

American Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic, a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable, established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I, therefore, believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

Pledge to the American Flag

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America
And to the Republic for which it stands,
One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Pledge to the Texas Flag

Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.

Moment of Silence

Our students will observe a daily minute of silence after reciting the pledges to both the American and Texas flags. Students may “reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in other silent activity that is not likely to interfere or disturb another student.” A student may be excused upon written request of the student’s parent.

Grapeland School Song

Hail to the Sandies!
Cheer them along their way;
Onward to victory,
May they win a game today!
We’ll give a cheer for the Sandies!
Long may they reign supreme!
Shout till the echoes ring!
For the glory of our team!

Regular Bell Schedule

	8:05	Entrance Bell	
1st Period Tardy	8:10	8:55	1st Period Release
2nd Period Tardy	8:59	9:44	2nd Period Release
3 Period Tardy	9:48	10:33	3 Period Release
4rd Period Tardy	10:37	11:22	4rd Period Release JH to Lunch
HS 5th Period Tardy	11:26	11:48	JH to 4th Period
JH 5th Period Tardy HS 'B' to Lunch	11:52	12:18	HS 'B' to Class
HS 'B' 5th Period Tardy HS 'C' to Lunch	12:22	12:48	5th Period Release
6th Period Tardy	12:52	1:37	6th Period Release
7th Period Tardy	1:41	2:26	7th Period Release
8th Period Tardy	2:30	3:15	8th Period Release

Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials. Therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences. When a student returns from an absence, he or she is to report to the attendance secretary of the campus ***prior to 1st period***. If a note is not provided within two days of the student's return, the absence shall be automatically coded as unexcused unless approved by the principal.

There are two separate laws dealing with school attendance: Compulsory Attendance and Attendance for Credit. Both laws are discussed below:

Compulsory Attendance

The state compulsory attendance law requires that a student between the ages of 6 and 18 must attend school and district-required tutorial sessions unless the student is otherwise legally exempted or excused.

A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his eighteenth birthday is required to attend each school day. However, if a student 18 or older has more than five unexcused absences in a semester, the district may revoke the student's enrollment. After this revocation, the student's presence on school property is then unauthorized and may be considered trespassing.

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent from school without permission from any class, from required special programs, or from required tutorials will be considered truant and in violation of the

law and subject to disciplinary action. Nonattendance may also result in assessment of penalties by a court of law against both the student and his or her parent/guardian.

A complaint against the parent/guardian may be filed in the appropriate court if the student is absent from school for ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.

If the student is over age 18, the student's parents shall not be subject to penalties as a result of their child's violation of state compulsory attendance law. [See FEA(LEGAL)]

Attendance for Credit

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90% of the days the class is offered. A student who attends fewer than 90% of the days the class is offered may be referred to the Attendance Review Committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit. In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

- With the exception of medically approved absences, all absences shall be considered in determining whether a student has attended the required percentage of days.
- If make-up work is completed, absences for religious holy days and health care appointments shall be considered days of attendance *for this purpose*.
- A transfer or migrant student incurs absences only after his or her enrollment in the district. For a student transferring into the district after school begins, including a migrant student, only those absences after enrollment will be considered.
- The committee will consider the acceptability and authenticity of documented reasons for the student's absences. (Doctor's receipts or notes)
- The committee will consider whether the absences were for reasons over which the student or the student's parent/guardian could exercise any control.
- The committee will consider the extent to which the student has completed all assignments, mastered the essential knowledge and skills, and maintained passing grades in the course or subject.
- The student or parent will be given an opportunity to present any information to the committee about the absences and to talk about ways to earn or regain credit.
- In reaching consensus about a student's absences, the committee will attempt to ensure that its decision is in the best interest of the student.
- The student or parent/guardian may appeal the committee's decision to the District's Board of Trustees by filing a written request with the superintendent in accordance with Policy FNG.
- The actual number of days a student must attend in order to receive credit will depend on whether the class is for a full semester or for a full year.
- When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning to school—must bring a note, signed by a health care provider and/or the parent that describes the reason for the absence within two days of the absence. All absences are recorded by class period, not by day.
- A note signed by the student, even with the parent's permission, will not be accepted unless the student is 18 or older or has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor.

Absences and Extra-Curricular Activities

- Local policy states that the District shall make no distinction between absences for UIL activities and absences for other extra-curricular activities approved by the District.
- In a school year, a student shall be allowed a maximum of twenty extra-curricular absences not related to post district competition unless otherwise approved by administration.
- Students who are failing, or in danger of failing, may be limited on extracurricular absences by the principal. This includes those students that did not pass TAKS.

- A student not in attendance at least one-half day immediately prior to a school-related activity must have the approval of the principal in order to participate.

Absences and Make-up Work

- According to Board Policy EIAB, a student will be permitted to make up work, tests or projects missed because of any absence without any grade penalty. Makeup work for absences over ten days will be dealt with by the principal.
- The student is responsible for obtaining and completing the make-up work in a satisfactory manner and within the time period specified by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher may receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Approved Excused Absences

- Absence because of illness supported by the correspondence from a health care provider and/or parent when the student returns to school. Doctor's notes should have the doctor's original signature, not a stamp and must contain the reason for the absence.
- Death of an immediate family member. When a student returns to school, he or she must bring a note from the parent that identifies the student's relationship to the deceased. Immediate family members are: mother, father, sister, brother, child, grandparent, aunt and uncle.
- Severe weather or road conditions making travel dangerous. This must be approved by the principal.
- Participation in board approved co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities.
- College Day visitation. Seniors are allowed to participate in this one-day event. The visit must have prior approval of the principal. The student must provide supporting documentation from the educational institution upon return.
- Necessary medical or dental appointments—accompanied by a doctor's note.
- Days missed as a runaway.
- Days of suspension.
- Homeless, as defined in federal law.
- Completion of a competency-based program for at-risk students.
- Participation in a substance abuse rehabilitation program
- Court ordered or required appearances including juvenile court. Documentation from the court is required.
- Absences required by state or local welfare authorities.
- Any other unusual circumstance acceptable to the principal or superintendent

Cafeteria Services

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced lunches daily. There are several new laws that impact the food and beverages served at school. That information is found online at the State of Texas food website (www.squaremeals.org).

Free and reduced-price lunches are available based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. Contact the principal's secretary to apply.

Parents may bring lunch for their child only to the office. Parents may not bring lunch for any other student other than their own child. Students may not order lunch locally and have it delivered. Students may not leave campus for lunch and may not bring lunch for other students.

Cell Phones and Paging Devices

Students are not permitted to use or display telecommunication devices with text messaging features, cell phones, or pagers during the academic school day from 8:05 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal. Afterschool detention is an extension of the academic day and cell phones are not permitted until the student is released by the monitor. A phone set to "vibrate" that goes off and is detectable will be considered "on" and will be taken.

In accordance with Texas Education Code 32.082, if a student uses or displays a cellular phone without permission from the principal:

- The phone will be confiscated and turned in to the principal's office.
- The office will log the item and store it in a secure locked area.
- There is a \$15 fee to return the phone and it will only be returned **at the end of the school day.**

CD Players, Radios, Cameras, and other Electronic Devices

Students are not permitted to use or display radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorders, DVD players, cameras, or any other electronic devices or games during the academic school day from 8:05 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. unless prior permission has been obtained from the principal. This includes IPOD's or other music devices as well as headphones. We will allow students to listen to music during lunch through headphones, but not on a cell phone or video game device. **The same is true in the classroom at the teacher's discretion under teacher supervision.** After-school detention is an extension of the academic day and electronic devices are not permitted until the student is released by the monitor.

