consumed in the hallways. ***Under no circumstances will glass items be permitted in the building. There are also no outside food deliveries via apps or parents/guardians.***

Cafeteria

Catskill Central School District will be implementing the Community Eligibility Provision meal certification program for the 2025-2026 school year.

What does this mean for your child(ren) that are enrolled in Catskill Central School District?

ALL students, Pre-K–12, enrolled in the Catskill Central School District are eligible to receive a healthy breakfast and lunch at **no charge** to your household each school day of the school year. No further action is required of you. Your child(ren) will be able to participate in these meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit an application.

What is the Community Eligibility Provision?

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a federal program that provides **free breakfast and lunch** to all students at qualifying school districts, regardless of income. CEP will be replacing the Free and Reduced Lunch Program at Catskill Central School District for the 2025-2026 school year.

Absence Reporting

When a student is going to be absent from school or late beyond 7:35 a.m., the parent or guardian should notify the Attendance Clerk at 943-2300 ext. 2174. This will avoid a further check by the Attendance Clerk. The Attendance Clerk calls home every day. Students with chronic attendance problems or who are in danger of exceeding the attendance policy will be monitored for absences on a regular basis. This may include home visits. Please review the Attendance Policy for more information.

Catskill High School Activities / Extra-Curricular Clubs

Students who are absent from school or arrive after 4th period will be denied attendance at, or participation in, the extra-curricular activity for that day except with administrative approval. A student must make sure that school officials approve the reason for absence or lateness in order to be considered for participation in any activity or event scheduled during the day or after school.

Senior - Class of 2026: Elects officers to lead and plan its activities for the year. They have annual fundraising activities. The final planned activity is graduation.

Advisor: Mrs. Bushane: kbushane@catskillcsd.org

Junior - Class of 2027: Elects officers to lead and plan activities for the year. They have annual fundraising activities. In the spring, juniors prepare to celebrate their Junior Prom and begin to make preparations for the yearbook in their senior year.

Advisor: Mrs. Duncan: jduncan@catskillcsd.org

Sophomore - Class of 2028: Elects officers and begins to plan for the upcoming years. The main activity is a major fundraising drive scheduled for the month of November. Following this, sophomores will spend the rest of the year working on various other fundraising and spirit activities. All interested class members are welcome at the announced after-school planning meetings.

Advisor: Ms. Bulich: kbulich@catskillcsd.org

Freshman - Class of 2029: Elects officers to lead and plan its activities for the year. They have an annual fundraising activity in the spring and they prepare for the spirit games.

Advisor: TBD

Catskill Business Club (DECA Club)

The Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA) are student-run organizations designed for students enrolled in Occupational Education, marketing, business, and management. DECA encourages vocational understanding, civic consciousness, social intelligence, and leadership development. Through regional and state competition DECA serves as an avenue of expression for individual talent and abilities.

Advisor: Mr. Hernandez: phernand@catskillcsd.org

Interact

Interact is a service club which is sponsored by and modeled after the Catskill Rotary Club. Its main objectives are to perform community service (by volunteering for charity drives, school activities, community organizations, etc.) and international service (exchange student program). In the process of supporting these service activities, the club holds many fundraising events such as dances, car washes, a talent show, and a carnival. Meetings are held twice a month. If students would like to volunteer to help others, they should join this club.

Advisor: Mrs. Bushane, kbushane@catskillcsd.org and Mrs. Dedrick cdedrick@catskillcsd.org

National Honor Society (Catskill Chapter)

You will be informed of membership criteria including academic scholarship, leadership, character and service. During the school year, potential members (along with current members) are encouraged to develop these qualities in order to be nominated for membership in the spring of each school year.

Any student who needs advice regarding any of the criteria should contact the NHS advisor.

Information about service related activities, leadership and character development will be made available.

All faculty members and the administrators will "vote" on nominees after the 3rd quarter. Participation in extracurricular activities, service related functions, and overall grade point average (G.P.A.) will be provided to those voting. Students will be notified following a faculty committee review of results.

Advisor: Mrs. Banks: mbanks@catskillcsd.org.

Leadership Greene

Leadership Greene is dedicated to fostering civic engagement and community connections. We actively participate in local leadership events and host influential regional leadership events who engage in discussions on relevant issues. Additionally, we organize Meet the Candidates events to offer a platform for candidates from different offices, including school board, village board, and county elections, to present their perspectives.

Advisor: Patrick Hernandez: phernand@catskillcsd.org

Odyssey of the Mind

Odyssey of the Mind is a competitive program, but it's nothing like your typical sporting event. The competitive element encourages kids to be the best that they can be, but it's a friendly competition. Kids learn from and even cheer on their competitors. Odyssey of the Mind is not a college bowl or a competition about knowledge. It's all about creativity, an often overlooked element in the growth and development of many students. Students are rewarded more for how they apply their knowledge, skills and talents, and not for coming up with the right answer. In fact, in Odyssey of the Mind problems, there isn't one right answer.

Advisor: Jamie Nassar: jnassar@catskillcsd.org

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club is an organization which promotes Spanish culture. Its members attend plays, and prepare Spanish dinners. Fundraisers may be organized to support the club's activities.

Advisor: Hannah Miner: hminer@catskillcsd.org

Stage Crew

Students will learn the fundamentals of working backstage. This group will build sets, work with stage lights, and learn to work with others. Stage Crew assists in major and minor theatrical productions and use of the auditorium.

Advisor: Michelle Storrs: mstorrs@catskillcsd.org

Student Council

The Student Council is an organization that represents the entire student body and promotes activities which include, as far as possible, every student in the school. One of the main goals of the Student Council is to promote school spirit. The Student Council is responsible for sponsoring the Santa's Helpers, the Spirit Games, coordinating special days, and representing the student body. The Student Council meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays during school; times and location to be posted. Elections are held in the fall.

Advisors:

Erin Holdridge: eholdridge@catskillcsd.org

Jennifer Leibowitz: jleibow@catskillcsd.org

Yearbook

The Yearbook Club (The Cat's Paw) begins its preparations each spring for the annual publication. In cooperation with the senior class, editors are selected, and fund-raising activities planned. The final deadline for the yearbook is November 1st. Based upon their financial contribution and goals, the senior class designs the yearbook. Undergraduates are encouraged to participate in this activity.

Advisor: Brenda Maggio: bmaggio@catskillcsd.org.

Yellow Ribbon

Yellow Ribbon works to empower people (of all ages) to raise awareness and prevent youth/teen suicide, and promote understanding of mental health and wellness. We present an interactive, educational program to all secondary students, and participate in advocacy events promoting mental health and suicide prevention. Our main goals are to:

- Increase awareness of warning signs
- Increase awareness of resources available
- Empower students to get the help they need, or to get help for someone in need
- Decrease social stigma and misconceptions about suicide and mental health

Advisor: Colleen Clancy: cclancy@catskillcsd.org

Creative Writing Club

As an extra-curricular program, the Creative Writing Club meets once a week to write, practice, and workshop our skills as poets, fiction writers, non-fiction, and prose authors. The Creative Writing Club provides a space for young writers to learn more about writing and share their passions with others. We read, write, share our work, revise, re-write, and publish our writing in an annual zine to share with the CHS community.

Advisor: Suzanne Ribsamen: mrsribsamen@catskillcsd.org

Art Club

Enrich your life with art and join Art Club for a fun, engaging time to create art, experiment with materials and connect with your peers who want to do the same! We are a club that meets to create art for not only self-expression and exploration, but also for the school community as well as the community at large. One way the club is involved is it designs and paints a fiberglass cat for Cat'n Around Catskill's annual outdoor exhibit each year. We will meet, chat, create, fundraise, have field trips, guest speakers, and be involved in our community to make a difference with ART!

Advisor: Wendy Doney: wdoney@catskillcsd.org

Ambassador's Club

This club is for students in grades 6-12 that integrates students with developmental disabilities and general education students. This is a space where students can collaborate and socialize while working on various group projects and activities.

Advisors:

Sheri Whitney: swhitney@catskillcsd.org

Shelly West: swest@catskillcsd.org.

Acceptance Alliance Club

This club is for LGBTQ+ students and allies. A safe place for students to develop friendships and find support while sharing their understanding of being or supporting Rainbow students.

Advisor: Jean Duncan: jduncan@catskillcsd.org

FCCLA

This club is a student led organization that focuses on community service and leadership projects in which members develop skills for life. Yearly projects include Westside Cafe, Fashion Show, Family First, Hygiene Closet, and various other community service projects. There are several opportunities for students to participate in district, state, and national leadership conferences. These conferences strengthen the student's leadership, public speaking skills, and can also open the door to scholarships.

