

# H A N D B O O K

## 2009-2010

**A handbook for the guidance of teachers, students and parents**

HARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
20670 Walker St.  
Harrah, Oklahoma  
73045

Harrah High School	347-2100
Harrah Junior High School	347-2900
Harrah Middle School	347-2700
Russell Babb Elementary	347-2200
Clara Reynolds Elementary	347-2500
Virginia Smith Elementary	347-2400
Administrative Offices	454-6244
Special Services	347-2824

### **NOTIFICATION STATEMENT**

Harrah Public Schools does not knowingly discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, age, national origin, qualified individual with disability, or status as a Vietnam era or disabled veteran. This policy encompasses recruitment, selection, assignment, promotion, transfer, termination, compensation, training or apprenticeship, associated with employment. This policy also extends to the admission and access to educational programs and activities operated by the District.

This is in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The Harrah Schools adheres to the equal employment opportunity guidelines set forth by the state and federal laws.

# HARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## FORWARD

Students old and new, we extend you a hearty welcome to Harrah Public Schools. This is your school handbook which has been prepared to acquaint you with the school and to guide you and new students as they enter our school. The sooner each of you become informed about our activities, traditions, customs and regulations, the happier and more successful you will be in our school. Assure yourself of making the most of your years in school by being familiar with the contents of your handbook. Parents, this handbook has been published for you as well as for your child. Its purpose is to provide you with information that may prove useful in understanding the policy of Harrah Schools. As a parent, it is important that you get an overview of your child's school and its activities. The contents of the handbook will answer many questions that may arise from time to time in the home and will increase your knowledge of the school program.

## PHILOSOPHY

We, the staff, and Board of Harrah Public Schools believe that all students can learn. We, as a public school system, accept the responsibility to professionally guide the mental and physical development of every student. We believe our function is to assist in the acquisition of fundamental skills and knowledge that prepares each child for productive participation in our democratic society.

## MISSION

Our mission is to assist in the acquisition of fundamental skills and knowledge that prepares each child for productive participation in our democratic society.

## STUDENT OUTCOMES

Student will acquire knowledge in the arts, listening, speaking, reading, writing, mathematics, science, social science, and the use of technology. Students will apply the acquired knowledge to become productive citizens. Students will be self-directed learners who demonstrate personal, social, environmental and civic responsibilities.

## \*\*\*\* STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES\*\*\*\*

The following are responsibilities which students are expected to accept:

- **QUALITY OF WORK:** Students must do their best each day and complete assigned lessons including homework and assignments missed because of absence.
- **SCHOOL RULES:** Each student must conform to school rules and regulations and accept the leadership of teachers, school officials, and others who have been assigned leadership responsibility. Students must also conform to school rules at all times when they are on the way to and from school and at school activities at home or away.
- **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY:** A modern, fully-equipped school building designed for beauty and utility is a part of the heritage of the Harrah student body. It belongs to many generations and is not the sole property of any annual group of students. It is the privilege and

obligation of every student to carefully use, preserve faithfully, and pass to future generations, the building, its grounds and its equipment, without blemish. Anyone who damages or defaces any school property will replace or pay for the property damaged or lost.

**\*\*\*PARENT RESPONSIBILITY\*\*\***

The ultimate responsibility for student behavior rests with the parents.

The following are among their specific responsibilities:

1. Support the schools in requiring students to observe all school rules and regulations and accepting responsibility for any willful misbehavior on their part. Send students to school with proper attention having been given to health, personal cleanliness and appropriate dress.
2. Maintain an active interest in the student's work. Make it possible for them to complete assigned homework particularly by providing a quiet place and conditions for study.
3. Comply with the school's requests. This includes reading carefully all communications and signing and returning them as requested.
4. Insuring that your children attend school regularly without unnecessary absences and arrive at school punctually each day.
5. Cooperate with the school in attending conferences set up for planning for its continuous maintenance and improvement.

It is the belief of the administration that the most effective discipline is self-discipline. Students in Harrah Public Schools are treated as young ladies and gentlemen who are expected to prove to be such by their actions and by their response to the school society

Every teacher is responsible for discipline at all times. Teachers have full authority and responsibility to correct student behavior whenever such correction is necessary. Disciplinary infractions of a serious nature may be referred to the Principal.

In cases where a student has been unable to adjust to his school environment and where his behavior has become so objectionable that the problem cannot be resolved otherwise, he will be referred to the Principal. Through conferences, every effort will be made to assist the student in overcoming this difficulty. Counselors and parents may be called in when it is felt that they can help the student become an acceptable member of the group. If all these efforts fail to obtain the desired results, the principal will make a final disposition of the case in line with the best interest of the individual student and the school as a whole.

