

# Van Buren High School Student Handbook 2009-2010

## **Accreditation**

Van Buren High School is fully accredited by the State Department of Education. The school is also a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, which is the highest possible rating for a school. To be a member of NCA means very high standards must be maintained. The school board, the school administration and the school faculty are constantly on guard to maintain this high rating.

## **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

Van Buren Schools shall establish and maintain an atmosphere in which all persons can develop attitudes and skills for effective, cooperative living including respect for the individual regardless of economic status, intellectual ability, race, creed, color, religion, gender, or age.

## **Mission Statement**

Van Buren High School will serve its students by providing a positive school and community environment so that all students will possess the opportunity for a comprehensive education that can guide them into an increasingly technological society.

The administration, faculty and staff are dedicated to all students to develop creative and critical thinking skills, as well as, curiosity, initiative, and a positive and healthy attitude toward life. As a result, students will learn to appreciate different cultures, understand human relationships, and respect the rights, needs, and achievements of others so they can become responsible citizens.

***\*\*Van Buren High School: A Place For You\*\****

## **To: Parents and Students:**

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year. On behalf of the staff and administration of VBHS, let me express our desire that every student be successful at Van Buren High School. For this to be a realistic outcome, our school learning community, which includes parents, and students in addition to our staff, must work together. The key will be our combined efforts to maintain open dialogue and good communication.

This Handbook contains two sections:

**Section 1** (the Student Handbook) contains the ABC's of VBHS. These pages will provide students with the information they need to be successful at VBHS. It includes everything from attendance to withdrawal procedures.

**Section 2** (The clubs/organizations section) contains brief information on the 30+ clubs and organizations operating on the VBHS campus. We encourage our students to take an active role in school activities to help them become an integral part of VBHS.

We believe our certified staff to be one of the strongest in our state, and are committed to helping our students obtain the best education possible. Visit your counselors, work with your administrators, and take advantage of all the opportunities we offer.

We have high expectations for our students, and will provide encouragement and assistance at every stage of academic development. This, however, does not mean that success will come automatically. You must approach this vital time in your life with a good attitude, good work habits, and an enthusiasm for learning. If you do so, success will be yours. I want to extend my best wishes to everyone in our extended Pointer Family, and I look forward to an exciting and productive 2009-2010 school year.

Best Wishes,

Becky Guthrie  
Principal

### **Academic Achievement Assembly**

Students who meet the following qualifications at the end of the first semester of each school year are eligible for an Academic Achievement Letter. Letters will be presented in the spring of each school year.

- Grade 10 (after First Semester) 3.75 GPA
- Grade 11 (after Third Semester) 3.50 GPA
- Grade 12 (after Fifth Semester) 3.25 GPA

### **Advanced Placement Courses**

VBHS offers 15 AP courses endorsed by the American College Board.

### **Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship**

This scholarship is sponsored by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education to recognize selected students for scholastic achievement as measured by their academic records and ACT scores. The AACCS is a four year scholarship of \$2,500 to \$3,500 per year (or tuition, whichever is less) to students in financial need who score a composite score of 19 or better on the ACT and have at least a 3.00 GPA in specified High School courses. Students must also certify that they are drug-free and pledge to remain that way, must take two years of the same foreign language and four years of math. See your counselor for more information.

### **Attendance**

Regular school attendance is vital to the overall academic success of every student. Law also requires it. All high school students must attend school under provisions of state regulations. Students who do not attend school cannot earn grades and thus cannot be given credit for courses.

**It is the parent's responsibility to contact the school within a 48-hour period to have their child's absence excused.** Contact **MUST** be by written note and must be given to school secretary.

**Authority for the VBHS attendance policy is provided by VBSD board policy 4.2.5.**

**11 total absences will constitute excessive absenteeism. Students who accumulate more than ten (10) absences in an individual class during the semester may be denied course credit.**

The following classification of absences will NOT count toward the ten (10) day limit:

- **Campus activity** – School sponsored trips
- **Medical** – Must submit documentation from doctor/dental office the day student returns to school
- **Legal** – Must submit documentation from court the day student returns to school
- **Death in family** – Must submit documentation (such as copy of funeral program) the day student returns to school
- **Days in which a student has been suspended from school**  
(*In-school suspensions are not absences.*)

**Unexcused Absences are those which can be declared truancies and therefore subject students to disciplinary action according to the provisions of VBSD Board policy 4.2.5.**

Parents will be notified of student absences according to board policy 4.2.5.