Advisor: Kelly Marino: kmarino@catskillcsd.org

Chess Club

The chess club meets after school every Thursday in room 137 of the high school from 2:20 to 3:30. Students may leave on the late bus or stay till 3:30 if they have their own transportation. It is a club for all levels of chess players. Beginners are welcome and encouraged. Besides being a fun way to socialize with peers, chess is a game that strengthens problem solving and in turn strengthens academic performance overall.

Advisor: Thomas McAlister: tmcalister@catskillcsd.org

Jazz Club

The CHS Jazz Band is open by audition or invite to all CMS and CHS students from grades 7-12. Like Jazz? Come on down and create some amazing music with us!

Advisor: Seth Dowling: sdowling@catskillcsd.org

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

The high school PBIS program promotes a positive school climate by teaching and reinforcing respectful, responsible, and safe behavior. PBIS helps improve student behavior, reduce disciplinary issues, and strengthen school community relationships. We will have student representatives on this committee to assist with monthly incentive events as well as school wide events. We will meet on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Advisor: Mrs. Casalino, TBD

Reading Buddies

Catskill High School students will go over to Catskill Elementary School and be model readers by reading various books selected by Catskill Elementary students. Reading Buddies can count as service hours for Catskill High School students.

Advisor: Thomas McAlister: tmcalister@catskillcsd.org

Fishing Club

Topics covered will be ecology of the Hudson River, choice of different baits, knot tying, fishing around underwater structures, catching live bait, fundamentals of casting fish species identification, and overall stewardship of the river. Participants who attend these workshops will be eligible for several field trips to fishing destinations where we will take what we learned to the water. All tackle and bait and supplies will be provided. Come out and enjoy the fun!

Advisor: David Taylor: dtaylor@catskillcsd.org

Clarke Scholarship Fund

The Clarke Scholarship Fund was established by the late Rachel Fiero Clarke of Catskill to provide financial aid to students at Catskill High School planning to attend college. All members of the senior class are eligible to apply. Rules and guidelines for the application for the Clarke Scholarship are announced during the school year by the guidance counselors. Annual scholarships are awarded each July to graduating seniors by the Board of Education based on academic scholarship and/or financial need. Attendance at all informational meetings for the Clarke Scholarship is required for students and/or parents if the student wishes to be considered for a scholarship.

Confidentiality of Communications

Information received by teachers and other school officials is not privileged and may be revealed whenever it is appropriate to do so.

Corporal Punishment

The use of corporal punishment against students is not acceptable in the school district. Justifiable physical force, however, may be used when the situation warrants it. The following are examples of justifiable situations:

1. To protect anyone from physical injury.
2. To protect the property of the school or others' property.
3. To restrain or remove a pupil whose behavior is interfering with the orderly exercise and performance of school district functions, powers, and duties, if that pupil has refused to comply with a request to refrain from further disruptive acts.

Driving to School/Parking

Student parking is a privilege, not a right, as described in the [Board of Education Policy 5454](#). Please read the [Student Parking Regulations](#) before proceeding. Students must fill out the [Student Parking Registration form online](#) in order to park in the student parking lot. If unable to fill out the Google Form, a paper copy is available in the main office with Ms. Norman. Parking applicants must read, understand and agree to all of the terms and conditions outlined in the Student Parking Application and Agreement form. To be eligible to park in the student parking lot, students must have good academic attendance and be in good standing behaviorally. Student parking is limited to those areas designated by the administration and will be based on availability since there are only 44 parking spots available, of which 5 are handicap. First consideration for available spots will be given to twelfth graders, followed by eleventh graders and then tenth grade students. The opportunity to park on school grounds must be handled responsibly. **Parking privileges WILL BE REVOKED for failure to comply with school and safety rules, ie: speeding; not following procedure; disregarding directives; horseplay, etc.** A full list of parking rules and regulations is available in the main office. If you have any questions/concerns please contact the Assistant Principal, Ms. Coager, at (518) 943-2300 or acoager@catskillcsd.org

Early Dismissal

Students with early dismissal requests should report to the attendance office. Requests for early dismissal must have date, time, reason for dismissal, and if for an appointment with a professional, the name of the professional person, and signed by a parent or guardian. Early dismissals for "personal reasons" will not be approved. Early dismissals will not be granted for such reasons as a haircut, shopping trip, etc.

Electronic Equipment

Please see below the policy and practice of cell phone and electronic equipment.

Extra Help

Teachers are available for extra help from dismissal until 2:55 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. The library will be open after school. Students who wish assistance should inform the teacher of their intent to come after school. No afternoon practices for sports or activities commence until 3:00 p.m. to provide all students the opportunity for extra help. Teachers who have to attend meetings or have appointments will announce their schedule for after-school help ahead of time. Mondays are generally reserved for staff and faculty meetings.

Fire/Evacuation Drills (Education Law 807)

State law requires that every school conduct twelve (12) fire drills during the school year. It is every pupil’s responsibility to take these drills seriously and obey instructions completely.

Students will be informed by their classroom teachers where they should exit and what procedures are to be followed. Absolute quiet must be maintained and no talking will be allowed during these drills. This rule must be followed by everyone so that necessary directions can be given and understood.

Discipline ranging from reprimand to suspension may be administered depending upon the degree of infraction.

Food Drop Information-Food Pantry

Please contact Patti Dushane at Matthew 25 Food Pantry at (518) 943-5890.

School Counselor’s Office

The Counselor’s Office is open every school day from 7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The purpose of a school counselor is to assist students in making the best use of their opportunities as they progress through school. Students should feel free to contact their counselor whenever a personal or academic problem exists. In addition to the counselors, who provide a variety of academic and vocational information, the School Counselor’s Office also includes a variety of orientation and testing services.

The Counselors' Office also includes individual counseling services provided by the school social workers and school psychologist. Other referral services are available upon student request. Students are encouraged to seek advice and assistance from the counseling services available to them. For more information concerning the wide range of available student services, students should make an appointment with the secretary in the Counselor’s Office to meet with their counselor.

The School Counselors are assigned the following students by last name:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>MRS. KONSUL</u>	<u>MRS. DUNCAN</u>
All	A - L	M - Z

Grade Level Placement: Students who enter Catskill High School will be assigned grade levels as follows:

10th Grade: Students will be assigned to 10th grade upon completion of four units of credit, which must include English 9 and Social Studies 9.

11th Grade: Students will be assigned to 11th grade upon successful completion of eight units of credit, which must include English 9 & 10 and Social Studies 9 & 10.

12th Grade: Students will be assigned to 12th grade upon successful completion of thirteen units of credit, which must include English 9, 10, 11 and Social Studies 9, 10, 11. Twelfth grade students must be taking at least the number of subjects required for graduation. Exceptions may be made by the principal for transfer students.

Grading Systems: The minimum passing grade to receive a unit of credit at Catskill High School is 65%.

Each staff member announces and provides written grading guidelines to the student at the beginning of each course. Grading guidelines are reviewed by the administration. Computation for average usually includes evaluation for unit examinations, quizzes, reports (oral and written), class participation, and completion of homework.

Ten week and final grades in enrolled courses are numerical and may be interpreted as follows:

- 96-100: Outstanding performance
- 86-95: Above-average performance
- 75-85: Average performance
- 65-74: Below average performance, but passing
- 50: Failing
- Inc. Course work not completed

Promotional Grading Policies: Numerical grades are entered on a computerized report card which is distributed quarterly. For all one semester courses, no grade below 50 can be entered for the first quarter. For all full year courses, no grade below 50 can be entered for the first two quarters. For all courses where a final exam is administered, the examination including regents will constitute 20% of the final average. For all courses of four quarters, each quarter is weighted equally as follows: (Almost all courses at Catskill High School require final examinations.)

Average With Final Exam	Average Without Final Exam
4 quarters = 80% + exam 20%	4 quarters = 100%
2 quarters = 80% + exam 20%	2 quarters = 100%
Number of weeks in course - full year = 4 (10 week) quarters or 40 weeks	
1 semester = 2(10 week) quarters or 20 weeks	

Graduation Requirements - Course Description Manual: Students are required to take the English Regents, Math Regents, Science Regents, and Global Regents, and American History Regents.

Each year students receive an updated Course Description Manual. The first part of the manual contains specific information such as marking systems and progress reports. The second part of the manual describes the courses offered at Catskill High School. Students with questions regarding graduation and course programs should contact their guidance counselor. Students should consult the manual regarding the following topics:

- Graduation requirements
- Change of course; procedure to drop or add a course or request a level change
- Early graduation
- Early admission to college
- Tech Valley
- Questar vocational program
- Course descriptions

- AP offerings

(Copies of the course description manual are always available in the library or in guidance).