### **ASBESTOS ABATEMENT**

- As a result of our asbestos removal program, we are happy to announce that all identifiable friable asbestos has been removed from the Harrah Public Schools buildings.
- There are some non-friable materials which have been determined or assumed to contain asbestos but pose no immediate health risks as long as they remain non-friable
- In the interest of your future safety and in compliance with EPA and State Department of Health regulations, we will be monitoring all identified and assumed asbestos-containing building materials every six (6) months to verify that they have not become friable or damaged.
- The AHERA Asbestos Management Plan for each Harrah school is available for viewing in the office of the Principal of that school and a master management plan for the entire Harrah School District is available for viewing in the office of the Superintendent. Should you have any questions please call the Asbestos Manager or the Superintendent at 454-6244.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Disciplinary actions will be commensurate with the infraction as is evidenced by “discipline” becoming more severe as “infractions” increase in number, however, students should **not** conclude that they cannot receive a long-term suspension simply because it is the first infraction of a rule or policy. Students are responsible to abide by every rule, regulation or policy listed in the Student Handbook, and/or given in a classroom. Learn these rules and abide by them – **IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE!**

### **SCHOOL LAWS OF OKLAHOMA PUPILS – SUSPENSION – APPEAL:**

“Any pupil who is guilty of immorality or violation of the regulations of a public school may be suspended by the principal teacher of such school, which suspension shall not extend beyond the current school semester and the succeeding semester; provided, the pupil suspended shall have the right to appeal from the decision of such principal teacher to the board of education of the district, which shall upon a full investigation of the matter, determine the guilt or innocence of the pupil and its decision shall be final.” (70-24-101)

In accordance with the school code set by the 1970 Oklahoma Legislature, the Harrah Board of Education lists the specific offenses which may result in expulsion or suspension of students from the Harrah Public School System. Offenses include but are not limited to:

1. Conduct which jeopardized the safety of others.
2. Possession, threat or use of a dangerous weapon/explosive device.
3. The possession, use, transmission or visible evidence of using narcotic or unauthorized drugs, alcohol or intoxicants of any kind. The chemical abuse policy of the Harrah Public Schools will apply.
4. Fighting, assault and battery or threat of violence.
5. Immorality or profanity.
6. False identification.
7. Theft or possession of stolen property.
8. Destroying or defacing school property.
9. Truancy.
10. Showing disrespect for faculty members, staff members or other school employees.
11. Repeated violations of school policies.

### **DUE PROCESS PROCEDURE**

Any student accused of violating any rule that may require suspension will be brought to the principal. The principal will hear the evidence and will then decide the action to be taken. If the initial evidence supports long term suspension, the principal will notify the parent/guardian and advise them of such. The student’s parent/guardian or legal counsel may request, in writing, a hearing. Hearings are to be held in compliance with the due process of laws.

### **PUPILS – DANGEROUS WEAPONS/DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES**

“The superintendent or principal of any public school in the state of Oklahoma, or any teacher or security personnel, shall have the authority to detain and authorized the search of any pupil or pupils on

any school premises or while in transit under the authority of the school, or any function sponsored or authorized by the school, for dangerous weapons or controlled dangerous substances, as defined in the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Act and hereinafter referred to as control dangerous substances. The superintendent or principal authorizing such a search shall notify the local law enforcement agency which shall be responsible for obtaining any warrant or other authorization necessary to conduct such search. The search shall be conducted by a person of the same sex as the person being searched.”

“The superintendent or principal authorizing the search shall have the authority to detain the pupil or pupils to be searched and to preserve any dangerous weapons or controlled dangerous substances that might be in their possession including the authority to authorize any other persons deemed necessary to restrain such pupil or pupils to preserve any dangerous weapons or controlled dangerous substances.”

“Any pupil found to be in possession of dangerous weapons or controlled dangerous substances may be suspended by the superintendent or principal for a period not to exceed the current school semester and the succeeding semester. Any such suspension may be appealed to the board of education of the school district by any pupil suspended under this section.” (70-24-102) **It is a violation of federal law to bring a firearm on or within 1,000 feet of school property. Violators are subject to imprisonment for up to five years, a \$5,000 fine or both fine and imprisonment. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent allowed by law.**

### **GUN-FREE SCHOOLS STUDENT SUSPENSION POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Harrah Board of Education to suspend any student who brings a firearm to a school which is under the jurisdiction of the school district for a period of not less than one year. It is also provided that the chief administering office may modify the suspension requirement on a case-by-case basis. (Gun-Free School Act 1994) ESEA (1965)

The enforcement of the policy shall be consistent with state and federal laws dealing with discipline of students with disabilities as outline in the Policies and Procedures for Special Education.

