



EKALAKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EKALAKA ELEMENTARY DISTRICT #15 • CARTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Activity Handbook

2024-25

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INTRODUCTION

At Ekalaka Public Schools, we believe the opportunity for participation in a variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is a vital part of a student’s educational experience. These experiences contribute to developing the full potential of each student and enabling each student to gain invaluable skills for life. Participants are trusted to meet and exceed expectations of conduct and District Policy when participating in student activities. To achieve excellence in activities, a participant must discipline his/her mind and body. The participant must be aware that he/she is a representative of the school and community and has been entrusted with the responsibility to provide positive, personal attributes related to citizenship, scholastic achievement, courtesy, role modeling, and leadership.

Ekalaka Public Schools offers a variety of activities for students. If a student is involved in two or more activities at once, preference shall be given to the activity competing in elimination programs. However, if the student is aware that there will be an unavoidable conflict in the activities, both supervisors must agree to his or her participation or the student must make a choice. There will be some instances where the student may not be able to do all things. This situation would surface when chosen for a highly select group such as Show Choir or Academic Olympics. Selection to an interscholastic athletic squad would be highly competitive and may not afford an opportunity to participate in other activities if there is a conflict in dates. The student shall make his/her choice known to the supervisors at the beginning of any program in order that the supervisor may choose another candidate if there is a conflict. Once the student has made a commitment to a program, they will be expected to complete that season in their chosen activity.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES:

- **Basketball** – Any interested student may play this sport. The basketball season is held in the winter.
- **Football** – Any interested student may play this sport. The football season is held in the fall.
- **Volleyball** – Any interested female student may play this sport. The volleyball season is held in the fall.
- **Track** - Any interested student may play this sport. The track season is held in the spring.

JUNIOR HIGH ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES:

- **Volleyball** – Open to all female students in grades 5-8.
- **Football** – Open to all male students in grades 5-8.
- **Basketball** – Open to all male and female students in grades 5-8.
- **Track** – Open to all male and female students in grades 5-8.

TEAM MANAGERS

Most teams are in need of managers to assist in record keeping, taking care of equipment and supplies, and to assist the coaches and players. The following guidelines will apply to the selection and responsibilities of all student managers. All students:

- Must maintain the same eligibility requirements as that of the athletes.
- Must maintain the same dress code requirements as that of the athletes.
- Must understand that additional time requirements and physical labor (event setup and take down, laundry, cleaning of equipment/gymnasium/storage areas) will be part of the manager's duties.
- Must abide by all of the rules and regulations of Ekalaka Public Schools

A maximum of two (2) managers will travel to district/divisional/state tournaments.

Managers must submit an application two weeks prior to the season starting to the athletic director. Priority will be given to high school students first for high school sports. Coaches discretion will be taken into consideration.

NON-ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES:

- **Academic Olympics** – Teams are selected each year from among the student body based on grade point average, test scores and class performance. Teams will be selected from Junior High (7-8) and from high school students.
- **C-Club** – All high school students who have lettered in an MHSA sanctioned activity are eligible to participate.
- **Cheerleading & Drill Team** – Any high school student may try out. Cheerleading will only be offered if a qualified advisor is hired. Upon Superintendent approval, students in lower grades may be allowed to participate.
- **FCCLA** – Open to all students, grades 8-12, who have taken a Family & Consumer Science Class.
- **FFA** – Open to all students, grades 7-12, who take one (1) semester a year of Vo-Ag.
- **Speech** – Open to all high school students interested in competitive speech & drama.
- **Pep Band** – All 7-12 students in band are considered members of pep band. Participation of 6th grade band students will be at the discretion of the band advisor/music instructor.
- **Jazz Band, Show Choir, Ensembles & Solos** – Open to all high school students in band and/or choir. Some auditions may be necessary.
- **Math Team** – The math instructor will select one team from Junior High (7-8) and one from high school students to compete on the math team.
- **National Honor Society** – Students earning an accumulated grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and who have been on the honor roll for a minimum of three

consecutive semesters will be informed of potential eligibility for membership. Membership is based on Leadership, Scholarship, Character and Service.

- **Science Olympiad** – A selected team made up of science students, grades 9-12.

**All uniforms are to be turned in at the end of each season. Uniforms not turned in will be subject to a replacement fee that is required before end of year grades will be released.

STUDENT ACTIVITY TRAINING RULES

The Students participating in any activity referenced herein will be required to follow the District's Training Rules at all times from the first day of the season through the last day of competition for that season, which include but are not limited to the following and also all District policies regarding student conduct:

1. No use or possession of alcoholic beverages
2. No use or possession of tobacco or marijuana or any type of illegal drugs (this includes E-cigarettes and/or Vape pens.)
3. No illegal use of over-the-counter drugs or prescription drugs.
4. Thefts while on school trips or at school activities will result in disciplinary action and will be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency.
5. No bullying, harassment, intimidation or hazing.
6. No acts of insubordination towards anyone charged with the responsibility of the activity.
7. Social media use that constitutes bullying, harassment, threats toward staff or other students, or use that results in a substantial disruption to the educational environment will result in disciplinary action.
8. Proper scholastic standing must be maintained.

