

Vinalhaven School 2018-2019 Student/Parent Handbook

Please note that the handbook directs you to a number of School Board Policies located on the school website at

<http://www.vinalhavenschool.org/policies.htm>

Please speak directly to your child's teacher, the Principal, or the Guidance Counselor should you have specific questions not covered in this abbreviated handbook or in on-going school communications.

Your input to Principal Kirkpatrick is appreciated.

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Vinalhaven, Maine 04863

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<http://www.vinalhavenschool.org>

August 2018

Dear Vinalhaven School Community,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to Vinalhaven School for the 2018-2019 school year. We are pleased to begin our second year as school leaders, and we thank you for the support we have received. We have an open door policy, and we hope to see you often at the school and in the community. Please contact us with any matter which you feel impacts you or your child.

It has been several years since this handbook has been thoroughly revised, and we believe it now contains accurate and current information. Please contact us with any questions or suggestions you may have.

In addition, all Vinalhaven School Board Policies are located on the school website under the “Resources” tab. We encourage you to reference those documents as well. Thank you for your support and we look forward to serving you and your children.

Thank you,

Ann Kirkpatrick, Principal

Roy Crawford, Superintendent

GOVERNANCE, DECISION MAKING AND SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Leadership Structure

The following is the structure of the Vinalhaven School and the hierarchy of decision making. In matters pertaining to your child, always speak first with the teacher. If your issue cannot be resolved at that level, you may then discuss the matter with the Principal, followed by the Superintendent, and finally, the School Board. We encourage you to follow this pathway of communication.

1. Teacher
2. Principal
3. Superintendent
4. Vinalhaven School Board
5. State and Federal Government

Roles and Responsibilities

School Board

- School Policy
- Appeal of a Superintendent decision

Superintendent

- Financial Issues
- Building Maintenance
- Legal Issues
- Official Teacher Evaluations
- Appeal of a Principal decision
- Staffing and Human Resources
- Lead curriculum and instruction efforts

Principal

- Communication between School Board and Superintendent with Priority Team and Grade Level Teams
- Organize and facilitate meetings with Grade Level Team, Leadership Team, and Staff
- Lead Priority Team
- Lead curriculum and instruction efforts
- Day-to-day administrative responsibilities
- Point person for school
- Authority to make quick decisions that will be then reviewed by the Superintendent

Superintendent

- Leadership presence in school (i.e. plenty of time in the halls and classrooms)
- Ensure all staff and students are following school wide expectations, protocols, and rules
- Appeal of a teacher, athletic director/coach decision

Vinalhaven School Calendar: See Website

The most current calendar always appears on the website. Any changes appear there first.

Infinite Campus

Infinite Campus is used to record daily attendance and graded events. Infinite Campus simplifies data-driven decision-making by providing real-time information to all stakeholders (students, parents, teachers and administrators) in the education process via the Internet. Administrators get the most accurate information to make more effective decisions. Teachers gain timesaving administrative tools, parents gain immediate access to their children's grades and students can track their own progress.

Students in grades 6-12 will be given access to Infinite Campus by their homeroom teachers.

For parent access, please contact Mr. Pitts at rpitts@vinalhavenschool.org or Amanda Wentworth at awentworth@vinalhavenschool.org.

ASSESSMENT

Northwestern Education Assessment (NWEA)

The NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are state-aligned computerized adaptive assessments that provide accurate, useful information about student achievement and growth. NWEA's are administered to students K-12 in the fall and in the spring to measure student academic growth. Sometimes more data is needed and NWEA's can be administered in the winter. Students have immediate feedback from this assessment and can monitor their own growth. Students along with their teachers and parents can set growth goals for the school year.

It is extremely important that students attend school on the days that the NWEA is administered, and that students put forth their best effort so a true reflection of the progress can be used to inform the instruction in the classroom.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

SAT Reasoning Test (SAT I) and SAT Subject Tests (SAT II) will be offered at Vinalhaven School on dates to be announced. See the Guidance Counselor for additional registration and testing information. Resources for preparing for the SAT and information about fee waivers are available at the guidance office.

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)

The PSAT is offered to all sophomores and juniors in October of each year. The State of Maine pays for all 10th grade students to take the PSAT. 11th graders are strongly encouraged to take the PSAT. Information about the PSAT, preparation materials, registration forms and information about fee waivers are available from the Guidance Office.

Advanced Placement (AP) Test Dates TBD Yearly

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Vinalhaven Elementary School serves students in grades kindergarten through fifth in two wings of our school. The Elementary School academic program includes instruction in math, literacy, science and social studies. Curriculum instruction is primarily provided by grade level teachers as well as other teachers in grade level teams, special educators, various specialists, and is supported by educational technicians. Instruction is delivered in a variety of ways such as whole and small group lessons in grade level classrooms, in multi-age groups within grade level teams, and in small groups with special educators. Elementary school students also participate in art, drama, French, health, library, music, and physical education classes and also receive instruction from our school guidance counselor. In addition to developmentally appropriate social skills instruction within their grade level teams, students participate in student led elementary school assemblies showcasing curriculum work, songs and celebrating achievements. Our curriculum is enhanced by a variety of field trips, guest speakers and special events such as Read Across America, Winter Holiday Celebration, jump rope for Heart, and Poetry Festival.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Vinalhaven Middle School provides students in grades six through eight with a program of learning that is developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering and equitable. Students receive instruction in the core disciplines of math, literacy and writing, science, and social studies as well as art, drama, French, health, music and physical education. Student learning occurs in many configurations ranging from whole and small group lessons in grade level classrooms, multi-age groups, and small groups with special educators. A special emphasis is given to hands-on instruction with real world applications and learning frequently occurs in the natural world, in our community and also on occasional adventures on the mainland including trips to Tanglewood, Camp Kieve and other trips sponsored by the Vinalhaven Land Trust.

HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC PROGRAM

1. Graduation requirements (See Board Policy IKF): Students following a traditional pathway will demonstrate graduation standard proficiency in:
 - A. The content areas of English Language Arts and Science in each year of their high school program, (8 full year courses)
 - B. At least 3 full year courses in the content areas of math and social studies during their high school program, one of which must include U.S. History as per state law. (6 full year courses)
 - C. at least one full year course (or two semesters) in the content areas of visual and performing arts: any combination of band, music, art, or theater, (1 full year course equivalent.)
 - D. at least 1 full year course in world languages during their high school program, (1 full year course)
 - E. at least 1 full year course of health and 1 full year course of physical education during their high school program, (2 full year course equivalent)

F. at least 1 full year computer science course during their high school program (1 full year course)

G. 1 full credit of community engagement activity (Knowledge Quest, Pecha Kucha, or other approved activity) (1 full year course equivalent/.25 per year but not part of the student's published schedule)

H. at least 5 elective full year (or 10 semesters) courses (arts, world language, vocational, or other electives including Alternative Pathway Experiences) (5 full year course equivalents)

Total Credits: 25 (including community engagement activity)

Total Courses: 24

Students following a traditional pathway must be enrolled in the equivalent of six full year courses and/or alternative pathway experiences in each of their high school years.