In certain situations, extenuating circumstances may arise. Parents may be allowed to pre-arrange an extended absence by contacting the principal or one of the assistant principals to excuse the absence. It will be the student's responsibility to secure make-up work ahead of time for their absence.

### **Absentee Committee**

Students have the right to petition for credit which has been denied to be reinstated. The Attendance committee will meet once a month and will consist of a high school administrator, a high school counselor, and at least one high school faculty member.

### **Procedure For Appeal:**

Submit an Absentee Appeal Form to the attendance clerk located in the high school office at least one working day prior to the date set for the absentee committee meeting.

**Dispositions may include, but not be limited to the following:**

- Uphold the decision to deny credit. Student will receive a NC (No Credit) for the semester
- Overturn the decision to deny credit and require all make-up work to be completed
- Overturn the decision to deny credit with no make-up work required

A FINNS petition will be filed on each student who loses credit due to a lack of attendance under the provisions of Act 876. This action may also result in the revocation of the student’s driver’s license, according to the provisions of the same act. Students with excessive truancy will be reported to the Juvenile Court.

**Anti-Bullying Policy**

Students at VBHS **must** report any verbal or physical confrontation between students. Failure to do this may result in disciplinary action against students who DO NOT report. Staff members will also be expected to report conflicts immediately. Reporting of the conflict is to be done whether the incident occurs on campus, at a school event or en route to or from school. Students who are having conflicts with peers should go immediately to a teacher, counselor, or administrator to get help in resolving the conflict at the first sign of trouble. If the conflict has not escalated to a physical altercation, the students involved will not necessarily be subject to disciplinary action.

Students who deliberately attempt to instigate conflicts between other students by words or actions will be disciplined. If there is evidence that students have been the cause of a violent confrontation, they will be suspended a minimum of 1 day, even though they were not physically involved in the confrontation.

Students involved in extortion, intimidation, or physical bullying of fellow students will be subject to a minimum 1 day suspension on the first offense. Failure to report an incident of any of these activities will result in disciplinary action.

**Basic School**

Van Buren School district offers night classes for several courses required for graduation. Students will need to enroll with the counseling office, and in most situations must have failed the course before being admitted. **Students may count up to five (5) credits toward graduation requirements which come from Basic or Summer School.** See your counselor for information on course offerings and class meeting times/days.

**Bell Schedules:**

**Zero Hour classes: 7:00 to 7:50**

Per.	Time		Per.	Time
<b>1</b>	8:00 – 8:50		<b>1</b>	8:00 – 8:50
<b>2</b>	8:55 – 9:45		<b>2</b>	8:55 – 9:45
<b>3</b>	9:50 – 10:40		<b>3</b>	9:50 – 10:40
<b>Lunch A</b>	10:40 – 11:15		<b>4</b>	10:45 – 11:40
<b>4</b>	11:20 – 12:15		<b>Lunch B</b>	11:40 – 12:15
<b>5</b>	12:20 – 1:10		<b>5</b>	12:20 – 1:10
<b>6</b>	1:15 – 2:05		<b>6</b>	1:15 – 2:05
<b>7</b>	2:10 – 3:00		<b>7</b>	2:10 – 3:00

The office will announce other special schedules as they become necessary.

**Bus Behavior**

All students are under the direct control and supervision of the bus driver on the bus. Permission for any student to ride a bus is conditioned on his/her observance of the safety and behavior code of bus riders. Any student who violates any of these regulations can be denied permission to ride a bus to and from school. Parents must assume a major portion of the responsibility for the conduct of their child while riding the bus. If this permission is revoked, parents must provide transportation for their child.