Ramifications

Students who violate the Training Rules, whether on school property/time or not, will be subject to the following consequences, in addition to any law enforcement or school disciplinary action:

- Failure to comply with the Training Rules set forth herein and/or any District Policy may result in a short-term suspension from all activities until there is a meeting between the student, parent, and Activities Director. If applicable, the Ekalaka Public Schools (Carter County High School) Chemical Use Policy or the Athletic Discipline Policy will be administered.
- All training rule suspensions (i.e., short-term removals from an activity for 10 days or less) must be reported to and approved by the Activities Director.
- Any student who violates Training Rules and/or District Policy while on a school trip may, depending upon the circumstances, be sent home or turned over to the proper authorities, if circumstances warrant that action. Students who are being sent home from a school trip will only be signed out and turned over to their parents or legal guardian.
- Training rules apply beginning with the first day of practice for each activity and ending with the final date of competition or when the bus arrives safely back in the school parking lot on the final weekend.
 - The first day of practice is the date set by the MHSAA for all High School Athletics. The first day of practice is the date set by the District for activities. If a student violates a training rule during the final week of competition during a given season,

then the suspension will be continued for the first week of competition during their next participating activity.

- Training rule violations may also result in additional school disciplinary action if there are other school regulations that are violated at the same time.

COMMUNICATION *policy 1700*

It is the expectation and goal to keep an open line of communication between the participant, advisor/coach/sponsor, and parents. When a participant or parent has a question or concern regarding his/her son's or daughter's involvement in an activity, the parent should contact the advisor/coach/sponsor who will make themselves available for participants and/or parent scheduled meetings. Should the advisor/coach/sponsor not provide a satisfactory resolution to the question or concern, the concerned individual should follow the following chain of communication: We request if there is an issue that is emotional that we have at least a 24 hour grace period to allow all involved to decompress. The chain of command will be adhered to to help alleviate issues.

1. Coach/Advisor
2. Athletic Director
3. Principal/Superintendent

CODE OF CONDUCT

In addition to the Training Rules set forth herein and applicable District Policy, the School Board and the Administration of the Ekalaka Public Schools, in support of the aims of public education, believe that the behavior of students attending public schools shall reflect standards of good citizenship demanded of members in a democratic society. Self-discipline (responsibility of one's action) is one of the ultimate goals of education. In order for students to take advantage of available learning opportunities and to be productive members of our community, each student is entrusted to:

1. Demonstrate courtesy — even when others do not.
2. Avoid excessive noise in buildings/motels.
3. Avoid displays of affection - Do not participate in “horseplay.”
4. Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
5. Meet standards of grooming and dress. Students should dress appropriately at all times. The advisor/coach/sponsor should be proud of how their group is dressed and the advisor/coach/sponsor is responsible for informing their group of appropriate dress and appearance.- Appropriate dress for events or road trips must meet the standards of the advisor/coach/sponsor. The advisor/coach/sponsor can choose not to allow a student on the bus and shall notify parents that he/she is not traveling with the group and why.
6. Follow school dress code
7. All participants will be expected to attend all scheduled meetings, practices, and games.
8. Grades must be maintained so that a participant is eligible by the standards of Ekalaka Public Schools and MHS (Homeschool included). Current district eligibility will be adhered to.
9. Other violations of Training Rules and/or District Policy will be handled consistent with the rules set forth herein and in accordance with District Policy and Student Handbook.

ELIGIBILITY

In order for a student to be eligible to participate in any competition with another school (this includes all activities), that student must meet the eligibility requirements of MHSA and Ekalaka Public Schools. These requirements are:

1. Have parental permission to participate
2. Have a physical examination and abide by all concussion procedures as outlined by MHSA
3. MHSA rules include the requirement that the student have received a passing grade in at least 20 periods of prepared work per week (i.e. four subjects) during the previous semester. Failure to do so renders the student ineligible for the current semester.
4. Students with an IEP or Section 504 Plan may have accommodations that enable them to participate with modified requirements.
5. Be in school the entire day of the day of competition or have obtained administrative permission for the absence prior to the activity/event. Special circumstances will be considered in advance on a case by case basis and the Superintendent (or the Superintendent's designee) may allow the student to participate. Without such permission, the student is ineligible to compete until the following day.
 - a. If you are absent from school for a school sponsored event you can practice, play in a game, or take part in a performance that day.
 - b. If you are absent from school for a medical, dental, optometrist, etc. appointment you can participate. A written note or excuse slip from the doctor is required.
 - c. You may attend practice, play in games, or participate in performances with administrative approval if absent for a court appearance, bereavement, a family emergency, or some other reason deemed acceptable by the administration.
 - d. If you are home sick and do not come to school for part of the day you must attend at least four (4) class periods in order to practice. It is not in the best interest of our participants to be practicing when sick.
 - e. If you are in school but are absent from class for reasons deemed unexcused, you may not participate in games, practices, or performances that day.
6. Be in school the entire day after the day of competition on a school night. If a student arrives at school 20 minutes after the start of class, they will be ineligible for one half of basketball or football games or one volleyball game/track meet. If a student misses an entire period, they will be ineligible for the next competition and may not travel with the team.
7. FCCLA and FFA students who are not in attendance the day after a traveling event will be ineligible for their next event.
8. Abide by all rules and regulations of the school or risk being declared ineligible by the administration.
9. All grade checks will be Monday morning at 10:00am. Week to week eligibility is as follows:
 - a. EPS Week 1 Grace Period-During this week 1 grace period, students are still eligible to compete.
 - b. EPS Week 2 Ineligibility- Students who are ineligible for two consecutive weeks are allowed to practice but are not allowed to participate in competition beginning on Monday during week 2.

- c. EPS Week 3 Ineligibility-Students who are ineligible for two consecutive weeks are allowed to practice but are not allowed to participate in competition beginning on Monday during week 3.
 - d. EPS Week 4 Ineligibility- If a student is ineligible for 3 consecutive weeks when grades are checked Monday morning of the 4th week at 9am, the student will no longer be on the team for the remainder of that season or the end of the semester for activities.
 - e. When a student is deemed ineligible, the Guidance counselor will notify the parents by phone and mail.
10. A student enrolled in a Distance Learning class will also be placed on the weekly ineligible list if he/she falls behind in his/her tentative completion plan.