2. Grading and Credit Policy: See Board Policy IKA-1

3. GPA Calculation Policy: See Board Policy IKA-2

MLTI Laptop Home Use Procedures

1. It is the responsibility of the student and parents to know and follow the school's laptop use guidelines and Acceptable Use Policy. A complete copy of Vinalhaven School's Acceptable Use Policy can be viewed by visiting:

<http://www.vinalhavenschool.org/documents/AUP.pdf>

2. The Student Acceptable Use Policy applies to home use of MLTI laptops. However, the school does not provide Internet access for home use nor does its filtering service work in the home environment.

3. The laptop issued to each student is an educational tool and should only be used in this capacity. Students should have no expectations of privacy in their use of the laptop computer or any of the communications or electronic documents contained therein.

4. When a student brings a laptop home, it is with the expectation that it will be used in a common family location so that adult supervision can be maintained. Parents/Guardians have the right to their child's login passwords in order to maintain supervision of the student's computer usage at home.

5. Replacement and or repair costs for a damaged laptop, carrying case, plastic protective cover, or a/c power adaptor that are not covered by the MLTI warranty are the responsibility of the undersigned student and parent/guardian.

6. If a laptop is stolen while signed out by a student, it must be reported immediately to the Knox County Sheriff's Department and then to school administration. Parents will provide school officials a copy of the police report.

7. For the laptop to be taken off school property the parent must agree to buy into the school laptop repair fund. This cost is \$25 for the 2018-2019 school

year. The repair fund does not cover a lost or stolen laptop, a laptop damaged through liquid spill or damages as a result of neglect or intentional abuse/misuse.

8. The parent agrees to pay the first \$100 toward any non-warranty repair or loss/damage of peripheral equipment (case or power pack).

9. Students will lose take-home privileges of the laptop upon the second instance of major damage within a 4-year period. Major damage is defined as damages to the case, LCD screen, or any of the internal electronics as the result of neglect/misuse.

10. Students must bring their laptop, carrying case, and charger to school on a daily basis. Parents will be contacted promptly if a student returns to school without the computer, charger and/or case. The parent will be expected to immediately bring the laptop to school. The laptop must be in the protective sleeve when being transported to and from school and between classes.

11. Failure to comply with this policy and or other policies and guidelines related to computer use will result in a student's laptop sign-out privilege being revoked.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Note: The following activities will be offered depending upon student interest and the availability of coaches and advisors.

High school clubs, activities and sports:

- Varsity Girls Soccer
- Varsity Boys Soccer
- Varsity Girls Basketball
- Varsity Boys Basketball
- Varsity Baseball
- Varsity Softball
- Varsity Open Water Rowing
- French Club
- National Honor Society
- Math Team
- Student Leadership Team

Model United Nations

Middle School Clubs, Activities and Sports:

- Middle School Band
- 5-8 Girls Basketball
- 5-8 Boys Basketball
- Girls and Boys Cross Country
- Girls and Boys Soccer
- Middle School Open Water Rowing

Model United Nations

Elementary School Clubs, Activities and Sports:

- 4-5 Band
- Perspectives

LIBRARY

The library is a large facility with a significant collection to manage. We have a high school section and an elementary section; middle school students may use both sections as needed. Every effort is made to ensure that students find developmentally appropriate material. By working together in cooperation and collaboration, the library will truly be the heart of our school and students will become competent in the skills of information literacy. Below are some rules and guidelines for the library.

The library is open to all students throughout the entire day, except when there are scheduled classes or unless there is special event happening, like the book fair. Middle school & high school students should not come to the library during these closed times without permission from the librarian.

Library classes will be scheduled for grades K-5 on a regular basis.

Books, periodicals, videos and other library material (including AV equipment) may not leave the library without being checked out at the circulation desk. Students and teachers should make every effort to check out or sign up for materials and equipment ahead of time.

Every effort should be made to return material on or before their due date. Everything can be renewed and any student or teacher wishing to do so may see the librarian or e-mail the librarian.

Students who do not return or owe for lost library materials will not be able to check out any additional materials until the lost resources are found and returned or paid for. The failure to pay for or return overdue books will result in the costs of those books being added to the student's account. Per policy the student's accounts must be satisfied before the end of the senior year, in order to participate in graduation. However, they will be able to use material in the library.

Students who are disruptive in the library will be sent back to the class they came from with a note from the librarian.

RESPONSE TO INTERVENTION (RTI):

Revision of the RTI process is complete and is being piloted this school year. See Principal Kirkpatrick for details.

Special Education Referral Policy: Board Policy IHBA

School staff, parents, or agency representatives or other individuals with knowledge of the child may refer children to the IEP team if they believe that the student, because of a disability, may be in need of special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education. Such a referral should follow the school unit's pre-referral and referral policy.

It shall be the policy of Vinalhaven School SAD#8 to refer all school-age students suspected of having a disability that requires special education to the IEP Team for an evaluation in the suspected areas of disability. A referral of a student to the IEP Team may be made by parents at any time, and by professional school staff, and by other persons knowledgeable about the child's educational needs. Any such referral should be made in accordance with procedures that may be approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

Regardless of the source of the referral, a referral will be considered received by the school unit on the date that the written referral is received by the Office of the Director of Special Education. It shall be signed and dated by the Special Education Director or designee, thereby indicating the date of the receipt of that referral.

The Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with the Director of Special Education, may develop procedures for referral and the use of pre-referral interventions within the local school unit, and may from time to time amend those procedures as necessary.

Individualized Education Plans (IEP) Board Policy IHBA

It shall be the policy of Vinalhaven School, SAD#8 to maintain a complete individualized education program ("IEP") for each student who has been identified with a disability and in need of special education services under state and federal special education laws, and who is in attendance at Vinalhaven School, SAD#8 public schools. Vinalhaven School SAD#8 shall develop these IEPs in a manner consistent with the procedural requirements of state and federal special education laws.