If seen, without such permission:

- The item(s) will be confiscated and turned in to the principal's office.
- The office will log the item and store it in a secure locked area.
- There is a \$15 fee to return the phone and it will only be returned **at the end of the school day.**

Clubs, Organizations, and Extracurricular Activities

Participation in school-related activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students. Participation, however, is a privilege, not a right. State law as well as rules of University Interscholastic League (UIL) governs eligibility for participation in many of these activities. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- At the end of a grading period, a student who receives a grade below 70 in any academic class, other than a class identified as honors or advanced by either the State Board of Education or by the local Board, may not participate in extracurricular for at least three school weeks. The principal will determine the eligibility of a student who makes a grade below 70 in an advanced class;
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks;
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse;
- A student is allowed in a school year up to twenty absences not related to post district competition;
- All extra-curricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the Board, are subject to these restrictions;
- A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence;
- If students miss school for school-related events, all assigned work will be handled in the same manner as make-up work for any other excused absence;
- Student clubs or classes, outside organizations, and/or parent groups occasionally may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission to raise funds must be made to the principal at least 15 days before the event. Except as approved by the superintendent, fund-raising by non-school organizations is not permitted on school property. (For further information, see policies FJ and GE.)

Computer Resources

To prepare students for an increasingly computerized society, the District has made a substantial investment in computer technology for instructional purposes. Use of these resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only.

Students and their parents will be asked to sign an internet safety policy regarding use of these resources. Use of all district computers is monitored. Violations of this agreement may result in disciplinary action and loss of privileges. District computers are not private and may be monitored by District staff. (For additional information, see Policy CQ)

Concerns by Student or Parent

Student or parent concerns should be addressed in the following order:

1. Conference with the teacher or coach;
2. Conference with the athletic director if an athletic matter;
3. Conference with the principal;
4. Conference with the superintendent;
5. Conference with the Board of Trustees

Conduct

Disruptions to the Educational Process

In order to protect student safety and sustain an educational program free from disruption, state law permits the District to take action against any person, student or non-student, who does any of the following:

- Interferes with the movement of people in an exit, an entrance, or hallway of a District building without authorization from an administrator.
- Interferes with an authorized activity by seizing control of all or part of a building.
- Interferes with the movement of people at an exit or an entrance to District property.
- Uses force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent people from entering or leaving District property without authorization from an administrator.
- Disrupts classes while on District property or on public property that is within 500 feet of District property. Class disruption includes making loud noises, trying to entice a student away from or trying to prevent a student from attending a required class or activity, entering a classroom without authorization, and disrupting the activity with profane language or any misconduct.
- Interferes with the transportation of students in District vehicles.

In order for students to take advantage of available learning opportunities and to be productive members of our campus community, each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy – even when others are not
- Behave in a responsible manner when at school or when representing our school, always exercising self-discipline
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time
- Prepare for each class, take appropriate materials and assignments to class
- Meet District or campus standards of grooming and dress
- Obey all campus and classroom rules
- Respect the rights and privileges of other students, teachers, and other District staff
- Respect the property of others, including District property and facilities
- Cooperate with or assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline
- Avoid violations of the Student Code of Conduct

Character Counts Pledge of Excellence

- I will be **respectful** of my classmates, teachers and school personnel. I will work at maintaining my positive attitude even in the face of the tremendous pressures of the day. I will not use profanity or make

inappropriate comments towards my classmates or teachers. I will respect my body by avoiding the use of dangerous and illegal substances.

- I will be **loyal** to my classmates. I will not criticize my classmates or teachers publically. Any comments I make to or about them, I will diplomatically make directly to them. My only reason to comment on a classmate's performance will be to assist him/her in becoming a better student and person. I realize my obligation to the school. I will be on time and be prepared to learn. I will arrive with an open mind and willingness to learn. I will maintain a positive attitude. I will study and perform to the utmost of my abilities.
- I will be **trustworthy**. I will not spread rumors, and I will keep confidential those things entrusted to me. I will keep my commitments to my family, my teachers, my class, my school, and my community and to my world.
- I will be **honest**. I will not lie, cheat, or steal. When I am unable to keep commitments, I will apologize to those who are depending on me. I will not be deceptive in my speech, actions, or behaviors.
- I will accept full **responsibility** for my actions. I am committed to doing my personal best in class and on campus. When things get tough, I will continue to focus on my goals. I will be accountable for my behaviors. I will demonstrate self-control and appropriate behavior in classes, at school related functions, and through out my life.
- I will practice **fairness** in all I do. I will refrain from judgment, giving my classmates my support and encouragement and always striving to understand the situation in which I find myself. I will teach and model fair play. I will live by the rules and encourage my classmates to do likewise.
- I will be a **caring** individual who shows compassion and kindness. I will unselfishly attempt to treat others the way I would like to be treated. I will think of my classmates and the good of the group before I think of myself.
- I will practice good **citizenship** by adhering to the rules governing my classrooms, respecting the authority of the administrators and teachers. I will direct emotions toward my performance and education, not other students or teachers. I am aware that circumstance may arise that will not go in my favor, and I will work hard at taking the emotional stress generated by such events and directing that energy towards doing my job better.

Applicability of School Rules

As required by law, the District has established a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and defines standards of acceptable behavior, both on and off campus, and consequences for violation of the standards. Students need to be familiar with the standards set out in the Student Code of Conduct, as well as campus and classroom rules.

To achieve the best possible learning environment for all students, the Student Code of Conduct and other campus rules of behavior will apply whenever the interest of the District is involved, on or off school grounds, in conjunction with or independent of classes and school-sponsored activities. The District has disciplinary authority over a student in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct which is included.

Zero Tolerance

Any violation of the Student Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action. In addition, Grapeland Secondary Schools have a policy of Zero Tolerance for certain disciplinary infractions. The maximum consequence for the following will be assigned unless there are unusual circumstances as determined by the principal or dean:

- Racial slurs
- Abusive language
- Verbal assault
- Threats and/or harassment
- Bullying

- Fighting and physical assault
- Possession of alcohol
- Possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Any illegal activity such as gambling, robbery, theft, vandalism, arson, gang activity, possession and/ or use of tobacco
- Truancy
- Major disrespect and/or insubordination
- Sexual misconduct, public lewdness, indecent exposure and/or sexual harassment
- Possession of weapons

* Students are encouraged to report any of the above violations to the first staff member available, who then documents and reports it to the administration immediately.

Counseling

Academic Counseling

Students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teacher, or principal to learn about course offerings, the graduation requirements of various programs, and early graduation procedures. Each spring, students in grades 6 through 11 will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next year and other information

To plan for the future, students should work closely with the principal or counselor in order to take the high school courses that best prepare them. This meeting can also provide information about entrance exams and deadlines for application, as well as information about automatic admission to state colleges and universities, financial aid, housing and scholarships.

Scholarships and Grants

Under the Texas Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program, students who complete the Recommended or Advanced (Distinguished Achievement) High School Program may earn financial credits in varying amounts to apply toward college tuition. The amounts depend on the number of consecutive months in which the student completed graduation requirements and the number of early college credits earned and may be used at public or private Texas higher education institutions within the state.

Personal Counseling

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional issues, or substance abuse. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. A student who wishes to meet with the counselor should contact the school office and make an appointment.

The school will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parent's written consent, unless required by state or federal law for special education purposes or by the Texas Education Agency for child abuse investigations and reports.