**Cell Phones and Electronic Devices**

It is the policy of the Board of Education that no student shall possess a cell phone or any electronic devices such as I-pods, MP3, I-pod Touch, beepers, pagers, etc. on campus with the exception of students who have had them preapproved for health concerns. Cell phones and/or electronic devices shall not be seen or used between the school hours of 7:50 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Students who violate this policy will have the item(s) confiscated. VBHS will not be responsible for lost or stolen phones or electronics. Students who bring these items to school do so at their own risk. All Cell phones, as well as, electronic devices should be turned off and kept out of sight. Students may use their phones after 3:00 p.m.

Penalty for violation will be confiscation of the device. Parents can retrieve items between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and

4:00p.m. on day of infraction or during school hours any day thereafter. Habitual offenders will be subject to disciplinary action for insubordination.

### **Child Care**

It is the responsibility of student parents who attend VBHS to arrange care for their infant and toddler children. **Infants and young children will not be allowed to attend class with their parents.**

### **Closed Campus**

**Van Buren High School is a closed campus.** A student is expected to arrive on campus before school begins in the morning and remain on campus until the close of the school day for that particular student. If it becomes necessary to leave campus during the school day, the student must **“check out”** through the office.

Students leaving and returning to campus will be subject to suspension. Parents will be notified of the suspension.

Parents may check students out for lunch if they come to the office in-person and sign their student out. Students may not leave campus for lunch based on a phone call or note from the parent.

### **College Courses & Concurrent Enrollment**

VBHS students are eligible to enroll in a public supported community college or four year college/university in accordance with the rules adopted by the Van Buren School District. A student who successfully completes a three-hour credited college course or courses shall receive one-half unit of credit at VBHS and academic credit by the institution of higher education. Credits shall be applicable to graduation requirements.

VBHS offers several college credit courses on campus through the concurrent credit partnership with NWACC, ATU, and UAFS. Consult a counselor for a full list of courses and conditions pertaining to each college.

VBHS students are eligible to enroll in technology programs (not offered on the VBHS campus) at the Western Arkansas Technical Center. The Technical Center on the UAFS Campus will offer classes for 11th and 12th grade students in the following programs: Health Occupations, Computer-Aided Drafting and Design, Machine Tool Technology, Computer Repair Technology, Electronics Technology, and Automotive Technology. Visit the VBHS Counseling Center for more information.

### **Computer Lab**

The computer lab in room C101 is available for all students and staff of VBHS from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Students shall abide by the District and school’s “Acceptable Use Policy” (District Policy Handbook). Failure to do so will result in loss of privileges, payment of damages, any and all other discipline or punishments set out by VBHS or federal authorities. Students may use the computer lab during non-class time only when proper supervision is provided.

### **Conduct Behavior Code**

All students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that will contribute to the best interest of the school system and not infringe on the rights of others. Improper conduct will subject the student to disciplinary action including but not limited to, suspension or expulsion from school. A violation of the rule will occur if the conduct takes place on the school grounds at any time, off the school grounds at a school activity, function, event or en route to and from school. The Student Conduct and Behavior Code is outlined in District Board Policy 4.3. Other student discipline policies as well as authority for student discipline are outlined in board policies 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.11, 4.12, and 4.13. (See District Student Policy Handbook)

### **Diploma Information**

The Van Buren School District requires 24 credits to graduate. Students may obtain a Smart Core Diploma, a College Prep Diploma, a College Prep with Honors Diploma, or a College Prep with High Honors Diploma.

Students planning to enter VBHS must have at least 4 academic credits to be enrolled at VBHS unconditionally. Athletics, band, cheerleading, drill team, physical education, or choir do not count to this total of 4.

### **Conditional Enrollment**

Students may be enrolled conditionally with 3 credits if they enroll in the deficit course either in the basic school program or in the regular classroom (depending on course offerings) BEFORE August 15 to make up the deficiency concurrently.

### **Dress Code**

Students at Van Buren High School will be subject to the same dress policies that are standard within the AAAAAAA Central association. Dress which is disruptive to the educational process or inappropriate for a work environment will be prohibited.