Health Office Services

Hours: The high school health office is staffed daily by a registered nurse from 7:35 am. to 3:00 pm. He or she may be reached at 518-943-2300 ext. 2111. School nurses prevent barriers to academic success by protecting and promoting student health. They are the bridge between health care and education. The nurse may administer first aid, assess students with symptoms of illness, infection or injury, and collaborate with parents and community health care agencies to assist the student with achieving optimal health. Prevention and education of students and families is an important part of maintaining the student's health.

Screening - Vision and hearing screening is done in grade 10. Students are also required to have scoliosis screening done in grades 9, and will be done by the school nurse if not provided by the student's health care provider. Occasionally, students other than in 10th grade will be screened for hearing or vision issues if a problem is suspected by the classroom teacher.

Physicals – Students are required by New York State to have a physical examination done for 10th grade or if he/she is a new student. Students should have this physical done by their own health care provider as they know your child the best. A physical done after September 1st of the previous year is acceptable, and parents should submit a copy of that physical to the school nurse by October 1st of the current school year. If the nurse does not receive proof that a physical was done or that an appointment has not been made with the student's health care provider arrangements will be made to have it done in school by the school physician.

Immunizations & Health Records – The school nurse maintains a health record of each student in order to assure that student's medical needs are being met. Immunizations are a part of that record and must indicate that the student has met all New York State requirements for attending school. The school nurse will keep the parent/guardian informed of any missing immunizations to prevent having to exclude the child from school.

On June 13, 2019, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo signed legislation removing non-medical exemptions from school vaccination requirements for children. The United States is currently experiencing the worst outbreak of measles in more than 25 years, with outbreaks in pockets of New York primarily driving the crisis. As a result of non-medical vaccination exemptions, many communities across New York have unacceptably low rates of vaccination, and those unvaccinated children can often attend school where they may spread the disease to other unvaccinated students, some of whom cannot receive vaccines due to medical conditions. This new law will help protect the public amid this ongoing outbreak. *What did the new law do?* As of June 13, 2019, there is no longer a religious exemption to the requirement that children be vaccinated against measles and other diseases to attend either public, private, or parochial school (for students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade).

Medications – Please be reminded that every effort should be made to administer medications at home. If your child's health care provider feels that it is necessary for your child to receive prescription or over the counter medication in school, it is required by New York State law that the following be sent to the school nurse:

1. A written request from the student's health care provider.
2. A written request from the parent/guardian giving permission for the child to take the medication in school.

3. The medication in its original bottle with the pharmacy label attached must be brought to the school nurse by the parent.

At no time may a student have any medication in their possession unless it is cleared through the health office for special circumstances such as asthma or severe allergies. An exception may be made for certain emergency medications—such as asthma inhalers, medications for severe allergies, and diabetic medications and supplies—if both the health care provider and parent sign a medication attestation form, which is available in the health office. This form states the student has shown the health care provider that he/she knows how to use the medication appropriately, safely, and that both the health care provider and parent are both aware that there will be no supervision of the medication being used.

Illness or Injury at School – All students who are ill or injured during school hours must first stop to see their current class teacher and request a pass before going to see the nurse. This assists us in knowing where a student is at all times during the school day. Students should not come between classes without a pass unless it is an emergency. With some rare exceptions, there is always a nurse available in the building. When the health office is not open the student should return to class immediately if the problem can wait. If, however, an emergency exists the student should go to the main office so that the school nurse can be located.

Sports Physicals - All students who are participating in sports are required to have a physical completed by their health care provider or school physician within one year prior to the current sports season. A health history completed by the parent must also be submitted. A private physical will be reviewed by the school physician in order to determine eligibility to participate in sports. No student is permitted to practice or participate in a sport without an approved physical on file in the health office. ***Although the sports physical is good for one year, a health update must be completed for all other sports that the student participates in throughout the year following the physical.***

BMI Reporting - As part of a required school health examination, a student is weighed and his/her height is measured. These numbers are used to calculate the student's body mass index or 'BMI' which helps the doctor or nurse know if the student's weight is in a healthy range or is too high or too low. Our school district may be selected to participate in a (BMI) survey that is conducted by the New York State Department of Health. No student names and no other information that can identify the student are sent. The statistics sent to the Department of Health will help health officials develop programs that can improve children's health. If, for any reason, you do not wish to have your child's BMI weight status included in this survey please contact the school nurse for a form to be completed. ***Please feel free to contact the school nurse at any time during the school year for questions or concerns you may have. We are here to help your child remain safe, healthy and ready to learn.***

Students Sent Home by Health Office: A student who is allowed to go home because of illness or injury will be dismissed only by the principal, the principal's designee, or school nurse. The procedure is as follows:

1. The student is sent to the health office with a pass from the class teacher.
2. The nurse notifies the parent/guardian for permission and to arrange transportation. If unable to reach a parent and a student must be sent home, the person(s) listed on the annual health and emergency contact form may be called. All students are required to have an emergency card completed at the beginning of each school year to be kept in the health office for this purpose.
3. The student is issued a dismissal pass from the nurse then proceeds to the attendance or main office where he/she signs out on the sign-out sheet.

4. If a student makes his/her own arrangements to go home with a parent then the parent must come into the attendance office to sign the student out.

Homework Definition and Guidelines

Completing homework assignments is important because it provides the student with an opportunity to practice and use newly acquired knowledge and skills. When a student misses an instructional class, the student should follow the teacher's directions carefully regarding missed work. At the beginning of the school year, all students receive written or posted guidelines from their teachers regarding the procedure for completing missing homework, tests or reports. If a child is out ill or suspended from school contact the attendance monitor **no later than 10:00 a.m.** for his/her homework. **It generally takes 24 hours to get the homework together from the teachers.**

Honor Roll

The honor roll is a quarterly reward and recognition for academic achievement. Outstanding achievement leads to better and future education. Since education is the primary goal of the high school staff, all students should strive to be recognized on one of the three rolls.

Requirements for Merit - Grades 9-12:

- a. Numerical average of **80-84**
- b. No numerical grade below **65**
- c. Successful completion of the physical education requirement

Requirements for Honor - Grades 9-12:

- a. Numerical average of **85-89**
- b. No numerical grade below **65**
- c. Successful completion of the physical education requirement

Requirements for High Honor - Grades 9-12:

- a. Numerical average of **90-100**
- b. No numerical grade below **65**
- c. Successful completion of the physical education requirement

Report Card Incompletes: An effort must be made to complete all incomplete grades by the end of the marking period. Only students with legitimate and approved reasons will have the incomplete grade carried after the end of the marking period. In most instances, approved cases should be completed by two weeks. **NO INCOMPLETES SHOULD EXIST LONGER THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE MARKING PERIOD WITHOUT GUIDANCE OR ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.** After two weeks, the incomplete will revert to a 50 unless other approved arrangements have been made.

Interscholastic Athletics

Catskill High School offers a wide variety of interscholastic sports for the students. The interscholastic program provides an opportunity for the students to develop athletic skills and sportsmanship in a number of athletic activities. Catskill High School students are encouraged to participate in at least one interscholastic program.

The interscholastic program consists of the following (subject to availability and Board of Education approval):

CATSKILL INTERSCHOLASTIC TEAMS: 2025-2026

<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Football-Varsity	Basketball-Boys Varsity	Baseball-Boys Varsity
Football-Modified	Basketball-Boys Junior Varsity	Baseball-Boys Junior Varsity
Soccer-Boys Varsity	Basketball-Boys Modified	Baseball-Boys Modified
Soccer-Boys Junior Varsity	Basketball-Girls Varsity	Softball-Girls Varsity
Soccer-Boys Modified	Basketball-Girls Junior Varsity	Softball-Girls Junior Varsity
Soccer-Girls Varsity	Basketball-Girls Modified	Softball-Girls Modified
Soccer-Girls Junior Varsity	Bowling-Boys/Girls Varsity	Tennis-Boys Varsity
Soccer-Girls Modified	Volleyball-Boys Varsity	Track and Field-Boys Varsity
Volleyball-Girls Varsity	Volleyball-Boys Junior Varsity	Track and Field-Girls Varsity
Volleyball-Girls Junior Varsity	Volleyball-Boys Modified	Track and Field-Boys/Girls Modified
Volleyball-Girls Modified	Wrestling-Varsity	
Cross Country-Boys/Girls Varsity	Wrestling-Junior Varsity	
Cross Country-Modified Boys/Girls	Wrestling-Modified	
Tennis-Girls Varsity		
Golf-Varsity		

Participation in the interscholastic program is subject to the school eligibility code. A copy of the Eligibility Rule is in the policy section of this handbook.

All students who try out and participate in an interscholastic sports program will receive an orientation from the coaches regarding the rules and responsibilities of the student athlete while participating in the program. Included in the orientation is a review of the Eligibility Rule.