Declaration of Independence

You may request that your child be excused from recitation of a portion of the Declaration of Independence. State law requires students in social studies classes in grades 3–12 to recite a portion of the text of the Declaration of Independence during Celebrate Freedom Week unless (1) you provide a written statement requesting that your child be excused, (2) the district determines that your child has a conscientious objection to the recitation, or (3) you are a representative of a foreign government to whom the United States government extends diplomatic immunity. [See policy EHBK(LEGAL).]

Defacing School Property

Anything that can be considered defacing any part of school property will result in 10-30 days of AEP and restitution for damages. Depending on the severity of the damage, the local law enforcement may be involved. This includes graffiti of any kind.

Detentions and Saturday School

Detentions are used as deterrents for minor disciplinary infractions. Detentions are held Monday through Thursday in the Library. Detentions last from 3:25 – 4:15. There will be one morning detention on Wednesday only from 7:10 – 8:00.

Saturday Schools are used for more serious disciplinary infractions and for persistent inattention to academics. Location of Saturday School will be announce or posted as necessary. Saturday school lasts from 8:00 – 12:00.

Students who are more than 2 minutes late to detention or 5 minutes late to Saturday school are considered absent. Missing detentions or Saturday School will result in additional disciplinary action.

Distribution of Printed and Published Material

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed by the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Items may include school posters, brochures, murals or other school related presentation. All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher sponsor and the principal. The school yearbook, *Sandie Sentinel*, is available for purchase yearly.

Unless a student obtains specific prior approval from the principal, written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, or other visual or auditory materials over which the school does not exercise control may not be posted, sold, circulated, or distributed on any school campus. To be considered for approval, any non-school material must include the name of the sponsoring organization or individual. Materials displayed without this approval will be removed. The student may appeal the principal's decision in accordance with policy.

Any student who posts material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Dress Code

The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruptions, and minimize safety hazards. The administration at the school has the authority to make decisions on whether students are in compliance with the dress code. This section covers several things but doesn't cover all items that may cause distractions or safety hazards. If there are questions, you should get answers before wearing a questionable item to school. Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following:

General and Apparel

- Any apparel or accessory that separates individual students from the general student body into smaller groups and/or denotes secret society association is prohibited.
- Satanic paraphernalia or implied racist materials or attire is not to be worn or brought to school.
- No clothing may be worn that has profanity, advertisement for alcohol or tobacco, suggestive language, and/or suggestive graphics.

- Any outlandish or distracting style of clothing or hairstyle which would interrupt the learning environment of the school is prohibited.
- Students are not permitted to wear hats or caps in any of the buildings on campus unless approved by the principal.
- Students are not allowed to wear hooded tops over their heads inside any school building.
- Students are not allowed to wear bandannas or do-rags at school **or at school related functions.**
- Sunglasses or glasses with dark lenses are not to be worn inside the building unless a doctor has prescribed them.
- Hair color and highlights must be of natural hair color. For example, no purple, green, orange, red, yellow, or bleached white hair will be allowed.
- “Gauging” is not acceptable.
- No nose piercings, tongue studs, lip piercings, ornamental “grillz”, or any other body attachment will be allowed, other than earrings by females.
- All tattoos, except temporary spirit tattoos, must be covered at all times.
 - Spirit tattoos sold by cheerleaders may only be worn on the days they are sold (game days).
 - Only spirit tattoos sold by the cheerleaders are allowed.
- Excessive or distracting make-up, including nail polish on male students, is prohibited.
- Band-aids placed on the face or ears, without a medical reason, are not acceptable. Using Band-aids to cover an earring or “gauge” is not permitted.
- Clothing must be worn in the manner intended, not backward or inside out.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. House shoes will not be allowed, nor will any wheeled shoes. Flip flops and sandals are permitted.
- Boys’ hair must be above the eyes, not touching their collar, must be well groomed. **Facial Hair must be kept short and well groomed. Junior High students will be clean shaven.**

Shirts and Tops

- Shirts must be worn under overalls and both straps and all buttons must be secure.
- No low-cut clothing which exposes the underarms of any student or the cleavage of female students will be allowed.
- Clothing that exposes the midriff section when arms are to the side or raised will not be permitted.
- Dresses and tops with spaghetti straps (less than 2”) will not be permitted at school unless an appropriate shirt is worn underneath.
- Halter tops and backless tops are not permitted.
- Muscle shirts, tank tops, and sleeveless shirts are not permitted for males.
- All students must have shirts or tops that cover the entire crown of both shoulders.

Jeans, Pants, Shorts, Skirts

- Any garment (jeans, shorts, pants, etc.) with rips, tears, frays, or holes at or above the knee must have additional clothing underneath so that no skin or undergarments can be seen.
- All pants / shorts / skirts must fall at the knee when standing straight.
- When wearing skirt or shorts with tights underneath, the skirt or shorts must come at least to the students findertips when standing straight up.
- Clothing must not be tight fitting or excessively loose and baggy. Waistlines of all garments must be worn at the appropriate position.
- **Pajama pants are not allowed.**

- Sagging will not be permitted

Drills: Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergencies

From time to time, students, teachers, and other District employees will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students should follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Drill Bells

- 3 bells.....Leave the building.
- 1 bell.....Halt; stand at attention.
- 2 bells.....Return to the classroom.
- 1 continuous bell.....Tornado

Elections

Students who wish to run for class office must complete a nomination packet and turn it in to the lead class sponsor. In addition, students must have passed all of their academic courses for the six weeks period prior to the election of class offices.

Students who are elected to office must maintain a passing average in all of their academic classes. An elected officer whose grades fall below 70 will be removed from office for the remainder of the year.

Student officers are expected to represent the highest levels of academic achievement and personal conduct. Students who demonstrate poor examples of student conduct may be removed from office for the remainder of the year by the principal. An assignment to AEP will result in loss of office.

The Student Council will be made up of class officers and will serve as representatives to advise and assist the principal on student-related activities.

Fees and Restitution

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own personal school supplies. Any required fee may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the district financial office. This waiver does not include fines for confiscated or lost items.

Vandalism

The taxpayers of the community have made a sustained financial commitment for the construction and upkeep of school facilities. To ensure that school facilities can serve those for whom they are intended—both this year and in the coming years—littering, defacing, or damaging school property is not tolerated. Students will be required to pay for damages they cause and will be subject to criminal proceedings as well as disciplinary consequences in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Fighting

GISD will not tolerate fighting. Fighting on school campus or at school-sponsored events is strictly forbidden.

It is each student’s responsibility to report to the principals or other school personnel any problems encountered with another student or any problem observed between other students that may need administrative attention.

Each student is to do whatever is necessary to avoid being in a fight or to stop a possible fight between classmates. When approached by a student who you are having a problem with, do not get involved. Turn around and walk to the nearest teacher or report to administration and report the problem.

Fighting Consequences:

Once a physical fight takes place, each participant determined by school authorities to be actively involved in the fight will be issued a disorderly conduct charge from the Grapeland Police Department which could lead to an arrest or fines. This disorderly conduct could also include:

- Arrest
- Fines
- In School Suspension
- Placement in Alternative Campus
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Food and Drink

Students are not allowed to consume any food or beverages in the academic halls. Only bottled water will be allowed in the classrooms. Food or beverages may only be consumed outside or in the cafeteria area during scheduled breakfast and lunch times. Any open items must be discarded prior to entering the hall.

Gang Paraphernalia

Under no circumstances will any student be allowed to draw or display any signs or symbols that resemble anything remotely close to gang paraphernalia. This includes clothing, bandanas, book covers, backpacks, etc. Displaying such signs or symbols will result in AEP placement.