- Students will not be allowed to wear clothing or hairstyles, which interfere with the educational process.
- Students will not wear symbols, insignia, emblems, or badges, which cause disruption or interfere with the

school operation or safety. Clothing associated with gang culture will not be tolerated. Students involved in the promotion of gang culture will be suspended from school.

Examples of dress prohibited will be:

- Bandannas, head coverings, or hats of any kind.
- Clothing which promotes sale or use of tobacco, drugs, alcoholic beverages, those which include profanity, immoral behavior or which could be determined to be degrading to other students. Symbols which instigate racial or social conflict will not be allowed.
- “Sagging” pants or excessively baggy clothing.
- Sleeveless tops with Large armholes are not permitted.
- For school, pants and skirts must extend below fingertips.
- All clothing must provide adequate coverage to conceal the student’s body and undergarments to prevent disruption of the education process. Examples of clothing not acceptable are: see-through mesh, strapless tops, halter-tops, any top that doesn’t cover the midriff, spaghetti straps, or other straps which do not cover the student’s undergarments. Low-cut tops are not allowed. Swimsuits, Spandex, or other similar clothing will not be allowed.

\*\* These examples are not all- inclusive; the administration and teaching staff reserves the right to make final decisions on dress issues.

Students who dress inappropriately will be sent home to change. They will be given an unexcused absence for the class periods they are absent. If the student cannot return home to change they will be put in ISS for the remainder of their day.

### **Drugs and Alcohol**

Students found possessing, using, under the influence of, or selling controlled substances (including alcoholic beverages) will be subject to a minimum 10-day suspension and may be recommended for expulsion for a minimum of ONE SCHOOL TERM.

### **Early Arrival**

Students arriving early on campus time must report to the courtyard and may not loiter in the parking lot.

### **Early Sign-Out Procedure**

All students are required to have their parent/guardian sign them out in the Principal’s office. If for any reason a parent/guardian is unable to come to sign the student out, the procedure may be transacted by phone, except in the instance of lunch. In this case, parents or guardians of the student must sign the student out in person. In every instance of leaving early, the students are responsible for completing any missed assignments. JAG/COE students who are on early release, must exit through the main entrance at the office, and must remain off campus after they leave for the day.

### **Extracurricular Eligibility**

A 2.0 GPA for the previous semester is required by the Arkansas Activities Association for participation. Students may participate under probation by working within the framework of a student improvement plan.

### **Fighting**

Fighting or violent behavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances at VBHS. Students who fight will be suspended from school a minimum of 3 days on their first offense. Students may be suspended or expelled on a first offense in situations where serious injury is inflicted. A second offense may result in a minimum 5-day suspension and the arrest of the student, and formal charges filed by the school resource officer. Second and third violent offenses may result in the expulsion of the student.

Students found guilty of physically assaulting a fellow student will be suspended from school a minimum of 5 days, be arrested, and charged with appropriate criminal charges. The student could also be expelled for the remainder of the term or school year.

### **Grades**

VBHS follows the state mandated grading scale of: 90%-100% A, 80%-89% B, 70%-79% C, 60%-69% D, Below 60% F. Student grades may be accessed by parents/guardians by way of the Pinnacle Grading System.

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

GPA will be based on grades earned in academic courses in grades nine through twelve. Official GPA will be ranked on a 4.0 scale. **For purposes of class rank only, the 4.5 scale will be used for Pre-AP classes.**

<b>Advanced Placement</b>	<b>Pre-AP Courses</b>	<b>Regular</b>
A=5.0	A=4.5	A=4.0
B=4.0	B=3.25	B=3.0
C=3.0	C=2.5	C=2.0
D=1.0	D=1.0	D=1.0
F= 0.0	F=0.0	F=0.0

NC= No Credit for all three grading scales

(VBSD Board Policy 5.10. See District Student Policy Handbook )

### **Graduation & Participation in Commencement Requirements**

Students should see their respective counselor or advisor as this information changes periodically. Students are considered part of the student body and must abide by all rules through the day of graduation.