Students must have a physical examination before participating in interscholastic sports. Please contact Kara Wager at extension 2111 with any questions.

Catskill High School is a member of the Patroon Conference. Patroon conference schools are Hudson, Ichabod Crane, Chatham, Maple Hill, Averill Park, Taconic Hills, Rensselaer, and Cairo-Durham.

The Catskill Athletic Booster Club was formed to promote physical fitness, athletics, sportsmanship, and cooperation between students, coaches and parents for the benefit of Catskill's Sports Program. All are welcome! If you have questions about the Booster Club, contact Kristie Allen: kallen2@catskillcsd.org.

Interim Reports

Students and parents/guardians will receive between each marking period an Interim Report defining the pupil's present academic status. Interim Reports may also recognize commendable performance. Usually, interim reports are mailed at the end of the five weeks for each report quarter. Seniors who have academic difficulty will meet with their counselor and receive a letter informing their family of any failing courses which are required for graduation.

Late Bus Passes

Students remaining after school from 2:20 p.m. to 2:55 p.m. for detention, extra-curricular activities, or academic help may obtain a late bus pass for the **late bus** run at **3:00 p.m.** Tuesday through Thursday. To be admitted onto the late bus students need to sign up during their lunch periods in the main office. **All students must be signed up by 12:00 p.m.** A student needs a late bus pass completed by the main office to board the bus. Students who attend extra-curricular activities or stay for additional academic help must remain with the teacher until 2:55. Students who misuse the late-bus privilege are subject to bus rules and guidelines contained in the Catskill High School Code of Conduct.

Library Media Center (LMC)

A student who wishes to go to the LMC should obtain a pass from the teacher whose assignment they are working on. To attend the LMC during an academic seminar a student must report to the academic seminar first and then to the LMC. Each academic seminar may send up to **five** students per class period. Students must be in good academic attendance and discipline standing.

Library materials circulate for a period of two weeks. Special arrangements can be made for longer circulation periods. The LMC does not charge fines for late materials; however, LMC privileges will be suspended for materials overdue for more than one month. It is the responsibility of the student to return library materials in a timely fashion out of respect for their peers.

The LMC collection consists of a wide range of media books, periodicals, databases, reference materials, recordings, CD-ROM's- selected to support the curriculum and encourage learning. The library staff is available to assist in any informational needs students may have. The LMC is able to borrow materials from libraries throughout New York State. Students are encouraged to ask for assistance and enjoy their time in the LMC.

Library Rules

An atmosphere conducive to learning will be maintained in the library at all times. Appropriate behavior is expected from each student in order to maintain an appropriate educational environment. Disturbance of other library users, misuse of library materials or deliberate defacing of library equipment will be regarded as unacceptable behavior.

Rules to follow are:

1. Obtain a pass to visit the library.
2. No food, drink or gum chewing.
3. Students are not permitted to leave the library without permission.
4. Refrain from talking.
5. Be polite and courteous in response to requests from the library staff.

Should infractions of these rules occur, after a warning, the student will be returned to study hall, thus losing library privileges except for before or after school.

Lockers

Each student is assigned one hall and one gym locker at the beginning of the school year. Locker combinations should remain confidential. Students are responsible for the working order of their lockers. Maintenance problems and the security of lockers should be reported to the main office immediately. If a locker cannot be repaired, another locker will be immediately assigned. Students are reminded that the lockers are the property of the school district.

Lost and Found

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the main office where the owners may claim them. Students who lose any article should also check the lost and found area in the cafeteria.

Parent Teacher Conferences

On occasion, the teacher, parent or student may request a parent-teacher-counselor conference to review the student's academic performance. The student's school counselor will arrange the conference.

Passes

In order to go from one location to another while classes are in session, a student must have a pass. Every student who is in the hall during class will have a pass. A student must obtain a pre-signed pass in order to see a teacher, or go to the library or counselor's office during a study hall. These passes *should* be obtained during a regular class period or before or after school, but prior to the period in which the student wishes to use the pass. Students aren't allowed to issue passes or to fill in any part of a pass. Pass privileges will be revoked for any student who abuses the privilege. Passes will be issued from music and chorus lessons. Students must obtain a pre-signed pass to move about the building during their lunch period.

Police in the Schools

Police may enter school property if a crime has been committed or suspected, if they have a warrant for an arrest or a search or if they have been invited by the school administration. The police may search a student or his/her locker if they have a valid warrant to do so or if they have "probable cause" to believe that the student is in possession of illegal object(s). The administration will work with law enforcement to keep our buildings safe.

Suggestive: We have a School Resource Officer (SRO) on campus as part of our ongoing commitment to student safety. The SRO is a Greene County Sheriff who works in partnership with the school administration to help maintain a safe and secure environment while building positive relationships with students, staff, and will also provide any necessary support. In addition to our SRO, we also have security on campus at all times.

Personal Appearance

A student will not be excluded from regular instruction because of his/her dress unless it is disruptive or distracting to the learning process, and/or dangerous to health or safety of his/her self and others. Information regarding appropriate dress and grooming can be found in the District Code of Conduct.

Protection of Valuables

Students are responsible for their own valuables, such as money or jewelry, etc. Report malfunctioning lockers to school personnel immediately. Students must follow all rules and guidelines with reference to protecting their valuables during P.E. class or extra-curricular activities. If something is stolen, notify the main office and fill out a Stolen Property Form. If the recovery of lost valuables is

to be achieved, prompt reporting is a must. You are advised **not to bring** valuables, large sums of cash or jewelry, cell phones, Ipods, and other PDA's to school.

Public Address System and Bulletin Boards

The public address system is available to communicate school-related information to teachers and students. Permission and approval of all announcements and posted information must be obtained from the advisor and administration. Announcements will be made in the a.m. daily. Students are expected to view a recap of the announcements during their lunch periods.

Only emergency announcements will be permitted in the P.M. or during the day.

School Dances and Social Activities

The school district makes the building available to students for a variety of student-related activities, such as dances and fundraisers. All guidelines for specific activities may be obtained from the activity advisor.

Before an event can be held, a building use application must be completed by the authorized representatives of the sponsoring activity and submitted to the principal for approval. Building Use Application forms are available in the Catskill High School main office. **High school dances will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will end by 10:00 p.m.** Students must have arranged for a ride home from the dance. No school phones will be available.

Guidelines for School Dances & Other Related Activities

1. Dances or activities will be held in the cafeteria.
2. In some cases, students are admitted to certain activities based on pre-sales or tickets only.
3. Ticket sales for all dance activities will be conducted at the entrance to the event.
All other entrances are closed.
4. Only registered CHS students will be permitted to attend dances and activities unless a guest's name is on the "approved" guest list **with an advance ticket only**. The guest list must be complete by 12:00 p.m. on the day before the event. It must be reviewed by the activity advisor and an administrator prior to 2:30 p.m. The student sponsor of any guest will be notified prior to 2:30 p.m. if the guest is denied admission. Each student may only sign-in one (1) guest. All guests must be an enrolled high school student elsewhere.
5. Students that are absent or tardy the day of the dance or activity will not be able to attend.

Administration reserves the right to bar and/or remove any student from an after school activity.

School Tardiness

When students arrive tardy to school they should report directly to the attendance office to sign in. The classroom teacher will report the student tardy. Each teacher will address these tardies to school as per their classroom tardy plan, and District Policy. Students who arrive late to school without a verified excuse will receive a consequence. These may start with a warning and get progressively more strict, such as detention or in-school suspension.

Search by School Personnel

The courts have recognized that public school authorities have a special responsibility and broad power to control school grounds in order to protect students entrusted to them.

1. Lockers

School Lockers are the property of the Catskill School District. School authorities have the authority to search any locker assigned to a student without obtaining the student's consent.

2. **Personal Search**

School authorities may conduct a search of a student's person when there is reasonable cause for such a search.

3. **Vehicle Search**

School authorities may conduct a search of a student's vehicle when there is reasonable cause for such a search.

Sign-In/Sign-Out Procedure

It is the student's responsibility, if late to school, to sign-in at the attendance office. Students who fail to sign-in may be considered absent or truant and receive phone calls home or detention.

Snow Days and Emergency Closing

If school closes early, or in the event school is closed due to weather or special circumstances, all scheduled student activities are canceled. High school students are transported home before primary students.

Notice of emergency closing and school opening delays will be communicated home via the District's ParentSquare communication system as well as the district's website. Communications will also be broadcast on the following television and radio stations:

TV	FM	AM
WRGB 6	WFLY 92	WGY 810
WTEN 10	WCTW 98.5	
WNYT 13	WPDH 101.5	
WXXA 23		

www.cancellations.com

OR

www.catskillcsd.org

Questar III students need to listen or watch for the Catskill School District when listening for delays or closings. The Questar Program is **never** closed or delayed due to hazardous weather conditions. You will always follow the Catskill School District schedule. If we are in attendance you are expected to be in attendance at your Questar Program.