Harrassment**Harassment on the Basis of Race, Color, Religion, National Origin or Disability**

Students are expected to treat other students and District employees with courtesy and respect, to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive, and to stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop.

Harassment of any student on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or disability will not be tolerated.

A student who believes he or she has been harassed by another student or by a District employee is encouraged to report the incident to the principal. The allegations will be investigated and addressed.

The student or a parent may appeal the decision of the principal regarding the outcome of the investigation in accordance with Policy FNG (LOCAL). See also Policy FNCL.

Sexual Harassment and Sexual Abuse

Students must not engage in unwanted and unwelcome verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another student or District employee. This prohibition applies whether the conduct is by word, gesture, or any other sexual conduct, including requests for sexual favors.

The District will notify the parents of all students involved in sexual harassment by students when the allegations are not minor. Parents will be notified of any allegations of sexual harassment or sexual abuse by an employee. To the greatest extent possible, complaints will be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

A complaint alleging sexual harassment by another student or sexual harassment or sexual abuse by a staff member may be presented by a student and/or parent in a conference with the principal or with the Title IX coordinator. The student or parent may

appeal the principal's decision regarding the outcome of the investigation in accordance with Policy FNCJ (LOCAL).

Law Enforcement Agencies

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school, the principal will do the following:

- Verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school;
- Make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection;
- Be present unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection;
- Cooperate fully if the questioning is part of a child abuse investigation.

Students Taken into Custody

State law requires the District to permit a student to be taken into custody in the following cases:

- In compliance with a juvenile court order;
- In compliance with the laws of arrest;
- By a law officer who has probable cause to believe that a student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision;
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe that the student has violated a condition of probation;
- In compliance with a directive to apprehend;
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in Family Code relating the student's physical health or safety.

Prior to a student's delivery into custody, the principal will verify the officer's identity and the official's authority to take custody of the student. The principal will immediately notify the superintendent and will attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a custody action, notification may take place after the fact.

Notification of Law Violations

The District is required by law to notify all instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student if that student has been arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors or if that student has been convicted or adjudicated of delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

Library

The library is a learning laboratory with books, computers, magazines, and other materials available for classroom assignments, projects, and reading or listening pleasure. The librarian will establish specific guidelines and rules regarding checkout procedure and library computer usage. With a teacher permit, the library is open for student use during the following times on school days:

- 7:30 to 8:00 A.M.
- 3:18 to 3:45 P.M.

Meetings of Non-curriculum-related Groups

Students are permitted to meet with non-curriculum-related groups during the hours designated by the principal before and after school. These groups must comply with the requirements found in Policy FNAB. A list of these groups, as they comply, will be compiled in the principal's office.

Multiple Siblings

As a parent, if your children are multiple birth siblings (e.g., twins, triplets, etc.) assigned to the same grade and campus, you may request that they be placed either in the same classroom or in separate classrooms. Your written request must be submitted no later than the 14th day after the enrollment of your children. [See FDB(LEGAL).]

Nondiscrimination Notice

In its efforts to promote nondiscrimination, Grapeland ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

The following district staff members have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex: E.D. Sumrall, 936-687-4619.
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability: E.D. Sumrall, 936-687-4619.
- All other concerns regarding discrimination: See the superintendent : E.D. Sumrall, 936-687-4619.

Partnership Between Home and School

A child's education is most successful when there is a strong partnership between home and school. The parent has a right to:

- Encourage the child to put a high priority on education. Working with the child on a daily basis will make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides. Be sure your child comes to school each day prepared, rested, and ready to learn.
- Become familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered by the District. Discuss with the counselor or principal any questions you may have about the options and opportunities available to your child. Monitor your child's academic progress and contact teachers as needed.
- Attend scheduled conferences and request additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call the school office at (936) 687-4661 for an appointment.
- Review the student's records when needed. A parent may review (1) attendance records, test scores, (2) grades, (3) disciplinary records, (4) counseling records, (5) psychological records, (6) applications and admission forms, (7) health immunization information, (8) teacher and counselor evaluations of their student, (9) reports of behavior patterns, and (10) state assessment instruments that have been administered to his/her child.
- Grant or deny any written request from the district to make a videotape or voice

recording of the child unless the videotape or voice recording is to be used for school safety, relates to the classroom instruction, a co-curricular or extracurricular activity, or media coverage of the school as permitted by law.

- Understand that if an instructional activity, in which the child is scheduled to participate, conflicts with the parent's religious or moral beliefs, the parent may temporarily remove the child from the classroom. The removal cannot be for the purpose of avoiding a test and may not extend for an entire semester. Furthermore, the child must satisfy the grade-level and graduation requirements as determined by the school and by the Texas Education Agency.

Pledges of Allegiance, Moment of Silence

As a parent, you may request that your child be excused from participation in the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas flag. The request must be in writing. State law does not allow your child to be excused from participation in the required minute of silence or silent activity that follows.

Pest Control Information

The District periodically applies pesticides inside buildings. Except in an emergency, signs will be posted 48 hours before application. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school may contact the superintendent's secretary.

Release of Students from School

Because class time is important, doctor's appointments should be scheduled, if possible, at times when the student will not miss instructional time.

A student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day except with permission from the principal or designee. A student who will need to leave school during the day **must bring a written request from his or her parent that morning.** Parents may also take their student out of school during the day for doctor's appointments or emergencies, but the student must be **signed out through the office by the parent.** Students must sign in through the office upon return to school and present a doctor's note or parent note for the return.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should report, with the teacher's permission, to the appropriate office. The designee will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent. **If a student is sent home from school because of illness, a note from the parent is still required for documentation upon the student's return to school.**

Students are not permitted to leave campus for lunch. Food deliveries are allowed by a student's parent or guardian. Any parent bringing lunch for his or her student must deliver the lunch to the office and it will be delivered to the student.

Once students arrive at school they are not allowed to leave unless they sign out through the office. Students who drive should make any stops (Donut Palace, etc.) before they come to campus. Any student who rides the bus or is dropped off is not allowed to walk or ride off-campus once they arrive.

Searches

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that schools are safe and drug free, District officials may, from time to time, conduct searches. In accordance with Texas law, such searches may be conducted without a warrant.

Students' Desks and Gym Lockers

Students' desks and lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student. Students are fully responsible for the security and contents of the assigned desks and lockers. Students must be certain that the locker is locked and that the combination is not available to others. Locks can be made available to students if they can't provide their own. See the **athletic director** if you need a lock.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by the District, whether or not the student is present.

The parent will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk or locker.

Vehicles on Campus

Students are not to drive their vehicles during the school day unless they have the principal's permission to do so. In addition, all students are to exit their vehicles upon arrival at school and are not to return to the vehicle without permission from the office.

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. The campus boundary extends 300' from the physical boundary of the school. This includes public streets and private yards. School officials may search a student's vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the presence of the student. A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others.

Trained Dogs

Random inspections will be made on campus during the school day using trained search dogs. These dogs are used in conjunction with law officials and their "hit" will constitute reasonable suspicion. Students will be asked to show contents of vehicles, lockers, book bags, purses, pockets, or other such storage places should the detection dog indicate the possibility of unauthorized materials on school property.

Student Parking

All student vehicles must be registered in the office. A hang tag or sticker will be issued to each student who is licensed and makes application. The student must show proof of driver's license and insurance. All students will park in the back lot. **NO STUDENTS will park on any road around the campus.** Any cars parked in non-designated parking areas or those cars parked in school parking areas without a tag or sticker, are subject to removal or citation. **NO STUDENTS WILL PARK AT THE AG BUILDING DURING SCHOOL HOURS.** **Random checks of the parking lot will be made. Vehicles without proper identification could be fined or towed.**

Student Records

Both federal and state laws safeguard student records from unauthorized inspection or use and provide parents and "eligible" students certain rights. For purposes of student records, an "eligible" student is one who is 18 years of age or older, a student who is attending an institution of post-secondary education, or a student who has been emancipated by a court of law.