The following conditions must be met to participate in the commencement program:

- Students must be a student in good-standing by being enrolled in the VBHS day school program, basic school program, or concurrently in both. VB Career Center students may participate if approved by the principal of VBHS.
- Students must have accumulated a minimum of 24 credits. Students may count a total of five (5) credits earned thru Basic School or summer school or VB Career Center or by correspondence course toward graduation.
- **Students must complete all 24 graduation requirements in order to participate in the commencement program.**
- Students may not participate in commencement if they are over the age of 21.
- Students may be excluded or removed from participation in the commencement program for disciplinary reasons.
- Students may not participate with outstanding fines or disciplinary actions not served.

### **Hall Passes**

Students will only be allowed in the halls during class with a hall pass in their possession signed by the teacher.

### **Homework Policy**

Home study is a necessary part of each pupil's educational program. Each student is expected to spend some time in addition to scheduled class instruction to achieve satisfactory work. Some assignments are long range in nature and require planned study time for their completion. Planned study eliminates the necessity of spending too much time completing assignments the day before they are due. Homework is classified as either work that is not finished in class or additional work to be done outside of class. Homework will be counted as part of the total grade. Completion of assignments, either done at home or as class work, is essential to making a passing grade. (see VBSD Board Policy 5.11, District Student Policy Handbook)

\*Concurrent classes are exempt from the homework policy since they must abide by the colleges guidelines.

### **Internet Acceptable Use**

(See District Student Policy Handbook)

### **In School Suspension (ISS)**

Students will be assigned by the Principal's Office to ISS when events or disciplinary action necessitates removal of the student from the classroom. Students will be supervised and all classroom assignments will be provided for each assigned student. A student is then expected to complete these assignments before returning to class.

Students will be considered present at school when attending ISS and may be subject to out-of-school suspension or recommended for expulsion from school for repeated disciplinary actions.

A student cannot be assigned to ISS for more than ten (10) days within a semester. Disciplinary infractions beyond the ten (10) day ISS limit will result in out-of-school suspension.

### **Lost and Found**

Students having lost items should check with the office.

### **Make-Up Work**

Students who have had their absences excused according to the attendance policy will be allowed to make up all class work. Students and/or parents will have the responsibility of acquiring the work they have missed. Students will be given a minimum of 2 days for each day missed to make up their work. Tests will be made up during that time period or at a scheduled time designated by their teacher.

Students who are absent for more than 5 consecutive days may request that missed assignments be collected for pick up in the office.

### **Media Center**

Students at VBHS have the privilege of using the Grace Barlow Scholastic Library for research and study skills, recreational reading, and exploring and retrieving information by way of an automated library program, e-mail and the Internet. The library is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. Admittance during class time is allowed only by way of an Official Pass that will be issued by the classroom teacher. The library will be open during lunch for any student wishing to use its resources. Only educational purposes and school-related projects will be allowed while using the Internet. Overdue charges will be assessed at 10 cents per day for library material. Students should renew material in order to avoid fines, and then clear all fines in a timely manner. It is the responsibility of the students to return books when due, because of an out-of-school suspension.

### **Medical Policies**

Students are not allowed to transport medication, whether it is prescription or non-prescription, to school via a school bus. Medication must be brought to school by a parent in the original container. Parents are also responsible for bringing refills to the school office. Students will not be sent home with bottles for refills. We will send a note home with your child when his/her medication supply is almost gone. Your child will not be given medication at school unless it is brought to the office by a parent. Medication changes will only be accepted by a physician's note. Notes from parents concerning dosage changes will not be accepted. These guidelines will be strictly enforced.

Communicable Diseases may affect a school-age population and/or staff. Depending on the degree of communicability and the life threatening nature of the disease, exclusion from school will be mandatory in order to protect the health and general welfare of the school population. Any staff member who has knowledge of a student who has or has been exposed to a communicable, contagious and/or infectious disease will immediately inform the building administrator as to the identity of the person and all other information related to this situation. If in the judgment of the administrator there is danger of communicating the disease to others, measures will be taken to immediately exclude the person from school. Re-admittance may require a release statement from a medical doctor, the school nurse or local health official. Every effort to protect confidentiality of the affected person will be made and identity of such students will not be released to the public.