Participation in District Extracurricular Activities by unenrolled children

In accordance with section 20-5-112, MCA, a school district may not prohibit or restrict the ability of a student attending a nonpublic or home school meeting the requirements of **20-5-109** from participating in extracurricular activities at a school in the student's resident school district solely on the student's enrollment at the public school or on the number of hours the student physically attends the public school. Any child who is a resident of the District who is attending a nonpublic or home school meeting will reference and abide by the following:

1. Have parental permission to participate
2. Have a physical examination and abide by all concussion procedures as outlined by MHSAA
3. Abide by all rules and regulations of the school or risk being declared ineligible by the administration.
4. Not earn a failing grade in the same class for two (2) consecutive weeks or he/she will not be eligible the following week. This includes all classes the student is enrolled in during the semester/year. Weekly assignments/assessments/grades must be given in order for a student to have the opportunity to improve his/her grade. The teacher and the advisor/coach will notify the student who has been placed on the ineligibility list.
5. Grades must be submitted with an official copy or picture to the guidance counselor every Monday by 9am.
6. Is eligible to seek to participate in any extracurricular activity of the District that is offered to pupils of the district who are of the same grade level.
 - a. Is subject to the same standards for participation as those required of full-time pupils enrolled in the school and the same rules of any interscholastic organization of which the school of participation is a member.
 - b. Will be assessed for purposes of placement, team formation and cuts using the same criteria as used for full-time pupils enrolled in the District.
7. In cases where there is more than one school serving the same age group within District boundaries, a child participating under this provision shall be subject to the same school rules applicable to full-time pupils of the Elementary District 15 & High School District 3. Participation for one school for one sport and another school for another sport is prohibited.
8. The academic eligibility for extracurricular participation for a student attending a nonpublic school as specified under this provision shall be attested by the head administrator of the nonpublic school. No further verification shall be required.

9. The academic eligibility for extracurricular participation for a student attending a home school as specified under this provision shall be attested in writing by the educator providing the student instruction with verification by the school principal for the school of participation. The verification may not include any form of student assessment.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND INFORMATION

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school must have written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment and information about allergies to medications, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up to date (name of the doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the office to update any information.

Injuries: All injuries must be reported immediately to the coach and parent/guardian regardless of the nature of the injury. The coach/advisor will fill out an accident report form and submit it to the Superintendent. Once reviewed, the form will be filed in the Main Office with all accident reports within one (1) school day of the accident. █

FAMILY NIGHT

Wednesday evenings are to be set aside for youth activities not sponsored by the school. Youth activities will take priority over all athletics and school-sponsored events. Students are to be out of the school by 6:00 p.m., except under extenuating circumstances, with prior approval from the administration.

FEES/FORMS FOR ACTIVITIES

- **Ekalaka Public Schools Activities**
 - Athletic Physical -- NO Practice without proof turned into Ekalaka Public Schools office
 - Consent to Participate / Training Rule Form
 - Drug Consent Forms
 - Completed Concussion Testing + Concussion Forms
- **Activity Passes**
 - All spectators attending events must pay at the gate or have a pass.
 - \$60 Student, \$85 Adult, \$200 Family- Good for the school year
 - If you feel you cannot afford this amount and your student wants to play, there are scholarships available. Please contact the principal/superintendent.
 - Family passes included parent(s)/guardian(s) and all children in the house age zero until they graduate high school or turn 18, whichever is later. Family passes do not include extended family living in the same household or children once they have graduated high school.
- Service

- Being part of any program is an opportunity to serve. All athlete's will be expected to assist in the running of the concession stands throughout the year. This is an opportunity to build team camaraderie, cover additional athletic costs (travel & tournaments) and develop soft skills in communication and customer service. Bulldogs activities/athletics will receive 25% of profits from concessions. School groups and classes will have opportunities to sign up for concession stand events. If there are unfilled games, those events will be opened up to community organizations.
 - Concessions stand profits:
 - 25% total profit will go to the activities/athletics department
 - 75% profit will go to the activity/department working the concession stand
 - Every group/class or team will be rewarded a point for every hour the concession stand is being staffed. The remaining total profit, upon completion of the winter season, will be divided by the total points earned. Teams/clubs/classes and organizations will earn based on the number of points that they earned

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

Teacher's are here to help. You are entrusted to communicate with them proactively to discuss absences. For absences, make up work procedures will be as follows:

1. Students gone for scheduled activities, athletics, or non school sanctioned trips authorized by administration will be required to get their homework prior to leaving. Pink slips will be handed out by the coach/advisor and will also be available in the main office. Homework from these trips is due the next scheduled school day.
2. Students gone for illness or emergency will be allowed one make up day for each day absent.
3. Tests will be taken on schedule if a student knows in advance. Other arrangements will be at the teachers discretion.

PARENT MEETING

Parents/guardians and students participating in an activity are required to attend an informational meeting to discuss and sign the activities policy.

If parents are unable to attend the regularly scheduled meeting, it is the parent/guardian responsibility to make arrangements with the Activities Director to sign the proper paperwork before the first scheduled practice.

All coaches will be present for the Bulldog Barbecue to discuss their program and expectations. Winter and spring coaches may host parent meetings directly before their seasons begin

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS / CONCUSSION PROTOCOL

Physical exams are required for all student-athletes in grades 5-12. No student-athlete will be allowed to practice or participate prior to completing an athletic physical examination.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

FOR A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION of the Ekalaka Public Schools Sexual Harassment Policy, refer to Policy 3225, 3225F and 3225P, and/or contact the Title IX Coordinator.