For the purpose of the policy, the following procedures shall be followed.

1. The name of the school will be reported.
2. The law enforcement agency (LEA) must keep a detailed description of the circumstances.
3. The number of students suspended will be documented.
4. The type of weapon involved will be stated.

**REFERENCE:** Gun Free Schools Act of 1994  
Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Policies and  
Procedures of Special Education of Oklahoma.

### **ASSAULT ON SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LAWS – SECTION 126 (70-6-113)**

1. Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause, knowingly commits any assault (threat), or assault and battery upon the person of a school employee of a school district while such employee is in the performance of his duties as a school employee, is punishable by imprisonment, in the county jail for a period not exceeding six (6) months, or by a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or both such fine and imprisonment.

2. Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause, knowingly commits any aggravated assault and battery upon the person of a school employee while such person is in the performance of his duties shall upon conviction be guilty of a felony.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The Harrah Schools provide safe transportation to all students who are legally eligible to ride to and from school. **SAFE SCHOOL BUS RIDING RULES INCLUDE:**

1. Leave home early enough to arrive at your bus stop before the bus arrives.
2. Wait for your bus in a safe place – well off the roadway.
3. Wait for your driver to motion you across the roadway.
4. Enter your bus in an orderly manner and take your seat.
5. Follow the instructions of your school bus driver or bus monitor.
6. Remain in your seat while your bus is in motion.
7. Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
8. Keep aisles clear at all times.
9. Remain quiet and orderly.
10. Be courteous to your school bus driver and fellow passengers.
11. Students should cross the roadway at least 10 feet away from the front of the bus.
12. Parents should not approach the driver regarding a problem.

The driver of the school bus represents the Principal of the school and Director of Transportation in providing a safe, wholesome atmosphere on the on the bus. Students who violate the Bus Riding Rules and fail to respond to the driver’s direction shall lose transportation privileges.

## **BUS DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES FOR HARRAH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Safety Violation – Student will be sent to the principal for reprimand or counseling. Parents will be notified.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Safety Violation – Student will be sent to the principal for a parent conference and shall lose bus privileges for a minimum of three days.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Safety Violation – Student shall be removed from the bus for a minimum of ten days.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Safety Violation – Student may lose bus privileges for the remainder of the current term and succeeding term.

All violations of an extraordinary or emergency nature will be immediately referred to the principal for adjudication. The principal has the authority to impose disciplinary action from any level depending on the severity of the infraction.

Students are to ride the bus assigned, and are to be picked up and delivered only to their place of residence or designated area. Only students regularly assigned may ride a scheduled bus route. Exceptions to this procedure must be approved in advance by the building principal, and must be of an emergency or extraordinary nature. Items such as flowers, balloons, glass containers, etc. that may cause injury, distraction or impede the Driver’s vision will not be transported.

Parents will be responsible for any alternative transportation needs. Alternative transportation needs may include private lessons, overnight visits and group party activities.

## **CLOSED CAMPUS**

The Harrah Schools, recognizing the pressing need for the safety and security for all students, have implemented a closed campus policy for all schools and students attending these schools.

## **SEVERE WEATHER – SCHOOL CLOSING**

In case of severe weather, snow, or low temperatures, the official announcement for school closing may be heard over the radio or television stations.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Secondary students must not be absent more than 6 times per class per semester in order to receive credit in that class. This includes all absences (excused or unexcused). Doctor visits included. (Exception may be made for a prolonged home confinement or hospitalization if verified by a doctor – Adopted by Board of Education, June, 1972. Updated: July 9, 1979.) If a student is absent during the instruction school day, participation in school sponsored events are at the discretion of the principal or designee.

Students in pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade must not be absent more than 6 times per 9 weeks. Proper authorities will be notified as needed in the case of excessive absences according to state law.

### **GRADING SYSTEM**

The recommended grading system used in the Harrah Schools shall be based upon the following scale in grades 1-12.

<b><u>GRADE</u></b>	<b><u>PERCENTAGE</u></b>	<b><u>GRADE POINTS</u></b>
A	90-100	4
B	80-89	3
C	70-79	2
D	60-69	1
F	Below 60	0
W	Withdrawal	0
I	Incomplete	0

### **GRADE REPORTING**

Progress reports for each student will be provided during the fifth week of each grading period and report cards will be sent home by the students at the end of each nine weeks period.

Students in grades 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> will receive progress reports on the fifth, ninth and fourteenth week.