Student IEPs shall be reasonably calculated to provide the identified student with educational benefits in the least restrictive educational environment. Vinalhaven School SAD#8 shall ensure that such IEPs are in effect within 30 days of when a student is first identified as in need of special education services, and in effect no later than the beginning of each school year for subsequent IEPs. All IEPs must be reviewed at least annually, as prescribed by state and federal special education laws.

Students who are Currently Identified with Special Needs

Classroom teachers will receive a list of modifications and copies of a student's IEP from the Special Education department for students who have an IEP. This information is covered under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT F 1973

Parent/Student Rights

The following is a description of the rights granted by the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) to students identified as disabled under that law. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions.

You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability;
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law;

3. Receive notice from the school with respect to identification, evaluation, educational program or placement of your child or the filing of a due process hearing;

4. Receive all information in the parent's/guardian's native language and primary mode of communication;

5. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-handicapped students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations necessary for your child to benefit from his or her educational program;

6. Have your child educated in comparable facilities and receive comparable services to those provided non-disabled students;

7. Have your child receive special education and related services if your child is found to be eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act;

8. Have evaluation, educational, and placement decisions based upon a variety of information sources, and made by persons familiar with the student, the evaluation data, and placement options;

9. Have re-evaluation of your child, to the extent needed, when deciding upon significant changes in your child's educational program;

10. Have your child receive an equal opportunity to participate in extra-curricular school activities;

11. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement;

12. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records;

13. A response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records;

14. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing.

15. File a grievance through local grievance procedures, file a complaint with the federal Office for Civil Rights, or request an impartial hearing on decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and the student may take part in the hearing and have an attorney represent you. Questions about how to request a hearing may be forwarded to Superintendent Roy Crawford at (207) 863-4800 or rcrawford@vinalhavenschool.org

16. Have the decisions made by hearing officers or others reviewed in state or federal court;

17. Information concerning low-cost or free legal counseling
The staff members in this district who are responsible for assuring that the district complies with Section 504 are Ann Kirkpatrick, Principal and the Guidance

Counselor, who can be reached at (207)863-4800 or akirkpatrick@vinalhavenschool.org.

Upon request, this notice is available in large print and on audio tape from the ADA/504 compliance coordinators.

Student Restraint and Seclusion Policies can be found at: JKG-VH and JKAA-R

STUDENT HEALTH

School Health Center

Our School Based Health Center is a collaborative effort between Vinalhaven School and Islands Community Medical Center (ICMC). Local health care professionals provide students with improved access to healthcare, participate in health education, and encourage collaboration between teachers and health care providers to create the best learning environment possible. If you are interested in scheduling an appointment at the SBHC, call the ICMC at 863-4341.

Mental Health

Students and families can receive ongoing confidential counseling services without having to travel to the mainland provided by an ICMS school based social worker. For more information on this service, or to make a referral, please contact the guidance counselor.

Insurance

M.S.A.D. # 8 offers optional membership in a 24-hour group insurance plan for a reasonable fee. A brochure will be sent home with your child that will describe the program. We encourage you to review this information to determine whether this additional coverage is appropriate for your needs.

Medication

No student is allowed to keep medication of any kind with them or in school desks or lockers (with the exception of inhaled asthma medication or an epinephrine auto-injector if the student has written permission from the parent/guardian or physician). Prescribed medications must be kept with the school secretary in the school office. The School Board strongly discourages the administration of drugs in school. Whenever possible, we ask that medications be taken at home. When medications must be administered during the school day it must be administered in compliance with the following guidelines:

Self-Administered

Self-administered medication falls into two (2) categories. Medication prescribed for a short time (up to 10 days) and those prescribed for a chronic or permanent condition. Students with a valid medical need for medication will be required to self-administer the medication under the supervision of school personnel, if the following conditions are met:

- a) The school must have written or oral parent/guardian permission
- b) The student is, in the parent's opinion, physically and mentally capable of assuming that responsibility and has been adequately instructed at home.
- c) No parent/guardian is available during school hours to administer the medicine.
- d) The medication is necessary to the student's health and well-being and must be taken during school hours.

e) Supervision will be by the school nurse, when available, or the school secretary. If a student is unable to self-administer a vital medication and the parents/guardians are not available, only the Principal, School Nurse, Guidance Counselor, or Secretary may administer the medication given the following:

- a) Written permission from parents/guardian or physician
- b) Principal, Guidance Counselor, and Secretary have all received training from a registered professional nurse or physician.

Physicals and Screenings

Physical examinations are given each year at the Medical Center. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to contact the Medical Center to arrange the appointment(s) for their child(ren). Required:

- Complete school physical - all students in grades 2, 5, 8, & 11.
- Sports Physicals for students participating in sports programs.
- Vision screening - all students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9. The Lion's Club Sight Program makes eyeglasses available to those students whose family is in need. A recommendation from the Principal is required.
- Hearing tests - all students in grades K, 1, 3, 5 & 11.

Illness at School

There are a number of infectious diseases common to school aged children. In order to protect the student body from infection, please abide by the following guidelines regarding the following illnesses: Call the school and/or your health care provider if you have any questions.

If your child is sick, please keep him/her home. Do not give sick children Tylenol or other symptom suppressing medication and send them to school.

Colds and Seasonal Influenza

For your child's welfare and for the protection of others, it is important to keep your child at home if s/he has:

- * A fever over 100 degrees during the past 24 hours;
- * A cold in the active stages;
- * A sore throat and/or swollen glands;
- * An undiagnosed rash or skin eruptions;
- * Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours

Chicken Pox

A student may return to school after all pox marks have been scabbed over as determined by a health professional; otherwise the student will be sent home. Please submit written evidence to the school office prior to sending your child to school.

Head Lice

From time-to-time, an epidemic of head lice breaks out in a school. If a teacher suspects lice, s/he will notify the administration in order to verify the case and the staff will do a general "as needed" check. The school staff will contact the parents of the confirmed cases in order for treatment to commence immediately. A note will go home to parents of students in the same wing (Elementary, Middle, or High) when there is a confirmed case of head lice. The student(s) may come back to school when s/he has a note from the Medical Center, or other medical professional.

Pink Eye

Students may return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun for pink eye.

Scabies

If a teacher suspects a case of scabies, the school secretary will notify the parent/guardian. The student is required to visit the Medical Center or other medical facility for verification and treatment. The student may return to school at the conclusion of treatment and with written permission from a medical doctor.

TRANSPORTATION

Drop Off Guidelines

Playground supervision begins at 7:40 am.

On good weather days, elementary school students should be dropped off in front of the playground. Middle and high school students should be dropped off in front of the entrance to the school building.