NO CELL PHONES or any electronic media devices in locker rooms or restrooms.

Do not have your cell phone "on" or visible in the locker room or the restroom. Cell phone usage in these areas will necessitate immediate confiscation and disciplinary action. Return of the cell phone will be granted to the parent or legal guardian.

Use of Cell Phone & Electronic Devices on Sponsored School Trips

Each coach or sponsor has their own set of guidelines pertaining to the use of cell phones on school trips. Each student must adhere to their advisors' rules and regulations. █

TITLE IX

No student, on the basis of sex or, in accordance with binding guidance of the Federal Office of Civil Rights regarding the scope of Title IX's sex discrimination prohibition, gender identity, sexual orientation, or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity will be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any rights, privilege, or advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Inquiries regarding discrimination on the basis of sex should be directed to the District Title IX Coordinator (please reference Policy 3225)

TRAVEL

The administration will take into consideration the following factors in determining if a team will stay overnight at a student event, tournament or meet.

1. Distance
2. Game or participation time
3. Weather conditions
4. Road conditions
5. Availability of motel/hotel rooms
6. Coaches, advisors, and chaperone input
7. The previous behavior of participants
8. Extenuating circumstances. The final approval will be the decision of the Superintendent/Principal
9. 12 Players and 2 Managers will be permitted to postseason travel
10. Cost of travel

Buses and other school vehicles:

Students are expected to assist District staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding school buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stop unless prior arrangements have been made and approved.
- Stay in your assigned seat (if assigned) until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Keep feet, books, band instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Take care of the bus and equipment, not deface the bus or its equipment.
- Keep their head, hands, arms, and legs inside the bus and not throw or hold any item outside the bus.
- Tag, tossing items and hide/seek are not appropriate games to be played on the Bus.
- If food and drink cannot be eaten respectfully and cleanly, then they will not be permitted on the bus.
- Items that belong to a student are to stay with that student.

When students ride in a District vehicle or passenger car, seat belts must be fastened at all times.

Consequences for misconduct:

Verbal warning.

Assigned seats.

Parental and school involvement via official disciplinary procedures.

Removal from the bus schedule temporarily or permanently.

Motels/Hotels:

When student travel requires overnight accommodations, the office/AD will make arrangements in advance of the group/team departing Ekalaka. In severe weather situations, poor road conditions or mechanical difficulties, arrangements may need to be made without prior knowledge.

- Rooms will be reserved to allow not more than five (5) students to a room, but in all cases, each student will be provided a bed for sleeping purposes. Not more than two (2) students per double bed will be allowed. (Ex. 5 students would have 2 double beds plus one rollaway).
- Separate accommodations for male and female students will be provided.
- If any emergency should arise on a trip (e.g., adverse road conditions, injuries or major infraction of rules), the athletic/activities director and/or Superintendent will be contacted by phone as soon as possible. Parents will then be notified by the most efficient method.

Travel Rules & Regulations

Students, when traveling with a team, group, club, etc. must realize the standard of behavior expected in school is applicable at all times. Students are representing Ekalaka Public Schools and should conduct themselves in such a manner that the school and community can be proud of them. The following specific rules combined with any/all rules stated in the Ekalaka Public Schools student handbook will be in effect at all times:

- 1) Students are not permitted in the rooms of students of the opposite sex at any time.
- 2) While on the bus, students of the opposite sex will be separated by coaches/sponsors. (i.e. males in the front, females in the back, coaches in the middle)

- 3) Public and/or private displays of affection are prohibited at all times.
- 4) Use of video machines, tapes and games must be approved by the coach/sponsor. All movies must be “G” or “PG” rated. All games must be “E” rated. No rental of movies (ex. pay-per-view) or games are allowed in hotel rooms.
- 5) Once permission has been granted by the parent, the students are not permitted to leave the facility in which their coach/sponsor is present without specific permission from their coach/sponsor in advance of the student’s departure. When permission is granted to leave the facility by the coach/sponsor, the student (s) must sign out with the coach/sponsor when leaving and sign back in upon their return.
- 6) Departure and return times will be determined by the following criteria:
- 7) The group may not leave the day before the event if they can arrive a minimum of one (1) hour before their practice/game time and departure time will be determined by the AD and transportation director
- 8) The group will depart the activity site following the conclusion of the session in which they have participated in. Administrator discretion will be used regarding this rule when extraordinary circumstances warrant.
- 9) If a student has been deemed academically ineligible, they will not be allowed to travel with the school for any extracurricular event.
- 10) FFA and FCCLA students MUST be competing to travel to state conventions.
- 11) Chaperones are never permitted to stay in the same room with students

Overnight stays for athletic extracurricular activities:

If a tournament is held more than 100 miles away, the team may stay overnight in the host city with approval of the Superintendent.

Cooperative Activity Travel

Every student participating in an activity that is part of a cooperative arrangement with another school district will be required to arrange for their own transportation to and from the other school district for all practices and to catch the bus to contests. Parents will be required to sign specific consent forms for this activity. The Ekalaka School District will not transport, or assume any liability for transportation, for these activities.

Out of state travel

CONUS (Continental United States) rates apply for travel beyond the 4 state region (ND, SD, WY & MT) or with pre-authorization of the Superintendent.

TRAINING RULES

1. Sponsors/Advisors/Coaches shall cover training rules with all activity members in a careful and concise manner prior to the first event of the season. Copies of the rules will be given to the participant for signatures by the participant and his/her parent and/or guardian. Throughout the time of participation, members shall be reminded that the training rules are important and in effect. For students participating in any activities that begin prior to the first day of school, these rules apply as of the first official day of the activity. For students participating in any activities that end after the last day of school, these rules apply through the final day of activity. For non-participants, the policy ends on the last official day of school.