### **HONOR ROLL**

Students making all “A” shall be placed on the Superintendent’s Honor Roll. Students making no grade below a “B” shall be on the Principal’s Honor Roll.

The students who are in the top 10 percent of the student body at the High School, Junior High, and the Middle School shall be members of the State Honor Society.

## **ACTIVITIES**

Harrah Public Schools offers students an opportunity to participate in many athletic programs. Parents are encouraged to support their children by becoming avid fans of the sports program.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Harrah students must meet and maintain scholastic and attendance eligibility requirements adopted by the Harrah Board of Education and the Oklahoma Secondary Schools Activity Association (OSSAA) for participation in all activities including sporting events that are governed by the OSSAA.

## **FREE TEXTBOOKS**

District owned textbooks will be checked out for all students for each class. The student is responsible for the care of his books. They must be turned in at the close of the school year. If damaged or lost, the student must pay for the books. If the book(s) are later found, a refund of the charge will be made to the student.

**STUDENTS OWING FOR TEXTBOOKS WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED ADDITIONAL TEXTBOOKS UNTIL ALL OBLIGATIONS ARE CLEARED.**

## **GUIDANCE SERVICE**

Harrah Schools offer its students a comprehensive guidance service. Principals, counselors, and special services personnel are ready to assist the students in future planning and problems at all times. Various tests are given to students during the year to assist in making decisions on their enrollment and future educational and employment questions.

Each student or his parents may request an appointment with the counselor to explain the meaning of test scores and the grades made by the individual student. Communication between the parents and the school staff is necessary for the proper advancement of all students. Each student is pre-enrolled and counseled during the semester preceding the actual enrollment at the beginning of school.

## **SNACKS, CANDY AND GUM CHEWING**

Eating candy, gum or snacks is not permitted in the classroom except when approved by the building principal.

## **CAFETERIA**

Students may pay for lunch and breakfast each day or in advance using the computerized meal ticket system. Please pay in advance by the week, month, or meal. Charges are not encouraged and allowed only with advance permission from parents. Please make checks payable to HARRAH FOOD SERVICE. Questions may be referred to the Food Service Director, 454-6244 or 347-2825. All parents are encouraged to complete the free and reduced application.

## **CAFETERIA CHARGE POLICY**

Each student will be limited to three (3) day charges. Students who exceed this limit will not be able to charge in the cafeteria. Rather than allow a child to go without a meal, the school will provide a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and milk when students wish to eat in the cafeteria but have exceeded the charges allowed. This supplemental meal is intended to be only occasional when students forget to bring money and if it becomes excessive may be considered neglect on the parent's behalf and the school officials may need to set up a meeting with the parents or take other action. No lunch charges after May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **MEDIA CENTER REGULATIONS**

Students and their parents/guardians shall be informed that it is a misdemeanor under Oklahoma Law to remove or attempt to remove any library material from the premises of a library facility without authority; or to mutilate, destroy, alter or otherwise damage, in whole or in part, any library materials, or to fail to return any library materials which have been loaned to said person by the library facility, within seven days after demand has been made for the return of the library materials.

1. All pupils in school are entitled to use the media center and to check out materials.
2. Most reference books are to be used in the media center.
3. Designated books may be checked out overnight or for the weekend.
4. All other books may be retained for 3 weeks with re-check privileges.
5. Five cents per school day is charged for overdue books; check out privilege is revoked for those owing fines or with overdue books.
6. Damage beyond repair or loss of materials must be paid for by the student.
7. No materials may be taken from the media center without being checked out.

## **SCHOOL ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

Harrah Public Schools offer its students an opportunity to participate in a school group accident policy. The company will provide the school with this policy.

24-Hour/12 Month Protection.....cost to be announced.

At School Protection.....cost to be announced.

Each student participating in athletics must be covered by insurance or the parents must sign a release stating they will take care of all medical expense incurred. The insurance policy describes the coverage in detail.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

A designated school employee will be available to the students for minor injuries and dispensing medication. Students are not to carry medication with them during the school day (This includes non-prescription drugs). The designated employee will dispense medicine in accordance with the state statutes and School Board Policy.

If students should need special care at school due to some condition such as diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, rheumatic fever, or a heart condition, they will be given special consideration if they will give the necessary information to the counselor or principal with a statement from their parents or doctor

concerning the difficulty. This statement must be updated each school year. If students become ill during the day, they should go to the office where their parents will be contacted and their absence will be excused. State Health Department regulations apply to contagious conditions.