On bad weather days, all students should be dropped off in front of the entrance to the school building.

PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY AROUND THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE.

DO NOT PASS OTHER VEHICLES WHILE IN THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE.

Pick Up Guidelines

We kindly ask parents to wait in the lobby or on the porch area to meet their children.

Parking

Parents who wish to accompany their children onto the playground or into the school building must park in the parking lot. The traffic circle in front of the school is intended for the bus and for cars dropping off and picking up students only. There is no parking in the traffic circle and at no time should a vehicle be left unattended. All drivers in the traffic circle should use extreme care as the playground is very close to the traffic circle.

The privilege of operating and parking on school property may be revoked if the driver operates in such a manner to endanger life and/or property.

Other Transportation and After School Guidelines

After School Plans for Elementary School Students

Teachers will follow the transportation plan that parent/guardians completed for their child the first week of school. Your child needs a note if s/he is to go someplace other than the location designated on the transportation plan after school. Please make sure notes come in with your child and are given to your child's teacher before school starts. A "blanket note" may be sent for regularly scheduled events.

A student who plans to go to another student's house after school must bring in a note saying so. Students may not call parents to get permission for one child to go to another child's house. These types of plans must be made before or after, but not during school

After the bus leaves, the school does not provide supervision for students.

Elementary-aged children who want to attend an after school activity, as a spectator, must be supervised by their parents/guardians.

Students Transporting Students

During school hours, students may only transport other students with permission from the parent/guardian of both students and permission of school administration.

Closed Campus

In accordance with school policy, Vinalhaven School maintains a closed campus. Consequently, all students must remain on school grounds for the entire school day.

Bicycles

Bicycles can be ridden to school, but the owner is accepting risk when leaving bikes on school property. Bicycles should be kept in the bike rack near the middle school wing.

Student Visitors

Students not enrolled in Vinalhaven School are not permitted on school premises during the school day. Permission may be granted, in special circumstances by the Superintendent or Principal for students to participate in class. Two weeks notice is requested. All school visitors must check in with the school secretary and obtain a visitor's pass upon arrival. As it is important to know who is in the building at all times.

School Bus Transportation: Board Policy EEA

M.S.A.D. # 8 is required by law to provide transportation to the school grounds. To accommodate students, bus stops are planned for several key pick-up spots throughout the town. But, legal school supervision doesn't begin until the student is on the bus. To help improve the ride to school, we urge parents to discuss proper school bus behavior with their children. The school bus is considered school grounds and disruptive, disrespectful or unsafe behavior may result in suspension from riding the bus or other punishment according to the school's behavior policy. All school rules apply for the bus. If your child reports an incident that occurred on the bus to you, please contact the school immediately.

Bus routes will be determined considering:

1. Pick up and drop off location safety and accessibility.
2. Road conditions.
3. The time it takes to complete a run.

School Bus Safety Code Board Policy JICC

The Vinalhaven School provides students with bus service for their convenience and safety. In order to keep the ride to and from school safe for everyone, students must behave in a responsible and respectful manner. Following the rules below will help to keep our bus safe and comfortable for everyone.

1. Be at the bus stop early and wait respectfully for the bus in a safe place away from the road
2. Be respectful to the bus driver and follow his/her directions
3. Be respectful to other students and talk quietly with others

4. All elementary students (K-5) should sit in the front of the red line
5. Stay in your seat at all times when the bus is moving
6. Keep hands, arms and head inside of bus at all times
7. When leaving the bus, do not walk close to the front - be sure the bus driver can see you
8. Look both ways before you cross the road
9. If you forget something, do not go back and get it. The bus driver can't see you if you are too close to the front of the bus.
10. If you need to cross the street, cross ten feet in front of the bus when the driver directs you to move.
11. No animal is permitted to be on the bus.
12. Food and drink are not permitted to be open on the bus.
13. All discipline problems will be communicated to the Principal.
14. No flammable or combustible materials should be taken on the bus.
15. No smoking on the bus.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone Use for Students

Students are discouraged from using the school phone. On rare occasions when students need to call home for urgent matter, they must request permission from their classroom teachers to use the office phone.

Messages for Students

We ask that all necessary after-school arrangements be made at home so phone calls to the school are not necessary. However, we realize that occasionally real emergencies do arise. In such cases, the school secretary will deliver your message to your child's teacher.

Communication Guidelines for Parents

Phone Messages- to school secretary

Email

- email is a great way to communicate basic information or ask straight forward questions of a teacher.
- email is not good for the following information:
 - *extended discussions
 - *communicating dissatisfaction about a teacher's style, activity, assignment,grading, etc. (please use email to set up an appointment to discuss concerns)
 - *communication about someone else's child
 - *cancel an appointment at the last minute (please call the office)
 - *urgent communication requiring a immediate response (again, please call the office)

Appeal Process

Decisions made by teachers, coaches, principal, which involve suspension from classrooms, courses, school, games, teams, etc. may be appealed through the following chain of authority. All appeals must be made to the appellant within five days.

Teacher Decision appeal to Principal, then Superintendent, then Board

Coach's Decision appeal to Athletic Director, then Principal then Superintendent, then Board
Principal Decision appeal to Superintendent then Board.

Senior Privileges Dismissal

Seniors who accumulated 17 or more credits after six semesters of high school are eligible. In addition, students must be carrying at least five credits, in 2018-19 and six credits beginning in the school year 2019 including Principal approved dual enrollment online college courses. Seniors eligible for these privileges can leave campus only during period 1 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 7 every day if there is not an all school activity. Seniors must always be "on pace" in all courses in order to be eligible for these privileges. Students may not sign out during periods when their dual enrollment course is scheduled.

Seniors begin the year with privileges for limited dismissal after bringing in a signed parent/guardian consent form after meeting the criteria. Students must sign in and out at the main office. While off campus, during senior privileges all students will adhere to expected behaviors as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

Senior Privilege Dismissal will be reviewed at the High School Grade Level Team Meeting. School officials reserve the right to remove a student's privilege for attendance and behavioral reasons and/or if it is deemed in the best interest of the student. It is the responsibility of the student to check in with his/her homeroom teacher to determine if privileges have been restored.