2. Sponsors/Advisors/Coaches are responsible for ensuring that training is maintained throughout the time of participation.
3. These rules apply to ALL students who participate in extracurricular activities. These activities include, but are not limited to students who are athletes, band or choir members, FCCLA, FFA, Academic Olympics, Student Council, National Honor Society, Speech and Drama, school plays/musicals, managers/video personnel, and all others who have a function in these activities. Activities also include Junior/Senior Banquet, Prom, Homecoming, Cheerleaders, Athletic and non-athletic practices/meetings, participation in contests/games, music/band performances, Close-up, music festivals, travel, or graduation ceremony.
4. All training rules and the content within this handbook applies to students who are seeking excused days for non-school activities. For example, if a student participating in a non-school activity is deemed ineligible, the student will not be eligible for excused absences while they travel.

Disciplinary Procedure - Vandalism/Theft/Substances- Ekalaka Public School Students, NonPublic or Private Students

Possession, use or association with or drinking of alcoholic beverages or illegal/mood-altering drugs, and use of tobacco and vaping products, is not permitted. It is not a violation for a student to be in possession of using a medication that has been specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his/her doctor and using it in a prescribed manner; however, it is a violation to misuse the prescribed medication or to sell or distribute it in any manner to another person.

Any acts of vandalism or theft are not permitted. Students in multiple activities will be subject to the outlined consequences in all activities for the duration of the violation in addition to the consequences that may be given in the Student Handbook.

- **FIRST OFFENSE**: Mandatory counseling sessions based on the counselor's recommendation and exclusion from Non-athletic events:
 - ALL organizational non-athletic activities (meetings, competitions, office positions) for a period of up to 2 weeks
 - Athletic events:
 - up to four next scheduled basketball games
 - up to four next scheduled volleyball contests
 - up to two-next scheduled track meets
 - up to two next scheduled football games
 - For Non-Athletic and Athletic events from the reporting and filing of the report. A student must:
 - Not be part of any competition during the suspension
 - Not travel to any event with a team
 - Attend all athletic practices during the suspension
 - Participate counseling based on counselor's recommendation
 - Refer to the student handbook referral chart for additional discipline.
- **SECOND OFFENSE**: Refer to the student handbook referral chart for additional discipline; five hours of approved counseling at student expense; Long-term suspension (up to 10 days by administration) from all activities pending an investigation and a hearing

before the Board. The student is not eligible for postseason awards, all-star games, or lettering in the sport.

- **THIRD OFFENSE:** Immediate suspension from all activities (up to 10 days by administration) for the remainder of the year, pending an investigation and a hearing before the Board. Refer to the student handbook referral chart for additional discipline; Forfeiture of all postseason awards, all-star games, or lettering in the sport. The consequences for violating the Possession Rule at a school-sponsored activity at an away or overnight trip will result in the immediate notification for parents to get the student. Immediate dismissal from the team (for up to 10 days by administration) or organization will occur pending an investigation and a hearing before the Board.

Please reference District Policy 1700 Uniform Complaint Procedure for any disputes in discipline.

TRANSPORTATION

School Sponsored Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. If a student is missing school the day of the event/activity, the administration needs to approve the absence prior to the event so that student may still participate. If a student wishes to not ride home on the provided transportation, the parent/guardian must sign the student off with the coach or advisor, or call the school to make arrangements. Students cannot transport themselves to or from student activities.

Each event/activity shall have a faculty or adult sponsor who shall be responsible for the group and its activities. When both genders are traveling overnight, an effort will be made for a chaperone of each gender. Activity forms will indicate advisors/chaperones traveling with students.

Travel Expenditures:

1. MEALS - Student meals will be paid for through the student organization/team account.
 - a. The allowance for meals will be a \$14 allowance for each meal for postseason events only. Students will be required to bring a meal or money when traveling out of town for games, activities, or events.
 - b. Meal stops must be made to receive meal money. This can include convenience store or snack stops if nothing else is open and students are choosing healthy options, not soda and candy bars
 - c. Meal money does not compound. If a meal is not eaten, the allotted money does not extend to the next meal.
 - d. Every attempt will be made by the advisors/coaches/chaperones to select eating establishments where meal money will provide an adequate menu selection.
 - e. Participants are expected to provide a tip for service in a restaurant—usually \$1 per meal

Any time a school vehicle is used when traveling, it shall be cleaned and left in satisfactory condition prior to the coach and students leaving the vehicle.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION, PERMISSION,
AUTHORIZATION FOR EMERGENCY CARE AND
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISKS
Ekalaka Public Schools**

You are signing your child up for the following activities (pursuant to the District’s Activities handbook) for the 2024-2025 school year. It is the policy of the School District to require parental permission before allowing a student to participate in any school activity identified in our Activities Handbook.

Include any activities your child wishes to participate in here: _____

I/We hereby give permission for my child, _____, to participate in the above-identified school activities.

Ekalaka Public Schools affirms that it will exercise ordinary care and skill in the supervision of students participating in school activities. However, I understand the inherent risks associated with my child participating in school activities. Specifically, I understand the inherent risks of my child participating in school activities, includes but is not limited to:

- a. Injury;
- b. Illness; and/or
- c. Death;

I fully understand and appreciate the risks above and voluntarily choose to allow my child to participate in school activities.

I further acknowledge my assumption of responsibility to require by child to strictly follow all directives of any coach, chaperone, employee or agent of Ekalaka Public Schools and to comply with the terms of this agreement and district policy during my child’s participation in any school activity. I further acknowledge that any failure to comply with directives as set forth herein shall constitute a voluntary and unreasonable exposure of my child to known dangers and foreseeable risk of harm and shall be considered comparative negligence on my behalf within the meaning of section 27-1-702, MCA.