Release of any or all directory information may be prevented by the parent or by an eligible student. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days of the student's first day of instruction.

All information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential. Release is restricted to the following:

- Parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless parental rights have been legally terminated and the school has been given a copy of the court order terminating these rights. Federal law requires that, as soon as the student becomes eligible, control of the records goes to the student. However, the parents may continue to have access to the records if the student is a dependent for tax purposes;
- District staff members who have what federal law defines as a “legitimate educational interest” in the student’s records. Such persons would include school officials (such as Board members, the superintendent and the principals), school staff members (such as teachers, counselors, and diagnosticians), or an agent of the District (such as a medical consultant);
- Various governmental agencies in response to a court order;
- A school to which the student transfers or in which he or she subsequently enrolls.

Release to any other person or agency—such as a prospective employer or for a scholarship application—will occur only with parental or student permission, as appropriate. The District must comply with a request by a military recruiter or an institution of higher education for students’ names, addresses, and telephone listings, unless parents have advised the District not to release their child’s information without prior written consent. The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school, as well as of records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

The records custodian or designee will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records. Records may be inspected by a parent or eligible student during regular school hours. If circumstances effectively prevent inspection during these hours, the District shall either provide a copy of the requested records or make other arrangements of the parent or student to review the requested records. Copies of student records will be made available upon request.

The address of the superintendent’s office is:

P.O. Box 249, Grapeland, TX 75844

The address of the principal’s office is:

318 N. Olive, Grapeland, TX 75844

Upon inspection of records, a parent or eligible student may request a correction if the records are considered inaccurate or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights. Contesting a student’s grade in a course is handled through the general complaint process defined by Policy FNG. If the District refuses to amend the records, the parent or eligible student has the right to request a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requestor has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student’s record.

Parents or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe that the District is not in compliance with federal law regarding student records. The District’s policy regarding student records is available from the principal’s or superintendent’s office.

The parent's or eligible student's right of access to student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records, such as teachers' personal notes about a student that are shared with a substitute teacher, do not have to be made available to the parents or students.

Student Rights

Your child will not be required to participate without parental consent in any survey, analysis, or evaluation—funded in whole or in part by the U.S. Department of Education—that concerns:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent.
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
- Sexual behavior or attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
- Critical appraisals of individuals with whom the student has a close family relationship.
- Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents.
- Income, except when the information is required by law and will be used to determine the student's eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

You will be able to inspect the survey or other instrument and any instructional materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation. [For further information, see policy EF(LEGAL).]

Surveys and Activities

As a parent, you have a right to receive notice of and deny permission for your child's participation in:

- Any survey concerning the private information listed above, regardless of funding.
- School activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information gathered from your child for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered and scheduled by the school in advance and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student. Exceptions are hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law. [See policies EF and FFAA.]

Tardies

There will be a zero-tolerance on all tardies. Any unexcused tardy will result in an automatic detention. If the student should go directly to the office before going to class to receive an admit to class. Teachers should not allow the student in class without an admit

If a student shows up after the first 20 minutes of class, the student is to be counted absent instead of tardy.

Telephone Use and Student Messages

The phones at Grapeland I.S.D. are for school business. This may occasionally involve permission for a student to make a call not directly related to school business, but this is a privilege not a right.

- Students who feel they need to use the phone will explain to the office the situation. If the office feels it is an emergency, they will allow the student to call.

- What constitutes an emergency is determined by the office staff, not the student.
- Students will not be summoned from class for telephone calls. Parents may leave a message which the office staff will try and get to the student as time permits. Messages taken after 2:45 may not make it to the student before school is out. Bus rider / car rider type messages should be called in before that time.
- If a true emergency exists, parents should come in person to the school and the student will be removed from class to speak with the parent without question.

Textbooks

State-approved textbooks are provided free of charge for each subject or class. Per Texas law, books must be covered by the student. A student who is issued a damaged book should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school loses the right to free textbooks until the book is returned or paid for. Loss or excessive damage to textbooks must be paid for before the student will be issued any other textbooks. If records cannot be cleared because of hardship, arrangements must be made through the principal's office.

The librarian determines the extent of damage to textbooks. The following general rules are used in levying fines on damaged or lost textbooks:

- Slight damage caused by pencil marks or soiling of the book through carelessness—10 % of the cost;
- Ink marks that cannot be erased, one or two torn pages that lower the usable value of the book—20%;
- Severe damage such as water, broken spine, numerous marks or damage that limits the life of the book—50%;
- Loss of the book or damage which results in rendering the book useless—100%.

Tobacco and Weapons

It is against the law to bring tobacco or weapons anywhere on campus; This includes pocket knives, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, or cigarette lighters. This pertains to all school property including the parking lot. Discipline action will be taken including ISS or AEP placement and possible fine.

When a student is caught with tobacco, the Grapeland Police Department will be notified to issue a citation for minor in possession.

When a student is caught with a weapon, it could lead to any of the following:

- Arrest
- Fines
- In School Suspension
- Placement in Alternative Campus
- Suspension
- Expulsion

Transportation

School-Sponsored Trips

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal, however, may make an

exception if the parent makes a **written request prior to departure** that the student be released to the parent or to another adult designated by the parent. Any athletic or band requests should follow the same procedure but they should be directed to the athletic director for approval.

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The District makes school bus transportation available to all students. This service is provided at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted at the school. Further information may be obtained by the Transportation Department, 936-687-3654.

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 and the Student Code of Conduct.

Students riding a bus must comply with the following rules:

- Follow the driver’s directions at all times;
- Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stop nearest home;
- Keep feet, books, band instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle;
- Not deface the bus or its equipment;
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the bus;
- Wait for the driver’s signal upon leaving the bus and before crossing in front of the bus.

First Offense:	Conference with student and parent notified.
Second Offense:	Conference with student and parent. Discipline action taken at school.
Third Offense:	Student suspended from bus privileges for 3 days..
Fourth Offense:	Depending on the severity of the offense, Five days suspension from the bus or Suspended from bus privileges for thirty days or the remainder of the semester.

For safety purposes, video/audio equipment may be used to monitor student behavior on buses. Students will not be told when the equipment is being used. The principal will review the tapes routinely and document student misconduct. Discipline will be in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and this handbook. A parent who wishes to view a videotape of an incident leading to the discipline of his or her child may request access in accordance with Policy FL.

Tutorials

Tutorials are offered every school day from 7:40 a.m. – 8:05 a.m. in all subjects. Individual teachers will work with students to meet after school if the student is involved with athletics before school.

All teachers are assigned certain duties and may be unavailable those days per week. Each student should check with his/her teacher to find out the day. Another teacher of the same subject will be available to tutor if the student still wants to attend that particular day.

Verification of Enrollment for Driver's License

To obtain a driver's license, a student between the ages of 16 and 18 must annually provide to the Texas Department of Public Safety a form obtained from the school verifying that the student has met the 90 percent attendance requirement for the semester preceding the date of application. The student can obtain this form from the secretary before or after school.

Video and Audio Recording of Students

As a parent, you may grant or deny any written request from the district to make a video or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a video or voice recording without parental permission for the following circumstances:

- When it is to be used for school safety;
- When it relates to classroom instruction or a cocurricular or extracurricular activity;
or
- When it relates to media coverage of the school.