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS POLICY: Board Policy JEA

Regular attendance at school is essential for students' academic and social growth. Under the No Child Left Behind Law, all schools must meet average daily attendance (ADA) goals set by the state and federal governments. Schools that fail to meet ADA goals are placed on the 'continuing improvement' list and subject to state and federal sanctions. Furthermore, according to Maine state law, attendance at school is required of all persons between 7 and 17 years of age with a few, limited exceptions. For all these reasons, and most importantly in response to the negative effects of absenteeism on academic achievement, Vinalhaven School takes regular attendance very seriously. Unexcused absences will result in the loss of academic credit for the day of the unexcused absence as well as detentions and suspensions.

Excused absences can include:

1. Personal illness;
2. An appointment with a health professional that must be made during the regular school day;
3. Observance of a recognized religious holiday when the observance is required during the regular school day;
4. A family emergency
5. A pre-approved planned family absence for a personal or educational purpose.*

*If parents plan for their student to be absent for an extended period of time (5 days or more), they must contact the Principal, who will sent up a meeting with the

parents and the teachers to develop a plan to get the student on pace with the rest of their classmates within an agreed timeframe.

When a student must be absent from school a note and/or phone call is required from the student's parent or guardian stating the date of the absence, the reason for the absence and the signature of the parent or guardian. Please inform school officials as soon as possible that your child will be absent from school.

If the school does not hear from a parent/guardian prior to a student's return to school the absence will be considered unexcused. Any absence that does not meet the criteria set by the state for an excused absence will be considered unexcused.

Leaving During the School Day

Students who are leaving school early must bring in a note from a parent/ guardian or have a parent/guardian contact the school. Students leaving school early, without permission, will be issued an in-school suspension. **All students are required to check out with the school secretary when leaving early. Senior privileges must sign in and out, as well as adhere to code of conduct while off campus.**

VINALHAVEN SCHOOL K-12 BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS (Board Policy JK)

In order to ensure an excellent learning environment, all members of the school community are expected to be FAIR, HONEST, KIND, RESPECTFUL, and RESPONSIBLE.

In most cases, when a student is not meeting these expectations, the classroom teacher will handle the situation using classroom management strategies and discipline and/or conflict resolution. The steps and strategies that the classroom teachers and administrators take are based on the developmental needs of the student. While our behavior system is designed to be used for all students, some aspects of it are more applicable to elementary students, such as playground rules, and some are more applicable to middle and high school students, such as detentions and suspensions. Behavior issues should be handled by the Classroom Teacher before referral to the Principal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

If it becomes necessary for a student to be sent to the office, he/she must go directly to the office and wait to see the Principal. The Principal will exercise her judgement and deal with the situation using a range of options from speaking with the student and issuing a warning, to (in extreme cases such as possession of a weapon) referring the student to the superintendent and the Board for expulsion from school. Parents will be contacted as deemed appropriate by the principal

Student Behavior on Sports Teams (Board Policy JJJ)

Consequences for inappropriate behavior in this section pertains to infractions by a student participant that occur during their sports season (basketball, baseball, soccer, rowing) or co-curricula season (theater, music, model state etc).

An infraction involving use of tobacco, drugs or alcohol must be verifiable through law enforcement or judicial reports, by self-admission of the student, or by Vinalhaven staff direct observation or verified third-party report.

Improper conduct, as determined by the Athletic Director/coach, Activity Director/advisor and/or administration shall result in consequences of up to and

including removal/suspension from the team or activity (in addition to any discipline imposed under applicable Board policies or school rules). The Athletic/Activity Directors and coaches/advisors are expected to enforce all policies and school rules at all times and to use their best judgment in applying penalties for violations. The advisor or coach shall consult with the Athletic Director and Principal prior to suspending a student from an activity or team.

For infractions involving drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco, disciplinary action will be taken as specified below. Coaches/activity advisors may not impose additional disciplinary consequences. Repeat or extreme violations will warrant administrative review and additional sanctions. Violations are cumulative during a student's middle school career, but do not carry over to the high school unless the MS student is in a Varsity Sport or HS sponsored activity. Violations during a student's high school career are cumulative.

Attendance and Tardiness

A. Any student absent from school cannot participate in a practice, game, or co-curricular event on that respective day/night. If a medical note is given or prior arrangements have been made with the office, athletic director, or co-curricular instructor, the student may be able to participate.

B. If a student is at school, s/he shall attend practice that day unless prior arrangements have been made or if it is an excused absence.

C. Unless excused, tardiness will not be tolerated.

D. Please check with co-curricular instructor and/or the Athletic Handbook for further information regarding attendance and tardiness policy.

E.

Drug and Alcohol Tobacco Violations (Board Policy JJJ)

Activity/Leadership Positions (Board Policy JJJ)

A student elected to a leadership position for an activity/team forfeits that position. This meeting shall be facilitated by the Guidance Counselor / Principal and attended by the Activity Director/Athletic Director and the coach/advisor. A final decision will be made by the Coach/Athletic Director or Advisor/Activity Director, taking into consideration the recommendation of the students. A second violation at any time during the student's middle school or high school career will result in the loss of any leadership designation held.

Appeal of Suspension from Activity / Team (Policy JJJ)

*A student who wishes to appeal a suspension from a team/activity must first discuss the matter with his/her advisor or coach.

*Following that discussion, if the student and his/her parent/guardian wishes to appeal the suspension, it must be done in writing to the Athletic Director/Activity Director within three school days of notice of the suspension decision. The Athletic Director / Activity Director will conduct an investigation as he/she deems advisable and render a decision, in writing, to the student.

*If the student and his/her parent/guardian are dissatisfied with this decision, the decision may be appealed in writing to the Principal within three school days. The Principal will conduct whatever investigation he/she deems advisable and render a decision, in writing, to his/her parents within a reasonable time. The Principal's decision is final.

*The student shall remain under suspension during the appeal process.

Behavioral Suspension with respects to eligibility

Students suspended from school shall not practice, participate, attend, or compete in extra- or co-curricular activities (including tryouts and auditions) during the period of the suspension.

Bullying Policy (Board Policy JICK Ef1-E4)

The school board has passed a bullying policy. Bullying, as defined in this policy, is not acceptable conduct in SAD 8 and is prohibited. Any student who engages in conduct that constitutes bullying shall be subject to disciplinary consequences up to and including suspension and expulsion. A student's bullying behavior may also be addressed through other behavioral intervention. Please refer to the Bullying Policy itself (JICK) located in the policy book in the superintendent's office for further information.