I authorize qualified emergency medical professionals to examine and in the event of injury or serious illness, administer emergency care to my child. I understand every effort will be made to contact me to explain the nature of the problem prior to any involved treatment. In the event it becomes necessary for the district staff in charge to obtain emergency care for my child, neither he/she nor the school district assumes financial liability for expenses incurred because of an accident, injury, illness and/or unforeseen circumstances.

Parent(s) or Guardian(s): _____
(Please Print)

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Emergency contact information (if different than the above-listed phone number): _____

Does your child have a medical condition which the school should be aware of before allowing your child to participate in school activities? Yes ____ No ____ . If yes, please state the nature of the medical condition: _____.

**In the event that an unforeseen circumstance arises creating a need for you to contact your child or a circumstance where information would need to be relayed to you about an emergency an information network has been established. The School District contacts are Carol Spencer/Amy Walker and can be reached at 406-630-1523

Signature: _____
Parent/Guardian

Date: _____

Signature: _____
Parent/Guardian _____

Date: _____

APPENDIX A**Eligibility Checklist – Nonpublic School and Homeschool Participation**

Nonpublic or home school students who meet the requirements of 20-5-109 can participate in MHSA member school extra-curricular activities.

20-5-109. Nonpublic school requirements for compulsory enrollment exemption. To qualify its students for exemption from compulsory enrollment under 20-5-102, a nonpublic or home school:

(1) shall maintain records on pupil attendance and disease immunization and make the records

available to the county superintendent of schools on request;

(2) shall provide at least the minimum aggregate hours of pupil instruction in accordance with 20-1-301 and 20-1-302;

(3) must be housed in a building that complies with applicable local health and safety regulations;

(4) shall provide an organized course of study that includes instruction in the subjects required of public schools as a basic instructional program pursuant to 20-7-111; and

(5) in the case of home schools, shall notify the county superintendent of schools of the county in which the home school is located in each school fiscal year of the student's attendance at the school.

The same standards (MHSA and Local School Policies) must be met as those required of full-time students enrolled in the school (exception- enrollment in the school and transfer).

The same MHSA rules apply including age, semesters, academics (see below) and attendance area residence. Only enrollment is waived.

✓ **Attendance Area** - Student must live in your school's attendance area – the nonpublic and/or home a school student's entire family must live in the attendance area of the school they are participating at. Nonpublic or homeschool students cannot transfer.

✓ **Academic Eligibility** – Nonpublic school – the students' academic eligibility must be attested by the head administrator of the nonpublic school. Homeschool – academic eligibility must be attested in writing by the educator providing the student instruction with verification by the MHSAs school principal.

- Grading Period – one semester (one half of a school year – approximately 18 school weeks or 90 school days).

- A participant must have received a passing grade and received credit in at least twenty hours of prepared class or work or its equivalent in the last previous semester in which he/she is enrolled.

- Participants who are academically ineligible cannot participate in any Association contest

(varsity or sub varsity) for a period of one semester. They can practice if the school allows but they cannot suit up or participate in any games at any level of competition.

To meet the same standards as required in the law, a home school and/or nonpublic school student must demonstrate they have passed four half-credit classes in the previous semester (90 school day period). This is meeting the same standard. Otherwise, students who are failing could transfer to homeschool and have their educator state they are passing in that semester to become eligible academically without verification of number of classes and passing work, etc. Also, the nonpublic school administrator or home school educator must demonstrate the student is on course to graduate complying with the MHSAs semester and age rules.

✓ **Age Rule**

A student who turns 19 after midnight August 31st is age-eligible. Any 19 year old (who turns 19 on or before midnight August 31st) can file a waiver of the age rule if the following is proved by the student –

- 1) student does not create a safety risk,
- 2) student does not skew the overall competitiveness of the activity,
- 3) participation will not exclude others, and
- 4) the student meets all necessary criteria to participate in MHSAs activities.

✓ **Semester Rule**

Students are eligible for eight consecutive semesters and the semesters start to accrue after entering the ninth grade.

The principal will verify when the student began high school coursework which will begin his/her semester accrual. (Eight consecutive semesters once they start ninth grade coursework and semester accrue whether they are attending school or not).

✓ **Dual Participation** – No student may establish eligibility concurrently at two member schools. Dual enrollment is not recognized for the purpose of eligibility in MHSA activities.

A homeschool or nonpublic school student who participates at a MHSA member school is not eligible to concurrently participate in the same sport/activity that he/she participates in at the member school in any other league (nonpublic or home school). This provision protects member schools and nonpublic and home school leagues regarding dual participation.

✓ **Graduate Students**

Any student who meets any of the following criteria shall be ineligible to participate in any Association Activity:

- a. The student is a graduate of a regular four-year high school.
- b. The student is a graduate of a secondary school which has the same requirements for graduation as a regular four-year high school.
- c. The student has earned enough credits to entitle him/her to be graduated from the high school and has completed eight semesters of high school.
- d. The student has received a high school equivalency diploma (GED or HiSET)

Interpretations

1. A student who graduates the first semester is ineligible for the second semester.
2. A student who has earned enough credits to graduate the first semester but remains enrolled and graduates on the regular date remains eligible to participate.
3. Senior students who are currently eligible in their eighth semester (4th spring) will continue to be eligible for all interscholastic activities even though graduation exercises precede the completion of interscholastic activities for that specific year. If a student has earned a GED or HiSET he/she is considered a high school graduate and is not eligible to compete in any MHSA sanctioned activity.