Student Inquiry and Expression

Distribution of Literature

Students may distribute literature on school grounds and in school buildings with prior approval of the Principal. The Principal may prohibit the distribution of such material if it does not comply with the school rules for responsible journalism. The Principal will regulate the time, place and manner of distribution of literature.

Symbolic Speech-Buttons, Armbands, etc.

Students have the right to wear or display buttons, armbands, flags, decals or other badges of symbolic expression, where the manner and substance of such expression does not intrude upon the orderly process of the education and the rights of others or is inflammatory, etc.

Patriotic Ceremonies

Students may decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and may refrain from saluting the flag. Those who choose to refrain from such participation must respect the rights and interests of classmates who do wish to participate in a meaningful ceremony. A student who chooses not to participate may remain seated while his classmates recite the pledge.

Student Obligations

Students are responsible for the payment of damaged or stolen textbooks, equipment and school supplies. The question of payment should be resolved immediately between student and teacher. Students and parents will be notified yearly of outstanding obligations.

Student Records

Parents of a student under 18, or a student 18 or older, have a right to inspect and review any and all official records, files, and data directly related to their children or themselves, including all material that is incorporated into each student's cumulative record folder, and intended for school use or to be available to parties outside the school or school system, and specifically including, but not necessarily limited to, identifying data, academic work, completed level of achievement (grades, standardized achievement test scores), attendance data, scores on standardized intelligence, aptitude, and psychological tests, interest in inventory results, health data, family background information, teacher or counselor ratings and observations, and verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns.

A parent of a student under 18 years of age or a student 18 years of age or older must make a request for access to that student's school records, in writing, to the Principal. Upon receipt of such a request, arrangements will be made to provide access to such records within a reasonable period of time, but in any case, not more than forty-five (45) days after the request has been received.

Summer School Policy

A student in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12 is eligible to attend summer school and successfully complete the course(s) as an alternative to retention. Those students who do not meet the following guidelines will not be eligible for summer school and must repeat the grade the following year.

Summer school is available only for all students who have failed major subjects. Summer school does not offer minor courses. In order to repeat a failed course the following requirements must be met.

1. Students must remain enrolled in the course, attend classes and take the final exam.
2. Final end of the year report card average must be a 50 or above for the failed subject.
3. Students must not have lost credit due to excessive absences by missing over 45 days in a full year or 22 days in a half- year course.

A student who fails to meet the minimum standards on the New York State English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessments must receive academic intervention services during summer school and/or during the academic year.

Students who have failed subjects other than those offered in summer school may be eligible to participate in an approved summer tutorial program, or attend and pass an equivalent college course.

Summer Tutorial Policy

Tutorials are available only for courses not offered in summer school. The school counselor and principal must approve the tutorial program and verify the teacher's certification. Approval must be granted in writing prior to the beginning of the course.

The tutorial program must be a minimum of 90 minutes of instruction per day as per N.Y.S. Education Law guideline and must equal a total of 45 hours for 1 unit of credit with a passing grade of 65.

Student absences may not exceed the summer school attendance policy.

All arrangements must be completed by June 30th. The cost of and arrangements for the tutorial program are the student's and parent's/guardian's responsibility.

Adopted by the Board of Education June 1999

Revised January 12, 2000

Faculty and Staff E-Mail Addresses 2025-2026

Jaime DiDonna	Principal	jdidonna@catskillcsd.org
Annie Coager	Assistant Principal	acoager@catskillcsd.org
Brian J. Smith	Athletic Director	bjsmith@catskillcsd.org
Melanie Banks	Algebra	manks@catskillcsd.org
Kimberley Bushane	Social Worker	kbushane@catskillcsd.org
Phil Chirkis	SPED	pchirkis@catskillcsd.org
Colleen Clancy	Health	cclancy@catskillcsd.org
Stacy Collier	PE	scollier@catskillcsd.org
Didi Corrado	SPED	dcorrado@catskillcsd.org
Christa Dedrick	ESL	cdedrick@catskillcsd.org
Wendy Doney	Art	wdoney@catskillcsd.org
Beth Daly	Guidance	bdaly@catskillcsd.org
Seth Dowling	Band	sdowling@catskillcsd.org
Jean Duncan	Guidance	jduncan@catskillcsd.org
Nicole Field	ELA	nfield@catskillcsd.org
Tricia Gottesman	Global	tgottesm@catskillcsd.org
Patrick Hernandez	Broadcasting	phernand@catskillcsd.org
Erin Holdridge	Algebra	eholdrid@catskillcsd.org
Paul Irvis	Algebra	pirvis@catskillcsd.org
Tammi Kellenbenz	Global	tkellenb@catskillcsd.org
Kelly Konsul	Guidance	kkonsul@catskillcsd.org
Doug Lampman	PE	dlampman@catskillcsd.org
Jennifer Leibowitz	LE	jleibowi@catskillcsd.org
James Maccaline	Alg I/II	jmaccali@catskillcsd.org
Kelly Marino	FACS	kmarino@catskillcsd.org
Thomas McAlister	Library	tmcalister@catskillcsd.org

Brian McDonnell	CTE	bmdonne@catskillcsd.org
Hannah Miner	Spanish	hminer@catskillcsd.org
Vanessa Muzzi	ELA	vmuzzi@catskillcsd.org
Jamie Nassar	SPED	jnassar@catskillcsd.org
Lee Powell	US History	lpowell@catskillcsd.org
Suzanne Ribsamen	ELA	sribsame@catskillcsd.org
Jaclyn Sirianni	Business	jsirianni@catskillcsd.org
Bryan Smith	SPED	bsmith3@catskillcsd.org
Michelle Storrs	Chorus	mstorrs@catskillcsd.org
Jon Veenis	Spanish	jveenis@catskillcsd.org
Elizabeth Vermilyea	SPED	evermily@catskillcsd.org
Kara Wager	Nurse	kwager@catskillcsd.org
Mary Warden	SS	mwarden@catskillcsd.org
MaryEllen White	LE	mwhite@catskillcsd.org
Sheri Whitney	SPED	swhitney@catskillcsd.org
Bettina Young	Psychologist	byoung@catskillcsd.org
Heather Zacchio	Social Worker	hzacchio@catskillcsd.org

Telephone

Office phones may only be used in emergencies. Emergency phone messages will be given to the students by office staff. Only parents/guardians may have messages transmitted to students. When the student receives an accepted phone message, the student will also receive a pass to come to the office at the completion of class. Only in extreme emergencies will students be released from class to answer telephone messages.

Visitors to the School

All visitors to our school must sign-in at the attendance office. All visitors must be expected and/or have a scheduled meeting to gain entrance into the building. Please bring your photo driver license or a photo ID with you so we can provide you with a visitors pass. Visitors will then receive an escort to their destination. As a safety precaution no visitors will be allowed into the building without a prescheduled meeting or appointment. Visitors must sign out and leave their pass upon concluding their visit.

Parents seeking to meet with their child's teacher or counselor should call the school counselor in advance to make an appointment.

Working Papers (New York State)

Minors under 18 years of age are required by law to have an Employment Certificate (student, non-factory, general or full-time) in order to be employed part or full time in most positions and must follow this procedure:

1. Apply for and receive a Social Security number from your local Social Security office.
2. Pick up an application in the main office. Bring your birth certificate as proof of age if school records are not available.
3. Arrange for a physical exam.
4. Complete the application and have it signed by a parent/guardian.
5. Return the application to the Main Office to be issued an employment certificate (a.k.a. work permit). The application must be submitted with a doctor's certificate. If a student is under 18 years of age, he/she must obtain a work permit in order to accept employment. The law has certain requirements concerning the type of work done, the hours and the working conditions. Applications and all necessary information may be obtained in the main office.
6. Students must be present to sign the working papers in front of office staff personnel.

Good judgment must be exercised in seeking employment. A student's first responsibility is his/her school work. If a job deprives a student of his/her study time and participation in school activities, he/she will not be able to maintain a satisfactory school record.

Catskill Central School District's Student Attendance Policy

Policy 5100 - Effective 2025

Summary

The Board of Education recognizes that regular school attendance is a major component of academic success. Through implementation of this policy, the Board expects to reduce the current level of unexcused absences, tardiness, and early departures (referred to in this policy as "ATEDs"), encourage full attendance by all students, maintain an adequate attendance recordkeeping system, identify patterns of student ATEDs and develop effective intervention strategies to improve school attendance.