K-12 Dress Code (Board Policy JICA)

Students have the right to wear clothing that allows for free expression. But, there are legal exceptions to what individuals can wear. For example, students cannot wear items that advertise or promote activities that are illegal for minors. By law, students are not permitted to wear articles of clothing or anything worn on the body that:

1. Includes advertising for products that are illegal for a minor.
2. Include vulgar, obscene or sexual material (this includes but not limited to Hooters, and Yankees S**K shirts).
3. Is disruptive to the instructional or educational opportunities of others. This includes overly revealing clothing such as clothes that by design, or because of holes or tears, reveal bust, cleavage, stomach, sides, backs, bottoms or underwear when either standing or sitting; extremely tight clothing or garments shorter than mid-thigh (otherwise known as the fingertip rule: hem lines are not above the fingertips when hands are held down at sides). Shirt straps must be at least two fingers wide.
4. Poses a safety threat or suggests violence.

Parents are asked to work with the school to ensure a respectful and safe learning environment for all our K-12 community. Students violating the dress code will be asked to change clothes and may be sent home. Students who repeatedly violate the dress code will be considered for an SAT, detention, and/or suspension.

Public Display of Affection

Public display of affection is prohibited at Vinalhaven School. Students are subject to disciplinary action for public displays of affection.

Pre-K-12 Student Contact

Vinalhaven School was designed on the premise that students at different development levels have different academic and social needs. This premise is reflected in the four wings of the school (Pre-K-1, 2-5, 6-8, 9-12). Vinalhaven School works to maximize the benefits of our Pre-K-12 school-community by planning structured multi-age learning activities. Students are only permitted in wings other than their own with permission from a staff member.

Hats

As a show of respect, hats will not be worn in the school building during the school day. A student wearing a hat will be asked to remove it.

STUDENT USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES: Board Policy JICJ

The Board recognizes that many students possess electronic devices including those with communication capabilities. The purpose of this policy is to regulate student the use of cell phones and other electronic devices in order to provide a school environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.

The Board believes that students learn most effectively when classrooms are free of unnecessary disruptions. Devices that may interrupt or distract the teacher and students have no place in the classroom and use of such devices is prohibited unless for educational purposes expressly permitted or assigned by the classroom teacher. Examples of such devices include but are not limited to: cell phones, camera phones, iPhones, iPods, personal digital assistants, pagers, electronic games, handheld computers, head phones, ear buds, and other electronic devices with similar capabilities. The principal may grant an exception to this policy for medical or emergency reasons.

M.S.A.D. #8 shall not be responsible for the loss, theft, or damage to cell phones or other electronic devices that students bring with them to school or school activities or use on school transportation.

Use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited at all times during the school day except at lunch time after the student has obtained his/her lunch. As authorized by the school staff, exceptions may be made when students are on buses, during field trips, and at extracurricular activities.

The use of headphones and ear buds are expressly forbidden in hallways and other common areas. Teachers may use discretion as to when they may be used within their classrooms. However, in all instances, the use should have an educational purpose.

The following guidelines apply to use of electronic devices at any time on school property or at any school event:

A. Electronic devices may not be used to harass, intimidate or bully another person.

B. Electronic devices may not be used to engage in conduct that constitutes academic dishonesty.

C. Electronic Devices may not be used to photograph or record any person in a bathroom, locker room or other place where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. In other parts of the school, students are required to obtain permission before photographing or recording any individual.

D. Electronic devices may not be used in any manner that violates law, School Committee policies or student conduct rules.

When a student violates this policy, the school may take any or all of the following actions, depending upon the circumstances and nature of the violation:

1. The teacher may give a warning to student to put the electronic device away.
2. The teacher or principal/designee may confiscate the device and return it to the student at the end of the school day.
3. The principal/designee may confiscate the device and release it only to the student's parent/guardian. At the discretion of the principal/designee, the student may be prohibited from possessing a personal electronic device on school property or at any school-sponsored activity for a period of time.
4. The student will be subject to disciplinary consequences up to and including expulsion. Law enforcement authorities will be contacted when required or as deemed appropriate.

Language

Profanity and/or vulgar language is not allowed. Students should not use vulgar language or profanity on school grounds or on any school related function.

Written material, printed or in their own handwriting, that is racially divisive or creates ill will or hatred and which includes by way of example clothing, articles, materials, publications, etc, is strictly prohibited.

Discrimination/Harassment (Board Policy AC)

Discrimination against and harassment of students because of race, color, sex, religion, ancestry or national origin or disability are prohibited. No person should be made to feel uncomfortable because of verbal or written remarks. Harassment is unacceptable social behavior. In the event that you have been made to feel

harassed/discriminated against or know of a situation where another student was harassed or discriminated against, please talk with the Principal or Guidance Counselor.

Sexual Harassment (Board Policy ACAA)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-86) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education. Title IX established that "no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance." Please report any incident of sexual harassment to the Principal or Guidance Counselor.

School Damage Board Policy JICB)

According to state law, any person who damages school property or aids in the damage of school property has committed a civil offense and shall pay twice the amount of the damage to the school. In the event, the individual is a minor, the school district may recover this amount from the parents (see 20-A.M.R.S.A. §. 6805 - 6806).

Damage to School Materials (Board Policy JICB)

According to state law, a student who loses, destroys, or unnecessarily injures a school book or appliance furnished to the student at the expense of the school, and the parents do not make good the loss within 45 working days, the school board shall report the case to town assessors who shall include the amount in the next municipal tax (see 20-A.M.R.S.A. § 6807).

Assault Board Policy JICIA

Any assault or unprovoked physical attack on a student or staff member is a very serious matter. The penalties for assault, depending upon the seriousness and circumstances of the offense, shall range from a one-day suspension to expulsion from school. Law enforcement officials may be contacted.

Weapons Board Policy JICIA

By federal and state law, possession or use of any object that is commonly used to inflict harm or to intimidate are not allowed on school property (e.g., guns, knives, etc.). Students who violate this policy will be subject to immediate disciplinary action, which may include confiscation of the weapon, suspension, referral to law enforcement, and expulsion, as appropriate. As required by the Free School Zones Act of 1994, any student who is found to have brought a firearm onto school property shall be expelled by the School Board for a period of no less than one year. The Superintendent may modify this suspension on a case-by-case basis.

Bomb Threat Board Policy EBCC

A bomb threat constitutes not only a violation of school policy but also a violation of civil and criminal law. Making a bomb threat is strictly unacceptable behavior for any student. Any student, upon verification by local authorities, self-admittance, or

substantiated evidence, of making a bomb threat will be recommended for expulsion. Furthermore, consistent with the adoption of the Student Code of Conduct Title 20-A, MRSA, Section 1001 (15), the school will provide information to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

The school's emergency response to a bomb threat will be detailed in the school's "Crisis Plan".