Visitors to the School

Parents and others known by employees are welcome to visit District schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the office and get a visitor badge.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment. All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct.

Visitors are not allowed to eat lunch with students unless otherwise approved by the administration.

Withdrawal from School

A student under 18 may be withdrawn from school only by a parent. The school requests notice from the parent at least three days in advance so that records and documents may be prepared. A withdrawal form may be obtained from the registrar or principal's secretary. A student who is 18 or older, who is married, or who has been declared by a court to be an emancipated minor, may withdraw without parental signature.

On the student's last day, the withdrawal form must be presented to each teacher for grade and book clearance, to the librarian to ensure a clear library record, to the clinic for health records, to the counselor for the last report card and finally to the principal. A copy of the withdrawal form will be given to the student and a copy will be placed in the student's permanent record.

Curriculum

Academic Programs

The school counselor provides students and their parents information regarding academic programs to prepare for higher education and career choices. All incoming ninth graders are required to enroll in the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program. Grapeland High and Grapeland Junior High offers awards and incentives to students who have exemplary conduct, academic performance, and attendance.

Career and Technology Programs

The District offers career and technology programs in home economics, business and financial education, micro-computers, Vocational Education for the Handicapped (VEH), agriculture. Admission to these programs is based on interest and aptitude, age appropriateness and class space availability. Students must fill out a request for courses, demonstrate academic performance in required courses, receive counselor approval, and teacher approval. Grapeland ISD will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

Class Schedules

Students will be assigned to classes based on graduation need and course availability. All students, except Seniors, will be required to attend a full day of classes. Seniors who will fulfill all graduation requirements for their plan may be released after their final class.

All schedule requests are considered. Please understand that all requests can not be accommodated and priority is given to Senior graduation requirements and requests. Class schedules will not be changed after the first week of each semester except with written approval of the principal.

Classification

After the ninth grade, students are classified according to the number of credits earned towards graduation.

For High School students, the classification is as follows:

Credits Earned	Grade	Classification
6	10	Sophomore
12	11	Junior
18	12	Senior

Credit by Exam

The District will honor a request by a parent to administer a test purchased by the parent from a State Board-approved university to offer course credit.

If a Student Has Taken the Course

A student who has received prior instruction in a course or subject, but did not receive credit for the course, may be permitted to earn credit by passing an exam on the essential elements defined for the course or subject. Eligibility for this is determined by

the principal, the teacher and counselor. To receive credit, a student must score at least 70 on the exam. Further details about the exam are available from the counselor.

The attendance review committee may offer a student with excessive absences an opportunity to receive credit for a course by passing an exam.

A student may not use this exam to regain eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities.

If a Student Has Not Taken the Course

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course for which the student has no prior instruction. The passing score required to earn credit on the exam is 90. The dates on which exams are scheduled during the 2007-2008 school year may be obtained from the counselor. If a student plans to take an exam, the student (or parent) must register with the counselor no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date. The District will honor a request by a parent to administer a test on a date other than the published dates if agreed upon by both the school and parent.

Dual Credit

The dual credit program offers an opportunity for high school students to take college level academic courses for both high school and college credit. Students may begin to take college courses for dual credit during the summer after their sophomore year.

Courses are offered upon a written agreement with Grapeland High School, Angelina College and Trinity Valley Community College and follow the Texas education Code provisions relating to courses for joint high school and college credit. Dual credit will be given only for those courses pre-approved by the principal or counselor.

Students may take the following college courses for high school credit:

College Course	College Credit	College Course Title	GISD Course Title	High School Credit
ENGL 1301	3	Composition & Rhetoric I	See Options Below	1.0 – Both courses required for credit
ENGL 1302	3	Composition & Rhetoric II		
ENGL 2322	3	British Literature I	See Options Below	1.0 – Both courses required for credit
ENGL 2332	3	World Literature I		
HIST 1301	3	U.S. History to 1877	U.S. History	1.0 – Both courses required for credit
HIST 1302	3	U.S. History 1877 to Present		
GOVT 2301	3	Federal, State, & Local Gov I	Government	1.0 – Both courses required for credit
GOVT 2302	3	Federal, State, & Local Gov II		
ECON 2301	3	Principles of Economics I	Economics	1.0 – Both courses required for credit
ECON 2302	3	Principles of Economics II		

	3	Art	Art	1.0
	3	Communications Application	Speech	0.5

- If students use the dual credit system for English they must follow one of the following combinations:
 - English III and ENGL 2322/2332;
 - ENGL 1301/1302 (not at GHS) and English IV;
 - English III and ENGL 1301/1302 (at GHS); or
 - ENGL 2322/2332 and ENGL 1301/1302 (any location).
- To maximize your credits and your money, we suggest the following:
 - ENGL 2322/2332 prior to junior year
 - 6 hours college (you pay) and English III credit
 - ENGL 1301/1302 during senior year at GHS
 - 6 hours college (we pay) and English IV credit
- Students wishing to take courses not listed above must meet with the counselor and principal for approval. These additional courses will not be included in the student's GPA.
- Dual credit is granted for both high school and college credit upon successful completion of college course with a minimum grade of "C".
- Students using college courses as a "distinguished measure" for the Distinguished Achievement Diploma must have a minimum grade of "B"

Angelina College – Grapeland High School Partnership

In the 2006-2007 school year, Grapeland High School began offering concurrent credit courses during the school day on our campus through a partnership with Angelina College. GHS offers English 1301, English 1302, Government 2301, and Government 2302.

Grapeland I.S.D. will provide books and tuition for each course to the enrolled students who complete the program and receive college credit. A signed contract is required and if the student withdraws during the course or fails to complete the program for credit, reimbursement will be required.

All students involved must meet the enrollment requirements for Angelina College and be accepted into the college. Prior approval must be earned from the teacher, principal, and counselor to enroll. All paperwork and details are available in the counselor's office.

Exam Exemptions – Semester Exams

Comprehensive exams are an important part of the educational process. Synthesis of large quantities of information forces the student to comprehend and apply material as opposed to simple recall. While exemptions are a reward for students, we must also prepare for the rigor of collegiate testing and required TAKS assessments.

High School Students Only:

1st Semester Exemptions:

- Students must have passed all State Assessments from the previous school year.
- Students should have 90% attendance

If the above criteria is met, then the following will apply:

- Students should have an average of 80 or above in each class through the progress report in the 3rd Six Weeks. For each class that has an average below 80, the student will be required to take that exam during the scheduled exam time.

2nd Semester Exameptions:

- Students must have passed all State Assessments in the spring of the current year.
- Students should have 90% attendance

If the above criteria is met, then the following will apply:

- Students should have an average of 80 or above in each class through the progress report in the 6th Six Weeks. For each class that has an average below 80, the student will be required to take that exam during the scheduled exam time.
- For those students entering high school in 2011-2012 or later, there will be courses that require a state End-of-Course Assessment and the student will not take a final exam for that course. The End-of-Course State Assessment will count as 15% of the students' final grade in that class. NO STUDENT WILL BE EXEMPT FROM THESE ASSESSMENTS.

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EXEMPT FROM EXAMS EITHER SEMESTER.

Grade Point Averages

For two school years following their graduation, District graduates who ranked in the top ten percent of their graduating class are eligible for admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas. Students and parents should contact the counselor for further information about application to colleges and universities.

Early graduates will not be eligible for top honors. All course grades count, including correspondence and summer school grades. Courses taken in another school district will be aligned with Grapeland ISD. Courses and advanced placement courses not offered in Grapeland ISD will not be counted. Junior High or Middle School advanced course work for high school credit not offered at Grapeland ISD will not be counted.