The District is committed to ensuring all students attend school regularly and recognizes the strong connection between attendance and academic success. Parents/guardians, students, staff, and the community will not only be informed of the attendance policy through this student handbook, but a copy of the full policy is available on the District's website.

When a student is absent, tardy, or leaves early without a valid excuse, parents will be notified, and follow-up actions may occur, especially in cases of chronic absenteeism.

Excused ATEDs are defined as absences, tardiness, and early departures from class or school due to personal illness, illness or death in the family, impassable roads or weather, religious observance, quarantine, required court appearances, attendance at health clinics, approved college visits, approved cooperative work programs, military obligations, or such other reasons as may be approved by the appropriate building administrator (including, but not limited to, absences due to circumstances related to homelessness). All other ATEDs are considered unexcused absences. Parents must notify the school within 24 hours and provide appropriate documentation.

Online/Distance/Remote Learning

Students learning remotely will need to show daily school participation, which is to be recorded by teachers and reported under the provisions of this policy. Such participation will vary depending on the type of remote learning taking place. This can include documented participation in online or virtual classes, completion of assignments, documentation of daily school activities and learning, or correspondence via online platform, email, or telephone. Teachers are also expected to pay particular attention to the educational progress of students learning remotely, and initiate interventions with the student and their family if a student does not show adequate engagement or growth.

Attendance is monitored daily and period-by-period, with data reviewed regularly by administration to identify trends and implement interventions. Students who are chronically absent (missing 10% or more of the school year) may face support measures or consequences based on the school's Code of Conduct. Disciplinary actions for unexcused absences can include detention, loss of privileges, counseling referrals, and—in severe cases—PINS petitions or CPS referrals.

The District emphasizes that students must attend at least 90% of each class at the high school level to receive course credit, though excused absences with make-up work do not count against this standard. Teachers will offer reasonable opportunities for students to make up missed work following any absence. Each marking period a student's final grade may be based on classroom participation as well as student's performance on homework, tests, papers, projects, etc. Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Consistent with the importance of classroom participation, unexcused ATEDs may affect a student's class participation grade for the marking period.

The policy is reviewed annually by the Board of Education and revised if needed to support improved student attendance.

Ref:

Education Law §§1709; 3024; 3025; 3202; 3205-3213; 3225

Social Service Law §34a

8 NYCRR §§104.1; 175.6

Adopted: July 2025

Additional Attendance Information for Catskill High School Students

Important: In addition, a student who is absent from school for an unexcused absence will **NOT** be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities or school events on the day of the absence. Denial of course credit may occur for a student who has exceeded the allowable number of class absences for a particular course. Students must maintain a 90% attendance rate for half-year and full year courses.

Lastly, senior students who have the privilege of “*late arrival*” must arrive on time for their first scheduled class. ***Students with “late arrival” privilege who are tardy to their first scheduled class will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, athletic practice, club practices or events for that day.*** Students with ten (10) tardies to their first scheduled class will lose the “late arrival privilege”. The building principal will provide written notification to the parent and the student of this action.

Catskill Central School District **Code of Conduct Summary 2025-2026**

The Catskill Central School District is committed to maintaining high standards of education for students in the schools. Because the District believes that order and discipline are essential to being educated effectively, The District is also committed to creating and maintaining high behavioral standards and expectations. An orderly educational environment requires that everyone in the school community play a role in contributing to an effective environment. It also requires the development and implementation of a code of discipline that clearly defines individual responsibilities, describes unacceptable behavior and provides for appropriate disciplinary options and responses.

Essential Partners: The District believes that order and discipline must be a shared responsibility between “Essential Partners” those individuals who contribute directly to a student’s success. The partners include parents, teachers, guidance counselors, other school personnel, principals, the superintendent, and the Board of Education.

Bystander Misconduct: Students who engage in misconduct when they do not initiate or directly participate in prohibited behavior; but rather by their action and / or inaction they allow damage or injury which could have prevented and / or encouraged prohibited conduct.

Harassment and Intimidation: The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and productive learning environment within the District. Harassment and intimidation of or by students, faculty, staff, or visitors are strictly prohibited on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, and at school sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off campus.

*The Responsibility of Faculty and Who Witness Acts of Bullying

- *Definition of Bullying Behavior
- *Cyber Bullying
- *List of DASA Coordinators by Building

Social Media: Social Media such as Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube have increased the ability for communication between and among school community constituent groups. The use of such media can create an increase in communication and access to information and interaction. With the popularity of Social Media as a means of staying connected in today's world, faculty, staff, students, and parents are advised to clearly distinguish between personal and professional communications in order to maintain confidentiality and professionalism and in order to avoid potential conflicts or the appearance of impropriety.

Dress Code: Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in an appropriate manner. Students must be dressed in appropriate clothing and protective equipment as required for physical education classes, participation in athletics, science laboratories and home and career skills classes. Any dress or appearance which constitutes a disruption to the educational process is not acceptable. Hats and other headgear including hoods and do-rags/wave caps (inside the building) except for religious or medical reasons. Pants/trousers worn off waist or the pants crotch at knees are prohibited if undergarments are not covered or if it presents a health and safety issue.

Cell Phones & Other Communication Devices: Personal electronic devices often interfere with the academic environment of the school. Considering the potential for distraction and additional problems, all equipment must be turned off and stowed in a school provided Yondr Pouch (including accessories) during school hours (7:35-2:17) unless authorized by the school administration. Students must also place their stowed phones in their lockers or in their backpacks. Any student observed with electronic devices outside of their Yondr pouches will have the device confiscated by a staff member and the student will be referred to the building's administration. ***Please note that if a parent needs to contact a student during school hours, they may call the high school attendance office at (518) 943-2300 ext) 2174 or email the attendance officer at tklein@catskillcsd.org**

In the event that a student is observed using or holding an unauthorized electronic device, or is seen to have an unauthorized device not in a Yondr Pouch, the following shall occur:

- First Offense: The device will be confiscated by a staff member and the student will be referred to administration. Noncompliance will be viewed as insubordination and treated accordingly. The device will be turned over to a building administrator. Students will be spoken with and the phone will be returned at the end of the day.
- Second Offense: The device will be confiscated by a staff member and returned only to the student's parent/guardian by an administrator following communication with a parent/guardian.
- Subsequent violations of this policy shall result in additional behavioral consequences, including the possibility of in or out of school suspension. Electronic recording of any sort (audio, visual, etc.) is prohibited without authorization from the building administrators and will be subject to an in or out of school suspension.

Prohibited Student Conduct: The Code of Conduct outlines in detail areas of prohibited student conduct. These include disorderly conduct, insubordination; disruptive behavior, violent conduct, or any other behavior which endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. This includes student behavior on a school bus as well as academic misconduct, (e.g. plagiarism, cheating). The code also provides detailed information to incidents involving weapons, students who commit violent acts and students who are repeatedly and substantially disruptive to the educational process.

Penalties: When penalties are imposed, administrators must take into account various issues, which include the age of the student, the circumstances surrounding the offense, prior disciplinary record, information received from the sources, as well as any extenuating circumstances. Penalties include verbal warnings, counseling/mediation, detention, class removal, suspension from activities or privileges, in school suspension, out of school suspension, referrals to family court or other agencies may also be part of the disciplinary action.

Student Searches and Interrogations: Students may be questioned by school officials regarding alleged violation of law or the Code of Conduct. Furthermore, searches of students and their belongings according to specific guidelines are also authorized whenever there is reasonable suspicion that the student violated the law or the code of conduct, or where safety may be threatened. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy with respect to computer files, student lockers, desks and other school storage places and student vehicles while on school property. These may be searched at any time without prior notice of consent. The Board of Education has also authorized the intermittent use of a drug sniffing dog.

Public Conduct on School Property: All persons on school property or at school functions are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and orderly manner. Specifically prohibited conduct includes intentional injury or threat; damaging school property; disruptive conduct; wearing materials or objects that are obscene, libelous, advocate illegal action or obstruct the rights of others; smoking or use of tobacco products on school property; possession, consumption, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances or being under the influence of either; possession of weapons; loitering, or refusing to comply with any reasonable request of recognizable school officials while performing their duties.