By law, lost instructional time or disrupted programs due to a bomb threat will be rescheduled at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

STUDENT DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO PREVENTION POLICY **(Board Policy JICH)**

In order to promote the highest possible standards of learning, as well as the physical, social and emotional well-being of students, this policy is designed to: aid students in abstaining from the unlawful use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs; provide for early intervention when use is detected; and, provide disciplinary action when necessary. Compliance with this policy is mandatory.

Any school staff member who has reason to suspect that a student has violated this policy is expected to report the incident to an appropriate administrator immediately.

A. Prevention

The Vinalhaven School will provide students with information and activities focused on abstaining from the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. Such information and activities will address the legal, social and health consequences of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and will provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco. The Vinalhaven School will work in partnership with students, parents/guardians and local law enforcement officials to eliminate these risks for all students.

B. Intervention

The Vinalhaven School has a Guidance Counselor / Principal to provide non-clinical chemical health assessments, assist students in addressing their harmful involvement with chemicals and in continuing their educational program. Information will be provided, as appropriate, about drug, alcohol or tobacco counseling and treatment, and programs that are available to students.

C. Rules and Sanctions

Students are prohibited from consuming, possessing, furnishing, selling, receiving, buying, manufacturing or being under the influence of prohibited substances before, during and after school hours, at school, in any school building, on any school premises, in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities, off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function (such as a field trip or athletic event) where students are under the jurisdiction of the school unit, or at any time or place if the conduct directly interferes with the operation, discipline or welfare of the schools.

The term "prohibited substance" shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Alcohol;
2. Scheduled drugs (as defined in 17-A MRSA § 1101);
3. Controlled substances (as defined in the federal Controlled Substances Act, 21 USC § 812);
4. Tobacco products of any kind;
5. Prescription drugs not prescribed for the student and/or not in compliance with the Board's policy on administering medications to students (see Board policy JLCD);
6. Any substance or behavior which can affect or change a student's mental, physical or behavior pattern, including but not limited to volatile materials such as glue, paint or aerosols (when possessed for the purpose of inhalation) or steroids;
7. Paraphernalia - implements used for distribution or consumption of a prohibited substance; or
8. Any look-alike drug or substance that is described as or is purported to be a prohibited substance defined in this section.

Any violation of the terms of this policy shall constitute sufficient grounds for student discipline, including suspension or expulsion from school, at the appropriate discretion of the administration and the Board. Law enforcement authority may also be notified of violations of this policy.

Voluntary Referrals and the Substance Abuse Coordinator

1. Any school staff member who has a concern or is approached by a student(s) about a substance abuse or tobacco problem shall refer the student(s) to the Guidance Counselor / Principal.
2. Parents/guardians or students who have a concern about a student's possible substance abuse or tobacco problem are encouraged to notify the Guidance Counselor / Principal of their concern. However, such referrals can not be used to avoid disciplinary action after a known violation of the policy.
3. A student concerned about his or her own substance abuse or tobacco problems may seek the assistance of the Guidance Counselor / Principal. Self-referral will not result in any disciplinary action. However, a student may not use self-referral to avoid disciplinary action after a known violation of the policy.
4. The Guidance Counselor / Principal will meet with the student and his/her parents/guardians (if appropriate), perform a non-clinical chemical health assessment and develop an action plan to meet the student's particular needs.
5. Confidentiality of student information concerning substance abuse issues will be maintained in accordance with state and federal laws.

Discipline

The following progressive intervention and disciplinary procedures are intended as guidelines only. The administration reserves the discretion to impose consequences up to and including a recommendation for expulsion for any violation of the Board's drug, alcohol and tobacco policy. In determining the level of discipline, the administration may consider any relevant facts and circumstances, including but not

limited to the nature of the violation, the student's grade level, the student's behavior accompanying the violation, the student's willingness to cooperate with the investigation and any action plan developed with the Substance Abuse Prevent Coordinator, and the student's prior disciplinary record.

Disciplinary Action - Alcohol and Drug Violations

A. Consuming, possessing, receiving or being under the influence of a prohibited substance.

FIRST OFFENSE

The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the prohibited substance and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student;
3. Notify and meet with parents/guardians;
4. Notify the Superintendent and Law Enforcement; and
5. Suspend the student from school for five days.

The parent will meet the SAT and determine if further assessment is needed or recommended.

The student must participate in a non-clinical chemical health assessment with the Substance Prevention Abuse Coordinator.

SECOND OFFENSE

The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the prohibited substance and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student, parents/guardians and Guidance Counselor / Principal to develop a follow-up plan;
3. Notify the Superintendent and Law Enforcement;
4. Suspend the student from school for seven days.

If the student fails to comply with the SAT follow-up plan developed with the Guidance Counselor / Principal, this may result in further disciplinary action.

THIRD OFFENSE

The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the prohibited substance and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student and parents/guardians;
3. Recommend to parents/guardians that student be referred for clinical chemical health evaluation;
4. Notify the Superintendent and Law Enforcement;
5. Suspend the student from school for ten days and may recommend expulsion.

B. Furnishing, selling, buying or manufacturing a prohibited substance.

The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the prohibited substance and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student and parents/guardians;
3. Notify the Superintendent and Law Enforcement;
4. Suspend the student for ten days and may recommend expulsion.

Disciplinary Action - All Tobacco Violations

The student must meet with the Guidance Counselor / Principal.

SECOND OFFENSE

The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the tobacco product and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student and parents/guardians;
3. Notify the Superintendent,
4. Three day suspension.

The student must meet with the Guidance Counselor / Principal to develop a follow-up plan. If the student fails to comply with the plan, this may result in further disciplinary action.

THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES

The administrator will:

1. Confiscate the tobacco product and verify offense;
2. Meet with the student and parents/guardians;
3. Notify the Superintendent;
4. Five day suspension.

Procedures at School Functions

If a violation of this policy occurs at a school function, staff will take the following steps:

1. If there is a medical emergency, standard school procedures shall be followed.
2. The student shall be removed from the function and/or returned to school. The student should not be left unsupervised.
3. Call the parents/guardians (or emergency card contact) to pick up the student.
4. Notify the building administrator (and Superintendent if appropriate).
5. Notify Law Enforcement.
6. The administrator will follow the disciplinary procedure outlined in this policy.

Wellness: Board Policy JL

The Board recognizes that student wellness and good nutrition are related to students' physical and psychological well being and their readiness to learn. The Board is committed to providing a school environment that supports student wellness, healthy food choices, nutrition education, and regular physical activity. The Board believes that students who learn and practice healthy lifestyles in their formative years may be more likely to be conscious of the importance of good nutrition and exercise as adults, practice healthy habits, and reduce their risk of obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases.