✓ **Physical Exams**

Physical exams are required for students participating in MHSA sanctioned sports. The exam is valid for one school year and the MHSA form must be used. This examination must be certified by a licensed medical professional acting within the scope and limitations of his/her practice. Physicals performed before May 1 st are not valid for the next school year.

✓ **Initial Required Number of Practices Rule**

The initial required amount of practices (ten (10) for football, basketball, tennis, soccer, cross country, track and field, softball, wrestling, and swimming and two (2) for golf for each individual must be completed as a comprehensive, regularly scheduled team practice with the full coaching staff present.

Appendix B

Below is a copy of individual activity codes of conduct.

FFA

The FFA is an integral part of Agricultural Education programs in Montana and provides training in citizenship, responsibility, and cooperation. Because individual conduct and appearance is a part of this training, it becomes the responsibility of all members and adults participating in an FFA activity to adhere to the Code of Conduct from the time they depart from home or school until they return. Attendance and participation in district, state or national FFA activities and conventions is a privilege. Knowing any organization is judged largely by the behavior and appearance of its participating individuals, the following Code of Conduct is subscribed to all members, guests, chaperones, and advisors.

1. All participants are expected to always attend the scheduled sessions and/or activities. (Prior approval of advisor/ chaperone is required for any exceptions.)
2. Official FFA dress is expected while attending all sessions and/ or activities unless otherwise noted in the itinerary. (See official FFA Manual)
3. The National FFA Code of Ethics will be strictly adhered to (See official FFA Manual).
4. No Alcoholic Beverages or illegal drugs in any form shall be possessed or used at any time or under any circumstances on public or private properties. Smoking or use of tobacco products (including Vaping) during activities, events or in official FFA dress will not be permitted and is further restricted according to school policy.
5. Curfew regulations shall be interpreted to mean that all members shall be in, and remain in, the room assigned to them as specified on the itinerary.

6. Advisor/ chaperone and/or scheduled activities may require adjustment of the curfew regulations as the situation warrants 10:00pm shall be the curfew when other factors are not present.
7. FFA Members attending FFA Functions/conventions and/or Activities are guests using the facilities. Special care shall be taken to avoid defacing or destroying property. The individual or chapter responsible will pay for any properties or furnishings in hotel/motel rooms or other facilities with any damage.
8. All participants shall read and be familiar with any special rules and guidelines for specific activities such as the National FFA Convention Guidelines of Duties and Responsibilities.
9. All participants agree to practice a minimum of three practices prior to each contest and attend three quarters of all chapter meetings and activities.
10. For no reason nor at any time is a female student allowed to enter a boy's room, nor shall a male student enter a girl's room, no matter if either party is from Carter County FFA chapter or not. In the event that groups need to study together, only with the permission of, and the supervision from, the advisor or chaperone, will co gender be allowed in the same room. There upon the door will remain open during any time of co-existence.
11. Students will show respect at all times for other members, advisors, and guests that are around them at any time. Hands will be kept to ourselves, we will not move, hide, or mess with items that don't belong to us.
12. FFA students who are not in attendance the day after a traveling event will be ineligible for their next event.

It is agreed that upon violation of the code of conduct, the violator may be asked to leave the hotel/motel and or conference/ activities by proper FFA authorities or the chapter advisor. Any misconduct can result in disqualifications from upcoming events (three warnings during FFA meetings or a violation of code of conduct during any time activities or trips). Serious misconduct will be reported to parents, school officials, and local chapter advisor/ chaperones. Serious misconduct will result in the member being sent home. If the parents/ guardians or school officials cannot transport the member home within a reasonable time notification of expulsion, the member shall be sent home on public transportation at the cost of the member/ parent/ guardian.

Furthermore, should participants be sent home early or back out after a deposit has been made on their behalf they will agree to reimburse the chapter for all expenses specific to themselves.

FCCLA

FCCLA MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT (to be kept on file by the chapter adviser)

1. Behavior at all times should reflect a positive, professional image of you, your school, the state of Montana and the FCCLA organization. Students are representatives of their school district. As such, they must comply with the Board of Trustees policies regarding student conduct.
2. Students will follow the approved Montana FCCLA Dress Code available on the

Montana FCCLA website. Only students appropriately dressed will be allowed to participate. Students will wear their identification badge at all times.

3. Students shall attend, be on time and act in a professional manner at all general sessions, workshops and related activities in conjunction with the event for which they are registered.
4. Any accidents, injuries or illnesses should be reported to the adult chaperone/adviser and state director immediately. A copy of this signed Code of Conduct and a medical release form will be retained by the school and one will be brought to the conference by the adviser/school representative.
5. All students will observe the curfew issued and be quiet in their assigned rooms. Unnecessary noise at any hour shall be avoided in respect to other guests. Hotel regulations must be observed; this includes pool conduct, hours, etc.
6. Students will keep their adviser/adult chaperones informed of their activities and whereabouts at all times. The student shall spend the night, or nights, at the assigned hotel in his/her assigned room. Delegates are to remain on the conference premises unless permission to leave has been granted by the local adviser/adult chaperone, and the student is in the company of an adult upon departure.
7. Students must refrain from the use or possession of illegal drugs, tobacco or alcohol in any form. Possession is defined as having in one's belongings such as a purse or luggage, in one's hotel/motel room, or having knowledge that illegal drugs, tobacco or alcohol are in one's hotel/motel room or in another person's possession at any time during the FCCLA activity.
8. Students are not allowed in the sleeping rooms of the opposite gender, except when an adviser/adult chaperone is present.
9. Students shall not deface property, litter the premises, and/or put at risk the health and well-being of self or others. Any damages to property, furnishings or buildings shall be paid for by the individual or individuals responsible.
10. The enforcement of the Code of Conduct is the responsibility of the advisor/school representative. The adviser/school representative will call the school administrator for direction. For violation of any of the above, parents will be contacted and students will be sent home at their own expense.
11. The adviser/school representative will submit this Code of Conduct to the school administration and/or Board of Trustees.
12. Any action detrimental to FCCLA image will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the organization.
13. FCCLA students who are not in attendance the day after a traveling event will be ineligible for their next event.