An important part of a school health program is the prevention and control of communicable disease. Good health is more important than a perfect attendance record. We encourage parents to keep sick children at home. Children are excluded when suffering from or exhibiting the following symptoms:

1. a fever above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (a child running a fever should be excluded until he is fever-free for 24 hours.)
2. a sore throat or tonsillitis
3. any eruption of the skin or rash unless under treatment
4. any nasal discharge accompanied by fever
5. a severe cough and
6. any inflammation of the eyes,
7. head lice

Any child needing medications to be taken during school hours must have a note from the parent stating name of the child, name of medicine and dosage, when the medicine is to be given. This will apply to each time a student is placed on a new medication. Only the designated school personnel will dispense the medicine. The parent must bring the signed note and medicine form to the school office.

## **DIABETES**

The appropriate school staff should be aware of students with diabetes. A history should be obtained and an emergency care plan developed at the time of enrollment. Parents should provide the school with necessary documents. Please contact your school administrator/guidance office for further information regarding the steps to take to ensure your child's safety.

## **PETITIONS**

No petitions for any cause may be circulated in the school or at school activities.

## **LAW ON PRIVACY RIGHTS**

The law reads as follows: "Pupils shall not have any reasonable expectation of privacy towards school administrators or teachers in the contents of a school locker, desk, or other school property. School personnel shall have access to school lockers, desks, and other school property in order to properly supervise the welfare of pupils. School lockers, desks and other areas of school facilities may be opened and examined by school officials at any time and no reason shall be necessary for such search. Schools shall inform pupils in the student discipline code that they have reasonable expectation of privacy rights towards school officials in school lockers, desks, and other school property."

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

Only that information which is pertinent to the individual's educational progress and those items required by law are to be maintained in the student's file.

A student's records are open for inspection by the student, his parents or guardians, school officials and certified employees of the school district.

Copies of records shall be furnished to authorized agencies upon written request of parents, guardians or students of legal age in accordance with the FERPA policy.

Students are to be enrolled by their legally given name and all school records will be recorded by that name.

### **FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (F.E.R.P.A)**

This policy and the procedures included with it are designed to meet the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), and the Harrah School District is committed to the implementation of the policy and procedures.

The Board of Education authorizes the school superintendent to inform parents, students, and the public of the policy and to exercise his administrative resources to implement the policy as well as to deal with individuals who violate it.

In case a parent of a student, an eligible student, or a citizen of the Harrah School District believes that the district is violating the FERPA, that person has a right to file a complaint with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. The address is:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy  
Act Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
Room 4511 Switzer Building  
Washington, D.C. 20202  
The telephone number is: (202)245-0233

### **PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also specify rights related to educational records. This act gives the parent or guardian the right to: 1) inspect and review his/her child's educational records; 2) make copies of these records; 3) receive a list of all individuals having access to those records; 4) ask for an explanation of any item in the records; 5) ask for an amendment to any report on the grounds that it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the child's rights; 6) have a hearing on the issue if the school refuses to make the amendment; and 7) to be informed about FERPA rights.

The District will arrange to provide translations of this notice to non-English speaking parents in their native language.

### **DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

The Harrah Independent School District proposes to designate the following personally identifiable information contained in the student's education record as "directory information" and it will disclose that information without prior written consent.

1. The student's name
2. The names of the student's parents
3. The student's date of birth
4. The student's class designation (i.e., first grade, tenth grade, etc.)
5. The student's extra curricular participation
6. The student's achievement awards and honors
7. The student's weight and height, if a member of an athletic team
8. The student's photograph

### **TELEPHONE**

No student will be allowed to use the telephone, except in the case of an emergency. Important messages will be delivered.

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Students are not permitted to have cell phones, radios, tape players, headsets, ipods, video cameras, laser devices, electronic games, MP3 players and other electronic devices on campus during the school day.

## **VISITORS**

Students are not allowed to bring visitors to school. Visitors work a hardship on both teachers and pupils. Parents are always welcome, but are encouraged to make an appointment with the principal to see a teacher or visit their children's classes.

## **VISITORS ON CAMPUS**

All visitors are required to report to the principal's office. A visitor's pass must be issued. Visitors will not be allowed to remain on a campus without a pass.

## **SMOKE FREE CAMPUS**

Students shall not use, possess, conceal, or transmit tobacco or tobacco products in any form while on school property or while attending school sponsored activities.

**THE ENTIRE SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES ARE DESIGNATED AS NON-SMOKING.**

## **USE OF TOBACCO**

Harrah School's tobacco use policy is as follows: "Students shall not use, possess, conceal, or transmit tobacco in any form on school property or while at a school activity."