### **Off Limits Areas**

Students may congregate during lunches in the commons area. Students may not congregate in parking lots, in unsupervised areas north, south, east or west of the building, or in unsupervised classrooms. All south and west exterior doors will be locked allowing no re-entry into building. Exterior doors leading to portable buildings and old gym will be unlocked.

### **Parents Contacting Students**

It is our policy not to deliver phone messages to students unless there is a definite emergency.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing someone else's words or ideas without giving credit to that person or source. It is characterized by claiming work published in print, on digital media, such as CD or Internet as one's own. Copying assignments could be construed as plagiarism as well. The penalty for plagiarism will be a minimum reprimand and notification of the parent, but could also constitute an F in a class in its most blatant or severe form. Individual teacher syllabi will contain the guidelines their courses have regarding plagiarism.

### **Preparation For Class**

Before the tardy bell rings, students are to be in their classroom seats with the appropriate material required for the class. Students are **not allowed** to take soft drinks, candy, gum, chips, etc. into the classroom unless approval has been secured in advance from the instructor and the principal. Bottled water (*with no additives*) will be allowed inside classes if the instructor of the class approves it. Students will not be allowed to store drinks in cups or bottles in lockers.

### **Public Display of Affection**

Public displays of affection will not be allowed between the hours of 7:15am to 4pm. Any students engaged in PDA between those times will be sent to the office. Students may not have body contact by hugging, kissing, holding hands, etc.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- Warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- ISS
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 2 or more days of ISS

### **Safety Drills**

**Fire Drills** are held at regular intervals by law and are an important safety precaution. Students are not permitted to talk

during a fire drill and are to remain outside the building. It is essential that when the first signal is given, everyone obeys promptly and clears the building by the prescribed route as quickly as possible.

**Tornado Drills** are held at regular intervals. It is essential that when the first signal of intermittent weather is given that teachers and students follow the prescribed plan of action and remain in their designated area until an all clear-signal is given.

### **Schedule Changes**

Students may change schedules before September 2nd for the fall semester and before January 15<sup>th</sup> during the spring semester. Students must present a valid reason for the change. Changing schedules to arrange lunch times, or because they do not "like" a teacher are not valid reasons. After these deadlines, students must stay in their classes until the end of the semester. Students may be placed in only one non-credit class per semester.

### **Search and Seizure**

Authority to do probable cause searches was established by VBSD board policy 4.4. (See District Student Policy Handbook.)

### **Semester & Quarterly Tests**

All students will be expected to take quarterly exams at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarters. In all classes, students will be given a quarterly exam or a semester exam at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters, It is up to the discretion of the teacher which test will be administered and will be posted in the class syllabus. The NO zero policy will apply to the semester exams only. Students who take AP tests may substitute that test for a final, but must attend classes during finals week.

### **Student Parking**

Parking is an important procedure for the overall smooth operation of Van Buren High School. Improperly parked cars are a nuisance and could result in a safety problem if they bar easy access to the school by emergency vehicles.

Driving to school is a privilege for VBHS students, not a right. As long as students obey the following regulations regarding the use of automobiles on campus their privilege will not be revoked.

- Students will only park in an orderly fashion in designated student parking lots only.
- Students will register their vehicles with the administration and be given a parking tag. Students will be required to present a valid driver's license, valid student ID, and proof of insurance to obtain a parking permit tag. Parking tags cost \$5
- Students will observe a speed limit of 5 miles per hour while on campus.
- Students who violate parking rules will be subject to a \$10.00 parking violation or have their driving privileges on campus revoked.

Students who receive two parking violations per term will be disciplined according to the decision of the administration.

Students who speed on campus will be cited for violation of speed limits and could receive a reckless driving citation.

Students are not to be in the parking lots during the school day without a pass and should not loiter in the parking lots when they arrive at school or after their school day is finished.