Fundraisers and Other Activities

Ekalaka Public Schools Event/Fundraiser Form

The Event/Fundraiser Form (available in the "Staff Form Drawer" in the main office) must be filled out and submitted at least two weeks prior to any event taking place on or off the school grounds. Indicate on the form any additional requirements (i.e. onionskins, use of the sound system).

Gymnasium

Any group or activity requiring the use of onion skins must include the need for onionskins on their request form. At the conclusion of the activity, the onionskins must be thoroughly swept and mopped by the group using the facilities, trash taken to the dumpsters outside, lights turned off and doors locked.

Tuggle Room

At the conclusion of any activities, the Tuggle Room shall be swept and mopped by the group using the facilities, trash will be taken to the dumpsters outside, lights turned off and doors locked.

Kitchen

At the conclusion of any activities, dishes will be washed and returned to their proper locations; the kitchen shall be swept and mopped by the group using the facilities; trash will be taken to the dumpsters outside; lights turned off and all doors locked.

FCS Room

At the conclusion of any activities, dishes will be washed and returned to their proper locations; the kitchen shall be swept by the group using the facilities; trash will be taken to the dumpsters outside; lights turned off and all doors locked.

Activity Finances

Cash Box

If the sponsoring group is charging admission, a cash box request must be submitted at least 1 week prior to the event (monies for cashbox are drawn from the group's school account). The cash box request form is on the back of the Fundraiser form. Indicate whether a cash box or cash bag is preferred. Cash box will be tallied at the end of the event, money and checks placed in a deposit envelope (located on the safe in Tuggle Room Office), and dropped into the slot in the safe. The empty cash box/bag may be placed on top of the safe.

Purchases for Activities

All activity purchases must have an activity order form (green form) submitted and approved prior to any purchase. After approval, all Internet/online purchases must be made by the financial officer using the proper school P-Card. Off-line purchases (in market or out of town, for example) must have proper documentation (approved activity order form) prior to any purchases being made. Any purchases which do not follow these guidelines will not be approved for reimbursement. **Reminder: All purchases MUST be approved by the class/activity advisors AND the administration prior to any purchases being made.**

Per the Certified Handbook: “Any obligation of district funds without utilization of a purchase order shall become the financial responsibility of the person having obligated the monies.”

Events

Dances

School sponsored High School dances (with the exception of Prom) will be held in the Tuggle Room of Carter County High School. Dances are open to Carter County High School students and their approved dates. An approved date is defined as

- (1) another high school student at CCHS,
- (2) a student in good standing at a high school other than CCHS and approved by the office, and
- (3) student (homeschooled, online, or non highschool) in good standing and approved by administration.

School sponsored Junior High School dances will be held in the Tuggle Room of Carter County High School. Dances (with the exception of Prom) are open to Carter County Junior High School students and their approved dates. An approved date is defined as

- (1) another junior high student at CCHS,
- (2) a student in good standing at a junior high other than CCHS and approved by the office, and
- (3) student (homeschooled, online, or non 6-7th grade) in good standing and approved by administration.

All dances must be chaperoned by a minimum of 2 adults: at least 1 advisor/teacher and another adult who has been vetted by the office. Any student wishing to leave the dance early will have their parents called for permission. If permission is granted, there will be no “in and out”: once a student leaves the dance, they will not be permitted to reenter the building.

Local law enforcement will be notified in advance the date and times that a dance will be taking place at the school.

Rules for dress and grooming as written in the Student Handbook apply to all school dances.

At the conclusion of the dance (with the exception of Prom), the sponsoring group will clean up and bag trash and take it to the proper receptacle outside, sweep and mop floors, and insure that all doors are locked and lights are turned off. Prom cleanup will take place at noon the day following Prom.

Prom

The basic rules for all dances apply to Prom. In addition:

Prom is sponsored and paid for by the Junior Class. Chaperones include both class advisors and, in the case that both advisors of the same gender, one additional advisor of the opposite gender.

All purchases for Prom must have an activity order form (green form) submitted and approved prior to purchase. After approval, all Internet/online purchases must be made by the financial officer using the proper school P-Card. Off-line purchases (in market or out of town, for example) must have proper documentation (approved activity order form) prior to any purchases being made. Any purchases which do not follow these guidelines will not be approved for reimbursement. **Reminder: All purchases MUST be approved by the class, then by the class advisors, and finally by the administration prior to any purchases being made.**

Per the Certified Handbook: “Any obligation of district funds without utilization of a purchase order shall become the financial responsibility of the person having obligated the monies.”

Timeline: A complete timeline for Prom is available in Google Drive: Shared Drives: Documents for Staff:Prom. Timeline begins in September.

The day following prom, the junior class will assemble in the gym at 12:00 noon to complete teardown, throw away trash, neatly stow gossamer and other reusable items in the annex, and sweep and mop the onionskins.

Band/Choir/Drama

Event/Fundraiser forms will be submitted to the office at least 4 weeks prior to the event, but earlier is better to get the date on the school schedule.

Pep Rallies

With the exception of Homecoming, Pep Rallies will be scheduled 3:18-3:45 unless there are extenuating circumstances which preclude this. Classes will not be interrupted nor curtailed for Pep Rallies.