Students are hereby warned that disregard for this regulation will result in disciplinary action. Violations of this rule will result in the following disciplinary measures taken:

1. First Offense: Three days suspension out of school.
2. Second Offense: Five days suspension out of school.
3. Third Offense: Ten day suspension out of school.
4. Fourth Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the semester.

## **DRUG FREE CAMPUS**

Student and employee safety is of paramount concern to the Board of Education. Students or employees under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances are a serious risk to themselves, to students, and to other employees. Therefore, the board of education shall not tolerate the unlawful manufacture, use, possession, sale, distribution or being under the influence of drugs or controlled substances.

Therefore, drug sniffing dogs will be used unannounced from time to time to detect the presence of drugs. Anyone found possessing drugs on their person, in their locker, or in their automobile will be subject to the penalties of state and local law, plus suspension from school.

School operations are disrupted by the possession, usage or distribution of fake or replica substances represented by students to be controlled drugs. Accordingly, students are subject to disciplinary action, including out-of-school suspension, for the possession, usage or distribution of counterfeit, fake, replica or "turkey" drugs or any item represented by a student to be a controlled drug. "Reporting Students

Under the Influence of/or Possessing Non-intoxication Beverages, Alcoholic Beverages or Controlled Dangerous Substances” - Policy #3292.

### **HAZING**

No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the School Board of Harrah Public Schools shall engage or participate in hazing of any type.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

Sexual harassment of students or employees is prohibited by School Board policy #1125, state, and federal law. Sexual harassment includes verbal or physical sexual advances, including subtle pressures for sexual activity; touching, pinching, patting, or brushing against; comments regarding physical or personality characteristics of a sexual nature; and sexually oriented “kidding,” “teasing,” double meanings, and jokes. Such violations may result in suspension of the student and suspension or termination for the employee.

Any sexual harassment complaints should be directed to Paula Dunlap at 347-2824 or your school administrator.

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

It is the policy of the Harrah School system to provide equal opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age qualified handicap or veteran in its educational programs and activities. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, educational services, financial aid, and employment. Inquiries concerning Section 504 and/or the Americans with Disabilities Act may be referred to Special Services Director, Coordinator of Title IX, and Section 504 and ADA Compliance Officer, Harrah School District, 20679 W. Walker, Harrah, Oklahoma, 73045. Telephone 405-347-2820.

### **FUND RAISERS**

Sales of items for fund raisers on campuses will be limited to those approved by the school board. No other sales will be allowed. Students are financially responsible for items to be sold and/or delivered. Parental permission must be obtained in writing for a student to participate in a fund raiser.

### **PROFICIENCY PROMOTION**

Students with parental permission may request to sit for a proficiency examination during the first five days of each term. Any student demonstrating a competency level of ninety percent, as measured by a teacher-made test approved by the district, will be awarded a grade of “A” for that grade or subject.

### **SCHOOL BULLYING POLICY**

All students and employees shared the right to attend or work at school without being subject to threat of injury or intimidation of any kind that affects the school environment. Incidents of physical assault, intimidation, and bullying, harassing and/or other negative behaviors will not be tolerated. Any student or employee, who interferes with, intimidates, bullies, harasses, or injures another individual either at school, during school functions, or en route to or from such functions will be subject to disciplinary action. Extreme or repeated violations may result in permanent suspension of the student or employee. Re-instatement shall occur only after a conference with the school administration. A plan to improve behavior will be developed before any individual will be re-instated.

Such person or persons may also be charged with violation applicable to school regulations, municipal, state and even federal laws.

## **HARRAH MIDDLE SCHOOL SECTION**

### **PHILOSOPHY**

Administration, teachers and staff of Harrah Middle School believe that all students can learn. We accept the responsibility to professionally guide the mental and physical development of every student. We believe our function is to assist in the acquisition of fundamental skills and knowledge that prepares each child for productive participation in our democratic society.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTION POLICY**

A promotion policy will encourage students to be more responsible, productive, and accountable for their achievement while at the middle school.

All students must complete the five core subjects each year: (language, reading, math, social studies, and science).

1. Students shall earn a minimum of eight of the possible ten credits from the core subjects per year to be eligible for promotion. An exemption may be requested for those students who will turn 15 years of age while in seventh grade.
2. Students not passing a semester core subject will be encouraged to attend summer school to make up that semester credit.