The exact chart used to compute grade points is available from the counselor. This chart has been established by the Board of Trustees.

- Advanced courses include physics, pre-calculus, calculus, any level III foreign language, pre-AP classes, AP classes, and all approved academic college courses taken for dual or concurrent credit.
- Academic courses include all other courses in the curriculum.
- Instructional courses include resource classes and TAKS remediation classes.

Minimum grade point average (GPA) for honor graduates for the 2010-2011 school year

will be a 3.2 average on the Recommended or Distinguished Graduation Plan. The grade point average is calculated at the end of each semester based on the semester averages.

At the beginning of their senior year, all seniors will receive their grade point average to that point. If there is a problem with this average, it should be brought to the attention of the principal or counselor within 3 weeks.

GPA's will be adjusted after the first semester and another GPA will be given to every senior. Students and parents are expected to check these carefully to have any concerns answered at this time. The final class rankings will be based on the student's performance in high school through the 5th six-weeks of his or her senior year. Students taking college courses must have a numerical grade reported to the school at this time in order for the grade to be included in the calculation. If a numerical grade is not reported, the following will be used: "A" – 95, "B" – 85, "C" – 75, "F" – 65.

After the 5th six-weeks grades are calculated and released, each parent and student are encouraged to examine the GPA closely and address any concerns at this time.

The final six-weeks grades will not affect the rankings. However, students are reminded that the 6th six-weeks still counts for attendance and credit requirements. Failures during the 6th six-weeks can keep a student from graduating.

Students must attend GHS for their junior and senior years in order to qualify for valedictorian and salutatorian honors.

Grading System

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
<69	Failing

Graduation Programs

The District offers the graduation programs listed below. All students entering grade 9 are required to enroll in the Recommended High School Program or Distinguished Achievement Program. Permission to enroll in the Minimum Graduation Program will be granted only if an agreement is reached among the student, the student's parent or person standing in parental relationship, and the counselor or appropriate administrator. This decision will not be made during the freshman year. A counselor can help you decide which program is best for you. (See Policy EIF.)

For all High School students:

Recommended High School Program	26 credits required
Distinguished High School Program	26 credits required
Minimum Graduation Plan	22 credits required

Academic Area	Recommended Plan	Distinguished Achievement	Minimum Plan
English	4	4	4
Math	4	4	3
Science	4	4	2

Social Studies	3.5	3.5	2.5
Economics	.5	.5	.5
Foreign Language (same language)	2	3	0
Physical Education	1	1	1
Technology Applications	1	1	1
Fine Arts	1	1	0
Communication Applications	.5	.5	.5
Electives (state approved)	3.5	2.5	5.5
Academic Elective (state approved)	n/a	n/a	1
Total	26 credits	26 credits	22 credits

Distinguished Achievement Program

Students must complete any combination of four of the following advanced measures:

- Original Research Project
 - For credit, must complete all of the following
 - Judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project
 - Conducted under the direction of mentor(s)
 - Reported to an appropriate audience

- A score of three (3) or above on a College Board Advanced Placement exam
- A score of four (4) or above on an International Baccalaureate exam
- A score on the PSAT that qualifies that a student for:
 - recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation
 - participation in the National Hispanic Scholar Program of the College Board
 - participation in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation
 - The PSAT score may count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received by the student.

- College Courses
 - Students who earn a “B” or higher on courses that count for college credit including tech prep programs.

- **For those students entering High School in 2011-2012 or later there are additional graduation requirements based on the STAAR / EOC State Assessments. See Testing / State Assessments.**

Graduation Activities

Senior Trip

Per Board policy, Grapeland I.S.D. does not sponsor an overnight Senior trip.

Baccalaureate Service

A Baccalaureate Service will be conducted during the final month of school. More details will be available closer to the event date.

Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses in order to participate in the tradition of graduation, such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior pictures, both student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year.

Requirements for a Diploma

To receive a high school diploma from the District, a student must accomplish the following:

- Successfully complete the required number of credits;
- **Pass the required State Assessments. See Testing / State Assessments.**

A student who does not pass the exit-level assessment on the first attempt will have additional opportunities to take the test.

Certificates of Coursework Completion

A certificate of coursework completion may be issued to a senior student who successfully completes state and local credit requirements for graduation but fails to perform satisfactorily on the exit-level tests.

Students with Disabilities

Upon the recommendation of the Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee (ARD), a student with disabilities may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her individualized education program (IEP). Students with disabilities who have not met their IEP goals will receive a certificate of attendance during graduation ceremonies.

Home school and Private Transfers

In order to receive high school credit for coursework completed, a student **must have attended an accredited private or charter school or have participated in an accredited home school program in which grading of coursework was completed by the organization to which the home school program is affiliated.**

Students who enroll in the district from a home school setting will be required to provide a transcript of grades, as well as provide official results of recent standardized testing (in lieu of appropriate scores students will be required to submit to an evaluation of skills for the most recent grade level completed.) Enrolling students who are unable to justify the claimed grade level according to the criteria above, risk loss of credit and placement in a lower grade level. **Testing will be required to determine the appropriate grade placement. The final decision will be determined by the principal.**

Promotion and Retention

High School

- A high school student will be promoted only on the basis of academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter of the course or grade level.
- To earn credit in a course, a student must receive a grade of at least 70, based on course-level or grade-level standards.
- Classification is based on credits received, that concept is described in an earlier section.
- Summer school is not offered for high school students.

Junior High

- In grades 7-8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100, based on course-level and grade-level standards for all subject areas.
- A grade of 70 or above must be attained in all of the four core areas: language arts (English and reading), math, science, and social studies. Eighth grade students must also pass the reading and math sections of the TAKS test to advance to 9th grade.
- **If a student fails one or more of the core subjects, a Grade Placement Committee, comprised of the legal custodial parent, teacher, and principal or designee, will determine whether the student should be promoted or retained.**

Report Cards & Progress Reports

Report cards will be mailed home every six (6) weeks. Progress reports will be issued after the third week of each six-week grading period. It is the student's responsibility to be sure the progress reports are given to the parents. Progress reports with any grade below 74 will also be mailed home. Reports will be issued according to dates published on the included school calendar.

Special Programs

The District provides special programs for gifted and talented students, homeless students, bilingual students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, dyslexic students, and students with disabilities. The coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements, as well as about programs and services offered by the District or by other organizations. A student or parent with questions about these programs should contact the counselor's office.

Testing / State Assessment

For those students that were enrolled in high school prior to the 2011-2012 school year, fall under the TAKS Assessments:

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) assesses the statewide curriculum, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). TAKS assesses students in ways that reflect sound classroom instruction.

Grade	Subjects Assessed by TAKS
9	Mathematics and Reading
10	Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science
11	Mathematics, English/Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science

Grade 11 Assessments are "Exit Level" Tests

For students entering High School in 2011-2012 or later:

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) will take place of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) as the statewide curriculum assessments. The following is a list of required assessments.

Grade	STAAR Assessments Required
3	Reading, Math
4	Reading, Math, Writing
5	Reading, Math, Science
6	Reading, Math
7	Reading, Math, Writing
8	Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies

High School End-of-Course Assessments			
<u>Math</u>	<u>English</u>	<u>Science</u>	<u>Social Studies</u>
Algebra I	English I	Biology	World Geography
Geometry	English II	Chemistry	World History
Algebra II	English III	Physics	US History

At this time, there are three standard scores: Minimum Academic Performance, Satisfactory Academic Performance, and Advanced Academic Performance.