YOUR LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: Board Policy JI

You have many fundamental rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution. But, as a guide of action, your rights cannot infringe on instructional or other educational activities.

Right to be Treated Fairly

According to the Fourteenth Amendment, every United States citizen has the right to be treated fairly and equally. This is known as the due process of law. In the event

you are accused of a school offense that would warrant a suspension, you have the right to a hearing before a person or people who are impartial (i.e., they have not been involved in the event). If you have been accused of an action that could lead to a suspension of more than ten days, you are entitled to be represented by a lawyer.

Free Expression - Your right to express your opinions and associations

Students can express opinions in T-shirts, buttons, armbands, newsletters, etc. But, as ruled by law, you can't express yourself:

1. Through the use of obscene, vulgar, or sexual language
2. By wearing clothing that advertises products or services not permitted to minors by law or are illegal. So, those students under the age of 21, can't wear clothing items with tobacco manufacturers' logos, slogans, etc. or alcohol brewers' logos, slogans, etc.
3. With untruthful or defamatory written or spoken information about a teacher, administrator, or other student. This is libel.

With the above in mind, all school-sponsored publications must be approved by the Principal prior to publication. If the school approves a publication supporting one side of a controversial issue, they must also approve a publication supporting the counter view.

Right to Access Student Records Board Policy JRA-E

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), your parents have the right to review your student records. You also have the right to ask school officials to interpret the information if needed. If your parents contest any information, this must become a permanent part of the record. The school must respond to your request within 45 days. The school reserves the right to charge a reasonable fee for copying of records. After your 18th birthday, you will have the right to review your records or request a physician or other professional to have access to your information. The Principal will determine, in accordance with state and federal law, what information can be released.

Rights of Eighteen-Year-Old Students Board Policy JRA

When a student reaches the age of 18, he or she shall have the following rights:

1. He or she may sign his or her own absence notes, though school officials may require satisfactory verification as to the cause of the absence.
2. He or she may sign his or her own permission slips for field trips.
3. He or she may authorize or limit access to his or her own school records.
4. He or she may withdraw from school without permission of a parent or guardian.

Student Searches Board Policy JIH

If the school has "reasonable suspicion" that a locker contains something illegal, the Principal can legally search it without permission. But, the school can't conduct a random search of all students due to suspicion of one or more students. If a teacher believes s\he has witnessed you engaged in illegal behavior, such as selling, using, or buying drugs, you can be asked to empty your pockets or have your backpack searched.

Your Right to Religious Expression and Observance

Under the First Amendment, your religious beliefs and right to religious expression is protected. Your parents have the right to ask you to be excused from some school activities that they feel conflicts with your religious beliefs. You have the right to pray or meet with others to engage in religious expression. But, your teacher can't subject you to a prayer. And, student-led prayer is equally unconstitutional. You can form a student Bible club but it must meet the following criteria: (1) take place in non-school hours; and (2) not be led or organized by any school staff member. And, a graduation prayer, such as a baccalaureate service, must be organized by non-school officials and held off of school property.

OTHER RIGHTS

Military Recruitment Board Policy JRA-E

As part of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation, the school is required to notify parents before:

- (1) Release of student names, addresses, and telephone numbers to military recruiters and institutions of higher education upon request;
- (2) Releasing such information, schools must notify parents of their right to request that no information be released without written consent.

A letter will be sent home at the beginning of the school year in which parents/guardians can indicate whether or not they want their child's directory information released.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

According to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98), parents must be notified with a request for permission to survey students when this information involves the following:

- (a) Political affiliations;
- (b) Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student and his/her family;
- (c) Sex behavior and attitudes;
- (d) Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
- (e) Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- (f) Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
- (g) Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program)

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Board Policy JRA-E

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S.

Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

Civil Rights: Board Policy AC

No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age or disability be subjected to unlawful discrimination under any program or activity conducted by or which receives Federal financial assistance. Discrimination includes: denial of services, aids, or benefits, provision of different service or in a different manner, and segregation or separate treatment. In addition, sex discrimination is prohibited in federally assisted educational programs.

The office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education serving our area is in Boston, MA. The address is:

US Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights
33 Arch St., Suite 900
Boston, MA 02110-1491

CHILD FIND POLICY Board Policy IHBAC

Vinalhaven School SAD#8 seeks to ensure that all children within its jurisdiction are identified, located and evaluated who are school-age 5 through the school year in which they turn 20 and who are in need of special education and supportive assistance, including homeless children, state wards, state agency clients, students who have been suspended or expelled, children attending private schools receiving home instruction, children incarcerated in county jails, children who have the equivalent of 10 full days of unexcused absences or 7 consecutive school days of unexcused absences during a school year, highly mobile children (including migrant or homeless), and children who are suspected of being disabled and in need of special education and supportive assistance even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

The Vinalhaven School SAD#8 child find responsibility shall be accomplished through a District-wide process, which, while not a definitive or final judgment of a student's capabilities or disability, is a possible indicator of special education needs. Final identification of students with disabilities and programming for such students occurs only after an appropriate evaluation and a determination by the IEP Team.

This child find process shall include obtaining data on each child through multiple measures, direct assessment, and parent information regarding the child's academic and functional performance, gross and fine motor skills, receptive and expressive language skills, vision, hearing and cognitive skills. Vinalhaven School SAD#8 may schedule child find activities during its annual kindergarten enrollment to assist in planning for necessary special education and related service at the start of the school year. If screening occurs in the spring prior to school entry, Vinalhaven School SAD#8 will refer the child to the regional CDS site within 10 school days.

If the child find process indicates that a student may require special education and supportive services in order to benefit from regular education, the student shall be referred to the IEP Team to determine the student's eligibility for special education services.

SCHOOL PESTICIDES POLICY NOTIFICATION Board Policy ECB

Pest Control

Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds at our school focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent the pests from

becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and--as a last resort--pesticides. This holistic approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Pesticide Use

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and parents, guardians and staff have a right to know.

Your Right to Know

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the school. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications during the regular school year. In addition, for pesticides applied anytime during the year, notices will also be posted in the school and on school grounds two working days before until 48 hours after the application. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff.

The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the School's Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Pesticides in Schools regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM coordinator, Alan Koenig, at (207) 863-4800.

If you have any questions, please contact Roy Crawford at (207) 863-4800. For further information about pests, pesticides and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM web site at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm .

Please remember this document does not cover all possible situations- Ann