### **ABSENTEE POLICY**

Students must not be absent more than 6 times per class per semester in order to receive credit for that class. When a student misses school, they must have their parent/guardian contact the school by telephone and state the reason for their absence. Students will be allowed two days for each day missed to make up schoolwork. School activities are not included in this policy. If a student misses due to a school activity, it is that student's responsibility to pick up their work before the activity. The maximum number of absences for activities, whether sponsored by the school or outside agency/organization, which removes any student from the classroom shall be ten for any one-class period for each school year. Excluded from this number are state and national levels of school-sponsored contests. State and national contests are those for which a student must earn the right to compete. The criteria for earning the right to represent the school in any activity or contest must be submitted in writing by local school sponsors and approved by the local board of education. Students must be in attendance the half-day immediately preceding the event in which they wish to participate. The principal can make exceptions.

## **TARDIES - HARRAH MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Students who do not have an excused tardy pass and are not in the classroom in their assigned seat when the tardy bell rings will be unexcused tardy.

<b>Decision</b>	<b>Consequence</b>
First unexcused tardy	Warning from the instructor
Second unexcused tardy	Warning from the instructor
Third unexcused tardy	Lunch Detention
Fourth unexcused tardy	Student sent to Principal's Office

Persistent unexcused tardiness may result in suspension.

## **CHANGES AND DROPS IN CLASS SCHEDULES**

Students pre-enroll during the spring term for the following school year. If a parent/student deems it wise to change a class the parent must contact the school counselor prior to the beginning of school. No class will be changed or dropped after school begins except in extreme emergency. This will be a decision made by the principal.

If a student is withdrawn from class for a discipline action, an "F" will be recorded for the course.

## **OBLIGATIONS**

Students are responsible for textbooks and other school property in their care. Students are expected to return textbooks and other school property with only normal wear and tear. All obligations should be cleared prior to enrollment for any future classes.

## **BUS CONDUCT**

See Transportation – General Section – This applies to all Middle School students.

Students should ride the bus that they are assigned at the beginning of the school year. Students need to keep in mind that bus riding is a privilege and can be revoked. Bus discipline procedures can be found in the General Section of this handbook. If any emergency situation arises and a student must ride a different bus, the following procedure should be followed:

1. Contact Harrah Middle School – either a phone call or a note indicating the emergency situation.
2. The office must sign the note.
3. The student should give the signed note to the bus driver when boarding the bus.

Riding a different bus should occur only in an emergency situation and should not be used to go to a party at a friend's house, etc.

## **HALL TRAFFIC/HALL PASSES**

Students must have an authorized hall pass when leaving the classroom for any reason. While in the hall, at class change time, keep to the right until you reach your destination. No running, excessive noise, “horseplay”, pushing, etc.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE**

### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Students are to behave at all times and not distract from the learning process. They shall be respectful and cooperative with the teachers and other school employees. They shall not act in such a way as to jeopardize the safety or well being of other students and staff.

Rules for conduct, suspension, and appeal are listed elsewhere in this handbook. The behavior of students in assemblies, pep assemblies, and group meetings, is expected to be exemplary. Booing, yelling and distractions from the program will not be allowed. All rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, as stated elsewhere in this handbook apply to all Middle School students. Any questions in regard to any policy, regulations, etc., students and parents are encouraged to contact the Principal for clarification.

### **CLASS BEHAVIOR**

When you enroll in classes you assume the following obligations:

1. To be present and on time each day.
2. To be in your seat before the last bell rings.
3. To complete each assignment on time.
4. To give all your attention in class
5. To participate in all class activities.
6. To be respectful and cooperative.
7. To bring the necessary equipment to participate in class (books, paper, pencil, etc.)

### **LUNCH ROOM BEHAVIOR**

Students are expected to behave like ladies and gentlemen in the lunchroom. No running, no cutting line, no rowdy behavior will be allowed.

### **Minor Infractions**

Minor infractions include but are not limited to the following: excessive tardiness, running on campus, excessive talking, inappropriate comments, PDA, etc.

Possible consequences for minor infractions: warnings, parent notification, cafeteria duty, campus duty, lunch detention, etc.

## **Major Infractions**

Major infractions include but are not limited to the following: repeat minor infractions, possession of tobacco products, fighting, excessive lunch detentions, ditching, bullying, threatening or harassing, disrespectful toward authority, gang writings, or gang signs, drug related writing or drawings, etc.

Possible consequences for major infractions: parent conferences, in-school suspension, out of school suspension, corporal punishment.

All final decisions will be at the discretion of the principal and will be based on the severity of the infraction.

## **Corporal Punishment**

Administration at HMS and the Harrah Board of Education believes that corporal punishment can be an effective deterrent, in many circumstances, as a consequence with middle level students. We also respect the wishes of parents in this area and will only administer corporal punishment with written parent permission. Each separate infraction, in which corporal punishment will be administered, will require written parent permission.

## **DANGEROUS WEAPONS/DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES**

See General Section.