***The following changes have been added to the Code of Conduct
at the August 25, 2021 BOE Meeting:***

All people who enter school property, which also includes school vehicles, or attend school sponsored events are directed and required to follow the District's Reopening Plan and written protocols. The Plan and written protocols can be found on the District website. This includes, but is not limited to, any requirements to mitigating protocols mandated by the State Education Department or CDC. Failure to follow the Plan or protocols, as well as failure to follow the directive of an appropriate school official relating to following the Plan or protocols, may result in a person being refused entrance, or an administrator directing the person to leave the school property or event. For all people, the District may contact law enforcement for trespass where the person refuses to leave school property as directed, as well as for any other violations committed; for students, discipline pursuant to the District's Code of Conduct for insubordination, endangering the health, safety, or welfare of others, as well as other applicable violations of the Code of Conduct; for parents and other visitors, ban on attending school events as well as consequences pursuant to the Visitors' Code of Conduct; for school personnel formal discipline, up to and including termination.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

Any student who sells, gives, possesses, uses, or is under the influence of illegal and/or prescription drugs, narcotics or alcohol or is in possession of drug paraphernalia in or on school property, including buses, shall be subjected to the following disciplinary action:

- ❖ Possession or Use of illegal drugs – Except as otherwise indicated by a consideration of all the factors involved, the consequences for a student illegally in possession of a drug may include:

- out of school suspension, the length of which to be dependent upon the circumstances; notification of parents; notification of appropriate law enforcement authorities;
- three meetings with the school's Twin County Recovery Services counselor; and provide a report to the Superintendent of Schools for further potential disciplinary action.
- ❖ Sale or Distribution of illegal drugs – Except as otherwise indicated by a consideration of all the factors involved, the consequences for a student illegally in possession of a drug may include:
 - out of school suspension, the length of which to be dependent upon the circumstances; notification of parents; notification of appropriate law enforcement authorities;
 - meeting with the school's substance abuse counselor; and provide a report to the Superintendent of Schools for further potential disciplinary action

(A full copy of the Catskill District Code of Conduct is available at www.catskillcsd.org.)

Eligibility Policy

Eligibility for ExtraCurricular Activities

The Catskill Central School District Board of Education views participation in extracurricular activities as a privilege rather than a right. Students who would represent the District in extracurricular activities shall therefore be required to maintain an acceptable level of academic achievement, and to exhibit conduct that is acceptable. The Board therefore establishes the following criteria and procedures related to student participation in extracurricular activities in grades 7-12.

Activities Considered to be Extracurricular

The following activities are considered to be extracurricular activities for purpose of this policy:

- Interscholastic Sports
- Music Festivals
- Student Committee Meetings
- Student Council Membership (including status as an officer thereof)
- Class Office (e.g., class president)
- Field Trips
- Musical or Theatrical Productions of the School
- Intramural Sports

If any of the aforementioned activities is part of a given student's curriculum, then that student shall be deemed eligible to participate simply by that fact.

Academic Eligibility Policy for Athletics and ExtraCurricular Activities

Philosophy

The Board of Education in conjunction with the Superintendent, Administration and Faculty of the Catskill Central School District encourages student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities while recognizing the importance of maintaining academic standards. This policy reflects the common goals of sustaining academic achievement while participating in extracurricular activities. It is the intention that this policy supports education and serves as a guide to help participating students remain focused, maintain academic standards and remain eligible. Students who become academically ineligible will be given the opportunity to regain full eligibility status through adherence to the guidelines outlined in this policy. In the event that a student feels that he or she has been inappropriately deemed ineligible, he or she can appeal this decision as set forth in this policy.

General Academic Eligibility Statement

This policy applies to all extracurricular activities and includes all clubs and athletic teams.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right; therefore, students are expected to maintain a certain level of academic performance in order to participate in extracurricular programs. Academic performance will be monitored during the entire school year and students must meet the following criteria in order to participate in extracurricular activities.

Academic Standard

The student is expected to attend school regularly, be in attendance for all classes scheduled and perform regular course work in all of his/her classes for each marking period. Students who are absent **for more than half a day**, will be ineligible to participate in the practice, activity, or game scheduled that day. A legitimate excuse must be signed and dated by a guardian for the partial day absence.

Student performance will be reviewed at the end of each marking period (further known as Eligibility Period). An eligibility list will be published after each progress report or marking period report.

Eligibility Standards

1. Academic Eligibility Determination

- a. A student must maintain a 70 average, pass PE, and at least three core classes.
- b. Determination for fall participation rests upon the previous year's performance.
- c. A student who does not meet eligibility requirements has until the next 5 week interim report period conclusion to meet the requirements and is placed on academic probation.
- d. During the academic probation period the student may fully participate on the team.
- e. During the academic probation period the student will attend and participate in a minimum of three after school study sessions. In addition, other school assigned interventions may be required if deemed necessary for student success.
- f. If the student does not participate in the after-school program or show improvement at the 5 week interim report time, he/she will become "Ineligible to Compete." (See 2.a)

2. Ineligible to Compete

- a. If a student does not receive an indicator of passing the subjects in question at the 5 week interim report period, he/she will be ineligible to participate in any extra curricular activity for the next five weeks. It is expected that the student will attend the after-school study session outlined in 1b. If the student's situation improves within the five week period, the student may request reconsideration of his/her ineligibility status.
- b. To request reconsideration, a student must complete a status form, signed by each teacher, and present it to the principal. The Principal will then clear the student for practice and play, and notify the coach.

Appeals

A student or his/her parent/guardian may request reconsideration or appeal the determination regarding the student's ineligibility status to the Academic Eligibility Committee. The Academic Eligibility Committee will be composed of Administrators, Coaches or Advisors, Teachers and Guidance Counselors, but shall not include the student's coach/advisor for the particular sport or activity from which declared ineligible. At least five individuals must be present to make a determination.

If a student wishes to appeal a determination he/she must complete the "Appeal Form" in the principal's office.

It is the sole responsibility of the student or his/her parent/guardian to present specific facts and circumstances regarding the student's academic performance and provide proof that his/her academic performance has improved sufficiently to meet the standards as set forth in this policy. The committee shall examine the specific facts of each case, reach a consensus and render a decision within three school days of the appeal. During the appeal process, the student may not practice or play and/or participate in extracurricular activities. The decision of the appeals committee is final.

Adoption date: July 2003

Revised/Adopted: 1/29/06

Revised/Adopted: 1/24/07

Revised/Adopted :5/11/11

Revised/Adopted: 12/16/15

Contract for Eligibility

I, _____, would like to regain my eligibility by working after school with the following teachers.

	Date	Teacher	Teacher Signature
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			

I understand that the first time I fail to appear my status will revert to ineligible and I may not participate until the 5 week review.

Signed: _____ Date _____

Student

Signed _____ Date _____

Coach/Advisor

Signed _____ Date _____

Principal/Athletic Director

This form can be obtained in the main office

2 or 3 Week Eligibility Review

The following student _____

has their work “up-to-date” and is currently passing/failing my course.

	Course	Teacher	Grade	Comments
Period 1				
Period 2				
Period 3				
Period 4				
Period 5				
Period 6				
Period 7				
Period 8				
Period 9				

Coach/Advisor _____

Eligibility Reinstated

Yes	No

Principal/Athletic Director signature required

Date

This form can be obtained in the main office

**TITLE VI CIVIL RIGHTS ACT NON-DISCRIMINATION
AND ANTI-HARASSMENT IN THE SCHOOLS**

The Board of Education affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide an environment that is free of harassment and intimidation as required by Federal and state law. Harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the Board prohibits and condemns all forms of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion and national origin by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors as well as any third parties who are participating in, observing, or otherwise engaging in activities subject to the supervision and control of the District.

The Board also prohibits harassment based on an individual's opposition to discrimination or participation in a related investigation or complaint proceeding pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000d, et seq. and 34 C.F.R. Part 100. This policy of nondiscrimination and anti-harassment will be enforced on School District premises, vehicles, in school buildings and at all school-sponsored events, programs and activities, including those that take place at locations off school premises and in another state.

It is intended that this policy applies to the dealings between or among employees with employees; employees with students; students with students; employees/students with vendors/contractors and others who do business with the School District, as well as school volunteers, visitors, and guests. All of these persons are hereinafter referred to collectively as "the named group."

For purposes of this policy, harassment shall mean communication (verbal, written or graphic) and/or physical conduct based on an individual's actual or perceived race, color, creed, religion and national origin, that:

- a) Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or is used as a basis for employment decisions (including terms and conditions of employment) affecting such individual; and/or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment;
- b) Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or participation in an educational or extracurricular activity, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment; and/or effectively bars the students access to an educational opportunity or benefit;
- c) Otherwise adversely affects the employment and/or educational opportunities and benefits provided by the District.

District staff who observe any such harassment should intervene to stop the harassment and thereafter report the matter to a District Compliance Officer.

Complaints and Grievances by Employees

In accordance with the provisions of General Municipal Law and the collective bargaining agreements, all District personnel shall have the opportunity to present their complaints or grievances free from interference, coercion, restraint, discrimination or reprisal.

Complaints or grievances not covered under employee contracts shall be handled and resolved, whenever possible, as close to their origin as possible. The Superintendent is responsible for implementing regulations for the redress of complaints or grievances through proper administrative channels.