### **Student Participation at School Sponsored Activities**

Student participation at athletic, social and official events is encouraged by the Van Buren School District. We believe very strongly that our students are our most credible and significant representatives. With this participation, students bear responsibility to represent VBHS with pride and dignity. Sportsmanship and compliance with Arkansas Activity Association and AAAAAAA Central district rules will be mandatory. Students should come to athletic events to support the Pointers, cheer for favorite players or just simply enjoy seeing good competition. Students should not draw attention to themselves by chanting obscenities, painting their faces or bodies, wearing disruptive clothing, improperly engaging opposing players, coaches, fans, or sports officials in arguments and taunting. Examples of taunting and harassment include the continued chanting of "air ball" during basketball season, chanting of criticisms directed at game officials, holding of signs in the stands, or general disorderly conduct directed toward opposing players or coaches. This is not school spirit or good sportsmanship and will not be tolerated. Students who violate these rules, or in any other way disrupt the activity, will be removed from the event. Habitual violations will result in disciplinary action taken by the school and could result in arrest. Students who participate in any school sponsored activity are subject to the same regulations, regardless of whether the school activity is on campus or off. Students are also subject to school policies if they are en-route to and from school or any school-sponsored activity.

### **Suspension/Expulsion**

In some circumstances it will be necessary to suspend or expel a student from school. Authority and procedure for suspension and expulsion are outlined in VBSD Board Policies 4.5, 4.10. (See District student policy handbook)

### **Tardy Policy**

Whether at school or work, being prompt is an essential life skill. Being late constantly is at the least a bad habit, but

more importantly inconsiderate of others, irresponsible and a waste of valuable time.

Disciplinary actions for tardiness may result in the following:

- **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tardies** within a class in a semester...Teacher Warning
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Tardy** within a class in a semester...Teacher warning and parent notification via disciplinary slip. Student will return the disciplinary slip to teacher with parent signature the following day to avoid disciplinary action..
- **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Tardies** within a class in a semester ... Disciplinary referral and 1 day ISS
- **6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Tardies** within a class in a semester ... Disciplinary referral and 2 days ISS
- **8<sup>th</sup> Tardy** within a class in a semester ... 1 day out-of –school suspension

***Students will be considered absent if they are more than 10 minutes late to class.***

### **Telephone Usage**

The administrative office does not maintain a phone for student use. A phone is available for emergency use only.

### **Textbooks**

Students will be issued free textbooks for each class and will be responsible for payments for lost or damaged textbooks. Students may be assessed a fee for college texts.

### **Tobacco**

Tobacco use is not allowed on campus or at school sponsored events. VBSD Board Policy 4.9. (See District Student Policy handbook)

### **Tuancy**

A student who is absent without parent/guardian consent is considered truant. A student is also truant if he/she leaves school without permission; he/she obtains a pass and does not report to the place for which the pass was obtained; or he/she does not report to his/her assigned class.

Truancies are cumulative and the consequences are:

- 1st offense within a semester results in one (1) day in ISS and a parent notification.
- 2nd offense within a semester results in two (2) days in ISS and parent notification
- 3rd offense within a semester results in three (3) days in ISS and parent notification.
- 4th offense within a semester results in parent notification and suspension from school

### **Visitors**

All visitors to VBHS should report to the office first. Students are not permitted to bring guests to class.

### **Weapons**

Weapons of any kind are prohibited on campus, in vehicles, or at school events. Facsimiles of firearms are also prohibited. Students found in possession of weapons other than firearms will face a minimum 10-day suspension and possible expulsion. Students in possession of firearms on campus, en-route to and from school or at school sponsored activities, will be recommended for expulsion for a period of one calendar year (365 days) from Van Buren High School.

## ***Van Buren High School Clubs and Organizations***

**The following school sponsored organizations are scheduled into the school day and therefore a student may earn ½ or more credits for participation.**

### **Athletics**

A full range of competitive athletics is offered at VBHS. A valid physical and permission from the coach of the team is required for participation.

### **Band**

Marching/Symphonic band meets during 1<sup>st</sup> period.

### **Cheer/Dance**

The Pointer Cheer squad and Prancer Dance team meet 7<sup>th</sup> period. Participation is by tryout/acceptance only.