In order to graduate, a high school student must meet the minimum score for each of the End-of-Course Assessments taken and receive a Cumulative Score that is at least equal to the number of STAAR/EOC tests taken in each area and the scale score that indicates a Satisfactory Academic Performance.

In addition:

- In order to graduate on a **Recommended High School Plan**, the student must make the Cumulative Score requirement for each subject area AND they must meet a Satisfactory Academic Performance Score on both the Algebra II assessment and the English III assessment.
- In order to graduate on a **Distinguished Achievement Plan**, the student must make the Cumulative Score requirement for each subject area AND they must meet an Advanced Academic Performance Score on both the Algebra II assessment and the English III assessment.
- All STAAR / EOC assessments will count as 15% of the students' final grade in the course.

- Students may retake any of the Assessments if necessary for graduation. The school district is not required to use student's score on subsequent administrations to determine student's final grade for that course. A student is not required to retake a course as a condition of retaking an assessment if the student passed the course.
- Accelerated Instruction will be provided for each student who fails to perform satisfactorily on any assessment.
- Time restrictions are as follows:
 - One School Day for STAAR Assessments
 - One Half School Day for End-of-Course Assessments
- Students taking Algebra I in 8th grade for high school credit will take the Algebra I End-of-Course Assessment instead of the 8th grade Math STAAR Assessment.

For Post Secondary Education:

Most colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. Prior to enrollment in a Texas public college or university, most students must take the Texas Higher Educational Assessment (THEA). Students are encouraged to talk with the counselor during their junior year to determine the appropriate exam to take.

Matters Related to Health

Asbestos Statement

Grapeland I.S.D. has complied with a federal law requiring schools to be inspected for asbestos and to develop management plans to address asbestos in schools. As required, a copy of the master plan is housed at the administration building. These copies are available for public viewing. If you have questions, contact K.L. Groholski at 936-687-4619.

Pesticide Notification

Pesticides are periodically applied indoors in GISD schools. Information on times and types of applications is available on request from the building principal.

Physical Fitness Assessment

To comply with state law, the district will conduct an annual physical fitness assessment of students in grades 3–12. At the end of the school year, a parent may submit a written request to Jerry Richards, Athletic Director to obtain the results of his or her child's physical fitness assessment conducted during the school year.

School Health Advisory Council

Information regarding the District's School Health Advisory Council, including the number of meetings scheduled or held during the year and information regarding vending machines in District facilities and student access to machines is available from the Director of Food Service located at 936-687-2317. (See also Policies BDF and EHAA.)

Steroids

State law prohibits students from possessing, dispensing, delivering, or administering an anabolic steroid. Anabolic steroids are for medical use only, and only a physician can prescribe use. Body building, muscle enhancement, or the increase of muscle bulk or strength through the use of an anabolic steroid or human growth hormone by a healthy student is not a valid medical use and is a criminal offense.

GISD students participating in UIL athletic competition are subject to random steroid testing.

Tobacco Policy

The District and its staff enforce prohibitions against the use of tobacco products by students and others on school property or at school-sponsored or school-related activities. (See the Student Code of Conduct and Policy GKS.)

Immunizations

A student must be fully immunized against certain diseases or must present a certificate or statement that, for medical or religious reasons, the student will not be immunized. The immunizations required are: *diphtheria, rubella (measles), mumps, tetanus, Haemophilus influenza type B, poliomyelitis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox)*. The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or help you contact an acceptable physician. Proof of immunization may be personal records from a licensed physician or public health clinic with a signature or rubber-stamp validation. If a student's religious beliefs conflict with the requirement that the student be immunized, the student must present a statement signed by the parent stating that immunization conflicts with the beliefs and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member.

If a student should not be immunized for medical reasons, the student or parent must present a certificate signed by a U.S. licensed physician stating that the immunization

required would be harmful to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household. This certificate must be renewed yearly unless the physician specifies a life-long condition. (For further information, see Policy FFAB.)

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

If a student has a medical emergency at school or school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school will need to 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 doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the school secretary to update any information.

Medicine at School

For medication, herbal substances, or dietary supplements to be given to a student at school, the following guidelines will be followed:

- If the substance is herbal or a dietary supplement, it must be provided by the parent and will be administered only if it is required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan for a student with disabilities.
- Prescription medications must be in the original container showing the doctor's name and dosage information.
- In certain situations, the District will maintain and administer to a student nonprescription medication, but only in accordance with the guidelines developed by the District's medical advisor and when the parent has previously provided written consent to such treatment.
- A student with asthma who has written authorization from his or her parent and physician or other licensed health care provider will be permitted to possess and use prescribed asthma medication at school or school-related events. The student and parents should see the school nurse or principal if the student has been prescribed asthma medication for use during the school day.

Emergency School-Closing Information

The decision to close the school in case of emergency will be made by the superintendent and radio stations will be informed. (KIVY 92.7 FM, 1290 AM, and KBHT 93.5FM)

Physical Examinations and Health Screenings

Students will be required to present up-to-date records to the school nurse. Students who are requested to update their shot records will be notified by the school nurse of the required immunizations and are expected to clear their records through the school nurse in a timely manner.

Students participating UIL athletics are required to provide health screening records required by the athletic director before participation in athletic practice and competition. Failure to provide the required documentation will result in dismissal from athletics.

Communicable Diseases and Conditions

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. The school nurse can provide information from the Texas Department of Health regarding these diseases. Parents of a student with a communicable or contagious disease should phone the school nurse or principal so that other students who might have been exposed to the disease

can be alerted.

Bacterial Meningitis

State law requires the District to provide the following information:

What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. Viruses, parasites, fungi, or bacteria can cause it. Viral meningitis is the most common and the least serious of the meningitis diseases. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of the serious bacterial infection with the potential for serious, long-term complications. It is an uncommon disease but requires urgent treatment with antibiotics to prevent permanent damage or death.

What are the symptoms?

Someone with meningitis will become very ill. The illness may develop over one or two days, but it can also rapidly progress in a matter of hours. Not everyone with meningitis will have the same symptoms.

Children (over 1 year old) and adults with meningitis may have a severe headache, high temperature, vomiting, sensitivity to bright lights, neck stiffness or joint pains, and drowsiness or confusion. In both children and adults, there may be a rash of tiny, red/purple spots. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The diagnosis of bacterial meningitis is based on a combination of symptoms and laboratory results.

How serious is bacterial meningitis?

If it is diagnosed early and treated promptly, the majority of people make a complete recovery. In some cases it can be fatal or a person may be left with a permanent disability.

How is bacterial meningitis spread?

Fortunately, none of the bacteria that cause meningitis are as contagious as diseases like the common cold or the flu, and they are not spread by casual contact or by simply breathing the air where a person with meningitis has been. The germs live naturally in the back of our noses and throats, but they do not live for long outside the body. They are spread when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing, sharing drinking containers, utensils, or cigarettes.)

The germ does not cause meningitis in most people. Instead, most people become carriers of the germ for days, weeks, or even months. The bacteria rarely overcome the body's immune system and cause meningitis or another serious illness.

What should you do if you think you or a friend might have bacterial meningitis?

You should seek prompt medical attention.

Where can you get more information?

Your school nurse, family doctor, and the staff at your local or regional health department office are excellent sources for information on all communicable diseases. You may also call your local health department or Regional Texas Department of Health office to ask about meningococcal vaccine. Additional information may also be found at the websites for the Centers for Disease Control and prevention and the Texas Department of Health: <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us> and <http://www.edc.gov>.