Complaints and Grievances by Students and Other Third Parties

While students have the responsibility to abide by the policies and regulations of the District, they shall also be afforded the opportunity to present complaints and grievances free from interference, coercion, restraint, discrimination or reprisal.

Administration shall be responsible for establishing rules and regulations for the redress of complaints or grievances through proper administration channels. In addition, the District shall develop an appeals process, ensuring that students, employees, volunteers, vendors/contractors, visitors and guests have full understanding and access to these regulations and procedures, and providing prompt, thorough and equitable consideration and determination of student complaints and grievances.

Investigation of Complaints and Grievances

The School District will act to promptly investigate all complaints, either verbal or written, formal or informal, of allegations of harassment based on any of the characteristics described above; and will promptly take appropriate action to protect individuals from further harassment. The District will designate, at a minimum, two (2) Compliance Officers.

In order for the Board to enforce this policy, and to take corrective measures as may be necessary, it is essential that any employee, student, or other member of the above named group who believes he/she has been a victim of harassment in the school environment and/or at programs, activities and events under the control and supervision of the District, as well as any individual who is aware of and/or who has knowledge of, or witnesses any possible occurrence of harassment, immediately report such alleged harassment; such report shall be directed to or forwarded to a District designated Compliance Officer(s) through informal and/or formal complaint procedures as developed by the District. Such complaints are recommended to be in writing, although verbal complaints of alleged harassment will also be promptly investigated in accordance with the terms of this policy. In the event that a Compliance Officer is the alleged offender, the report will be directed to another Compliance Officer.

Upon receipt of an informal/formal complaint (even an anonymous complaint), the District will conduct a prompt, fair and thorough investigation of the charges. However, even in the absence of an informal/formal complaint, if the District has knowledge of any occurrence of harassment, the District will investigate such conduct promptly and thoroughly. To the extent possible, within legal constraints, all complaints will be treated as confidential and privately as possible. However, disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation of the charges and/or to notify law enforcement officials as warranted, and any disclosure will be provided on a "need to know" basis. The Superintendent will inform the Board of Education of investigations involving findings of discrimination or harassment.

Based upon the results of this investigation, if the District determines that an employee, vendor/contractor, volunteer, guest, visitor or student has violated the terms of this policy and/or accompanying regulations, immediate corrective action will be taken as warranted. Should the offending individual be a student, appropriate disciplinary measures will be applied, up to and including suspension, in accordance with applicable laws and/or regulations, District policy and regulation, and the District Code of Conduct. Should the offending individual be a school employee,

appropriate disciplinary measures will be applied, up to and including termination of the offender's employment, in accordance with legal guidelines, District policy and regulation, and the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s). Third parties (such as school volunteers, vendors/contractors or guests) who are found to have violated this policy and/or accompanying regulations and/or the Code of Conduct, will be subject to appropriate sanctions as warranted and in compliance with law. The application of such disciplinary measures by the District does not preclude the filing of civil and/or criminal charges as may be warranted.

Prohibition of Retaliatory Behavior

The Board, consistent with the prohibition set forth in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed against complainants, victims, witnesses, and/or any other individuals who participated in the investigation of a complaint of harassment. Follow-up inquiries shall be made to ensure that harassment has not resumed and that all those involved in the investigation of the harassment complaint have not suffered retaliation.

Finding That Harassment Did Not Occur

At any level/stage of investigation of alleged harassment, if a determination is made that harassment did not occur, the Compliance Officer will notify the complainant, the alleged offender and the Superintendent of this determination. Such a finding does not preclude the complainant from filing an appeal pursuant to District regulation referenced in this policy.

However, even if a determination is made that harassment did not occur, the Superintendent/designee reserves the right to initiate student and/or staff awareness and training, as applicable, to help ensure that the school environment is not conducive to fostering harassment.

In all cases, the Superintendent will inform the Board of Education of his/her findings regarding an informal or formal complaint.

Knowingly Makes False Accusations

Employees and/or students who *knowingly* make false accusations against another individual as to allegations of discrimination or harassment may also face appropriate disciplinary action.

Privacy Rights

As part of any investigation, the District has the right to search all school property and equipment including District computers. Rooms, desks, cabinets, lockers, computers, etc. are provided by the District for the use of staff and students, but the users do not have exclusive use of these locations or equipment and should not expect that materials stored therein will be private.

Compliance Officer

The District's Compliance Officers are the District's Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, the Director of Special Services and such other individuals as may be designated by the Board of Education in the event of the unavailability of the Compliance Officers. The Compliance Officers shall be appointed by the Board and shall be responsible for providing information, including complaint procedures, and for handling complaints relative to harassment for any student, parent, employee or third parties as described in this policy.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, the District shall issue an appropriate public announcement which advises students, parents/guardian, employees and the general public of this Policy and its grievance procedures for resolving complaints of harassment. Included in such an announcement will be the name, address and telephone number of the Compliance Officers.

Development and Dissemination of Administrative Regulations

Regulations will be developed for reporting, investigation, and remedying allegations of harassment based on the characteristics described above. An appeal procedure will also be provided therein to address any unresolved complaints and/or unsatisfactory prior determinations by the applicable Compliance Officer(s). Such regulations will be developed in accordance with federal and state law as well as any applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

Training and/or “awareness” programs will be established for staff and students to help ensure knowledge of and familiarity with the issues pertaining to harassment in the schools as addressed in this Policy, and to disseminate information about preventative measures to help reduce such incidents of prohibited conduct. Training will be provided to all designated Compliance Officers regarding the investigation of said harassment complaints.

A copy of information about this Policy and its accompanying regulations will be available upon request and may be posted at various locations in each school building. The District’s policy and regulations on anti-harassment will be published in appropriate school publications such as teacher/employee handbooks, student handbooks and on the District’s website.

This policy should not be read to abrogate other District policies and/or regulations or the District Code of Conduct prohibiting other forms of unlawful discrimination and inappropriate behaviors. It is the intent of the District that all such policies and/or regulations be read consistently to provide the highest level of protection from unlawful discrimination in the provision of employment/educational services and opportunities.

Ref: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 United States Code (USC) §2000d et seq. (Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin) and 34 C.F.R. Part 100.
Education Law §2801(1)
Executive Law §290 et seq. (Prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, military status, marital status, use of a recognized guide dog, hearing dog or service dog, or domestic violence victim status).

Adoption Date: July 2003
Revised/Adopted: 2/08/12

ANNUAL HEALTH AND EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION 2025-2026

Student Name _____	Birthdate ____/____/____
Homeroom _____ Teacher _____	Bus #: _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Information					
Who does the student live with?	Both Parents	Mother	Father	Shared custody	Guardian
Guardian Name					
Guardian Address: _____		City _____		State _____	
Should mailings be sent to this address		YES	NO	Email Address: _____	
Telephone/ Home _____		Work _____		Cell _____	
Guardian Name					
Guardian Address _____		City _____		State _____	
Should mailings be sent to this address		YES	NO	E-Mail Address: _____	
Telephone/ Home _____		Work _____		Cell _____	

Security Information	
In order to insure the safety and security of our children, please indicate the names of persons who do NOT have the legal right to contact your child during the school day. <u>Copies of legal documentation MUST be in the school office to enforce this rule.</u> Once legal documentation is on file, such persons will NOT be permitted to have your child released to them for ANY reason.	
Name	Relationship _____
Name	Relationship _____
Name	Relationship _____

Emergency Plan
My family has a plan for an emergency early dismissal from school and my child knows where to go if I am not at home at dismissal time. YES Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Emergency Information
Please list at least two nearby relatives, neighbors or friends who are willing and able to be contacted to assume temporary care of your child when you cannot be reached. They may also pick up your child with a signed note from the parent/guardian.
Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____
Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____
Name _____ Relationship _____ Phone _____

Current Health Information
Allergies _____
Medications taken currently _____ <small>Please call School Nurse for procedures to be followed <u>before</u> sending any medications to school!</small>
Illness, operations or serious injuries in the past year _____
Does he/she wear glasses contact lenses? _____
Does your child have braces or dental appliances? _____ <small>Please send documentation of recent immunizations from your health care provider to School Nurse.</small>
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Catskill High School

September 2025

Parent and Student Handbook

I/we have received a copy of the Catskill High Parent/Student Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year which includes the Catskill School District Code of Conduct, Eligibility, and Attendance Policy. I/we have read and discussed the entire handbook with my/our child. We are committed to maintaining high standards of education for students in our schools, and encourage you to call us if you have any questions.

Student Name (print)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian (print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

**Please sign and return to your period #1 teacher by the close of school
Friday, September 12, 2025.**