## **SOFT DRINKS AND SNACKS**

No food or drink will be allowed in the classroom without teacher permission. Open soft drinks or food are not allowed in hallways or in the courtyard.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

The Harrah Middle School Student Council is elected every year according to its constitution. The Student council helps in sponsoring school-wide activities.

To participate in any extra-curricular activities the student must be passing in all class work. Weekly grade checks will be made to determine the student's eligibility. Students must maintain a 90% attendance record to remain eligible.

## **VISITORS**

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to visit the school at any time. All visitors must check in at the principal's office.

### **BICYCLES-MOTORCYCLES-MOTORSCOOTERS**

Harrah Middle School does not have the facilities for these vehicles, and students are prohibited from bringing them to school.

### **LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS**

No student will leave the school grounds during the school day without first securing permission from the principal or the principal's designee at Harrah Middle School. This must be done, even if parents are picking up the student, or have given their permission.

Students who become ill or are injured during the school day and desire to leave may do so after their parents have been notified and permission has been secured from the principal's office.

### **LOITERING**

Students should clear Harrah Middle School campus within 15 minutes after the last period dismissal bell has rung. Students that are participating in after school activities should be in the area designated by the sponsor of that activity. Loitering on campus after school hours will not be tolerated and if necessary disciplinary action will be taken. Once students have left the Middle School they should not return to the campus unless they have a scheduled extra-curricular activity to attend.

### **PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION**

Public Display of Affection – in any form is not permitted.

### **HARRAH MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS AND GROOMING CODE**

The student dress code is based upon the premise of recognizing fashion without sacrificing decency, safety, and general good taste. It is the intent to permit students to dress according to current fashions and at the same time, restrict extremes and indecency in grooming which will distract from the main purpose of the educational program. Any attire, which disrupts the educational process, is prohibited. The student dress code applies at school, on school vehicles, and at school-sponsored or authorized activities. Students who are dressed inappropriately will be asked to change and may be counted absent from any classes they miss, if they must go home to change.

The principal (or designee) will use his/her judgment in cases of questionable attire. Violations may result in disciplinary action.

**THE FOLLOWING IS INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE AND IS PROHIBITED FOR SCHOOLWEAR**

1. Shredded, tattered, or clothing with holes that exposes or would expose undergarments or clothing showing skin at the waist or chest.
2. Biker-shorts, short mini-skirts or boxer shorts.
3. Spaghetti straps, halter tops, tube tops, mesh shirts (or fishnet unless with a t-shirt underneath), outer garments that have the appearance of underwear, clothing that shows skin at the waist or clothing made of thin see-through material.
4. Offensive writing, suggestive slogans or logos which pertain to beer, liquor, drugs, or tobacco, or carry connotations of immorality, vulgarity, obscenity, or nudity, or promotion of violence and/or gang/cult activity on any person or article of clothing, belt buckles, autos, jewelry, school materials, etc.
5. At all times students must wear shoes. However, cleats or any shoe that limits physical activity or safety will not be permitted.
6. All headgear within the school buildings or classrooms.
7. Apparel which is too tight or too loose, and/or revealing or does not cover undergarments.
8. Any clothing or apparel the administration believes to be gang affiliated, e.g. bandanas, sagging or baggy pants, clothing, etc. that could be considered as a display of gang "colors".
9. Jewelry or personal items that could cause harm to others.
10. Flannel pants, pajama pants or house shoes.
11. Hair must be of a natural color.

**ALMA MATER: GARY LEWIS H.H.S. 1980**

Our Harrah High School  
    Long may you stand  
Standard of excellence  
    Throughout the land

You gave us friendship  
    Laughter and tears  
Treasures we'll cherish  
    Throughout the years

Hail to our blue and white  
    H.H.S.!

**FIGHT SONG**

Oh, when those Harrah Panthers fall in line  
    We're gonna win this game another time  
And for the dear old school we love so well  
    And for the football, (basketball, etc.) team  
We'll yell, and yell, and yell

We're gonna fight, fight, fight forevermore  
    We're gonna win this game and win some more  
We're gonna knock those \_\_\_\_\_  
    Off the sides, off the sides  
FIGHT!! FIGHT!! FIGHT!!

**SCHOOL SONG**

We're the mighty Panthers  
    A rearin' to go  
A happy and fighting throng

We're true to our Harrah  
    We'll never go wrong  
As we cheer our team to win ( FIGHT, WIN!)

We're gonna fight all together  
    With all of our might  
Fight till the victory is won

For we'll cheer for our Harrah  
    And fight for her glory  
Come on boys (girls), come on boys ( girls),  
    Let's Fight!!