### **Choral Music**

VBHS choir/glee club and treblettes must audition and be enrolled in the choral music program to participate. Director permission is required.

**Cooperative Office Education**

COE allows Van Buren High School Seniors to be released to work in a business environment part-time. Students receive up to 3 full credits for participation. Students must apply and be accepted to participate.

**JAG**

JAG allows VBHS juniors and seniors to be released from school to work. Students may receive 3 credits for successful participation in the JAG program. Students must apply and be accepted to participate.

**Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps**

JROTC is a student military leadership training organization. Students participate in a wide range of military oriented training activities.

**The following clubs and organizations are also available for student participation. No course credit is given.**

**Art Club**

Art Club is open to all students who have an interest and desire to study graphic art and design outside the classroom environment.

**BETA Club**

BETA Club is a student service/honor society. Members of BETA club must meet a minimum of 3.50 GPA and apply and be accepted for membership.

**Chess Club**

Chess Club exists for students who have an interest in the game, and who may desire competition either at the intramural or between schools. Membership is open.

**Drama**

The Drama club is comprised of theatre/speech students in addition to other students who have an interest in the stage/performing arts. Membership is open.

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes**

FCA is a student led Christian organization geared toward continued spiritual development in students who are interested in athletics.

**Family Career Community Leaders of America**

FCCLA is a community leadership organization for students who have an interest in competition in various state/regional and state leadership contests. Membership is open to all students.

**French Club**

French club is an organization for students who have an interest in the French language and French culture. Open to all students

**Future Teachers of America**

FTA involves students who have an interest in pursuing a career in education.

**German Club**

German club is an organization for students who have an interest in German Language and culture. Membership is open to all students.

**House Of Representatives**

Members of the House of Representatives are elected, and support the work of the Student Senate in school and community activities.

**Mu Alpha Theta**

Mu Alpha Theta is the math student honor society. Membership is exclusive and students must meet a minimum GPA of 3.50 to participate.

**National Honor Society**

National Honor Society is an exclusive honor club. Members must meet a minimum GPA of 3.75 and apply and be accepted into the club by the NHS selection committee.

**Parent Teacher Student Association**

PTSA promotes an active connection between VBHS faculty, students and parents. PTSA provides 2 senior scholarships which are given to student members each year. Membership is open.

**Partners Club**

Partners club involves VBHS student's activities with Special Olympics. Membership is open.

**Partners in Christ**

PIC is a student led Christian organization, which is non-denominational and is organized to promote student spiritual development.

**Quill and Scroll**

Quill and Scroll is the Journalism student honor society. Students who maintain a 3.50 GPA may become members.

**Quiz Bowl**

The VBHS bowl team meets during encore, after school or before school for the purpose of preparing for interscholastic quiz bowl competition. Students must try out for the team. Membership is by try-out and acceptance.

**SADD**

Students Against Destructive Decisions is a student organization which promotes student abstinence from the use of drugs and alcohol. It also promotes positive life choices by students in other areas. Membership is open to all students.

**Social Studies Club**

The Social Studies club is an organization, which provides students with an interest in the social sciences with an opportunity to study, promote and work toward goals in those fields. Membership is open to all students.

**Spanish Club**

The Spanish club is an organization for students of Spanish, or for any student with an interest in Spanish Culture or Language.

**Student Senate**

Student Senate is the student activities and leadership organization on campus. Membership is by election.

**Teenage Republicans**

Teen Republicans promote political activities within the framework of the National Teen Republican organization. Membership is open.

**Young Democrats**

Young Democrats promote political activities within the framework of the Young Democrats of Arkansas and the Young Democrats of America. Membership is open.

***Get involved in school activities! It is proven that active students are more academically successful!***

**VBHS Alma Mater**

*In Arkansas you'll find us  
With all our main and might  
We'll shout aloud forever  
Our love for the Green and White  
Three cheers for Van Buren High School  
She loves the truth and right  
All hail the Alma Mater, All hail the Green and White...  
GO DOGS!*

