

**Wood-Ridge Junior-Senior High
School**



**Student-Parent Co-Curricular
Handbook**

2023-2024

Board of Education

President: Mr. Albert Nieves

Vice President: Mr. Joseph Biamonte

Mr. Christopher Garvin

Mr. Richard Fallon

Mr. Dylan O'Byrne

Administration

Mr. Anthony Albro, Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Carl Morelli, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

TBD Principal

Mrs. Silvia Raguseo-Ruiz, Assistant
Principal/Supervisor of Secondary Curriculum

Mr. Marc Sinclair, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

Statement of Non-Discrimination

The Wood-Ridge Public School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities based on color, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability, age, and/or family status. If a student has a disability and needs accommodations for participation in an activity/club, please contact the assistant principal.

Core Values and Beliefs

- We believe that academics are the priority.
- We believe that participation in school activities is a privilege; therefore, students will act in a respectful manner, remembering they are at all times representatives of Wood-Ridge Junior-Senior High School and the Wood-Ridge community.
- We believe that all of our students will compete with respect for their opponents.
- We believe that the people advising our students should be highly qualified in the activity they are leading.
- We believe that our advisors and students should be role models both in and out of school.
- We believe that every member of the club or activity is valuable to its overall progress.

- We believe that our clubs and activities teach our students to learn a multitude of important lessons and valuable fundamentals, such as ethics, abiding by the rules, coping with success as well as failure, respecting authority figures, and learning the importance of teamwork.
- We believe that our students will show respect for themselves, their peers, and their advisors.

Program Offerings

The Wood-Ridge Junior-Senior High School offers a wide variety of activities. Students are encouraged to take advantage of these offerings and participate in them.

- Art Club
- Book Club
- Drama/Musical
- Marching/Concert Band
- Chess Club
- Choir/Glee
- Class Officers
- Debate Club
- Environmental
- Italian Club
- Leo Club
- National Honor Society/Junior NHS
- Neutral Zone/Teen Institute
- PRISM
- STEM/Robotics
- Student Council
- Yearbook

Note: Some activities require an application or other criteria.

Objectives of Participation

- To strive for excellence that will produce positive and engaging group and individual activities that allow students to expand their learning and their skills.
- To provide opportunities for students to learn to cope with problems and handle situations similar to those encountered in the outside world.
- To provide opportunities for students to experience success in their activities.
- To provide activities to respond to a wide variety of student interests and abilities.
- To foster the desire to succeed and excel.
- To provide students with a positive and appropriate use of leisure time now and in the future.
- To practice self-discipline and emotional maturity while learning to make appropriate decisions under pressure.

- To be socially knowledgeable and operate within a set of rules, thus gaining respect for the rights of others.
- To develop an understanding of the value of activities in a balanced educational process.
- To provide opportunities for students to engage in active citizenship that involves them in their community and contributes to society in a safe and meaningful way.

Student Valuables

- All students are instructed to leave their valuables **locked** in their lockers during activities.
- The Board of Education is **not** responsible for the loss of a student's valuables during school hours or during after-school practices or meetings.
- Students who decide to bring valuables to an event outside of school are responsible for their own valuables.
- Students are advised not to bring electronic devices such as cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc. to events.

Message to Club Members

Participation in a WRJSHS club or activity is a privilege. Your behavior in and out of the school is vital to the continuing success of the Wood-Ridge Public School Programs as a whole, as you are a reflection not only of yourself, but also of your classmates, family, and the entire school.

- Individual clubs or activities may have their own set of guidelines and codes of conduct. Advisors may remove a student from the roster if the guidelines are not met.
- Students are expected to behave as positive role models to younger students.

- Students in co-curricular activities will not use tobacco, electronic cigarettes, alcohol, or any other illegal drugs inside or outside of school and will avoid any situations involving these substances.
- Students will be respectful toward their advisors, peers, competitors, and staff.
- Academics are the priority; students requiring extra help/tutoring/credit recovery after school will do so **before the after school activity**. Club members will notify the advisor of lateness or absenteeism from practices and/or meetings as a result of academic help.
- Students in co-curricular activities will complete homework assignments for their classes.
- Students should only participate in the number of activities they can fully devote time to without allowing their academic responsibilities to suffer.
- If students consistently miss meetings, practices, or competitions for any reason, they may be suspended or removed from the club or activity.
- Club members will be respectful towards their advisors at all times.
- Before a student may participate in a club or activity, the co-curricular contract must be signed by both the student and parent/guardian and then submitted to the advisor.

The contract will be kept on file in the assistant principal's office.

- Students are required to attend school daily. Students will not be permitted to participate in their programs if they are absent from school. A student is required to be in school for 4 hours to be eligible to participate in any club activity that day.
- **Students in co-curricular activities who do not comply with these rules will be held accountable to district and school policies, which may include possible suspension from a performance, match, or meetings, or dismissal from the club and/or possible police involvement.**
- **All infractions apply to students in co-curricular activities. Refer to Discipline/School Citizenship – Policy # 5600 in the Student Handbook.**

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE FOR USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Substance Abuse- Policy #5530

The Board of Education recognizes that a pupil's abuse of harmful substances seriously impedes that pupil's education and threatens the welfare of the entire school community.

The Board is committed to the prevention of substance abuse

and the rehabilitation of substance abusers by educational means, but will take necessary and appropriate steps to protect the school community from harm and from exposure to harmful substances. Accordingly, the Board will establish and maintain a comprehensive substance abuse intervention, prevention, and treatment referral program in the schools. (N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9; N.J.A.C. 6:29-6.2) The Board of Education prohibits the use, possession and/or distribution of a substance on school premises, at any event away from the school premises that is sponsored by the Board, on any transportation vehicle provided by the Board, or at any school-related activity. A student who uses, possess, or distributes a substance, on or off school premises, will be subject to discipline. Discipline will be graded to the severity of the offense and may include suspension or expulsion. The pupil may be reported to appropriate law enforcement personnel. (Board Policy 5530, N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-10, 18A:40A-11, and N.J.A. C. 6:29-6.3 © 2).

- Students who have tested positive for drugs or alcohol will not be permitted to participate in any activity until they complete a rehabilitation program and test negative on another drug-administered test.
- Students are not permitted to use any illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco, or electronic cigarettes. This prohibition includes both on and off school grounds

during the entire school year, including parties where these prohibited substances may be.

- **The following criteria reflect the discipline procedure for students in activities who do not abide by the rules set forth.**

1ST OFFENSE:

- Four day suspension, police notification, and referral to the SAC; parent conference required prior to resumption of activity for use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances.

2ND OFFENSE (WITHIN 365 DAYS FROM DATE OF 1ST OFFENSE):

- Removal from club/activity; parent conference required for use of tobacco, illegal substances, or alcohol. The student must meet with the Principal, Assistant Principal, guidance counselor, and advisor to discuss the ramifications of future disqualifications.

TRANSPORTATION

- A student's bus behavior must be beyond reproach.

- Appropriate demeanor must be maintained at all times. No abuse, distasteful or obscene language, or unsafe actions will be permitted.
- All students are expected to arrive at and return to the school as part of the team or club.
- On rare occasions when a student cannot use assigned school transportation, written parental permission *must* be submitted to the assistant principal and/or the principal.
- At least one advisor or administrator must accompany the club on the bus to all trips/competitions.
- **Students who do not comply with these rules will be held accountable for their actions. This may include suspension from a match or matches or dismissal from the club. In some instances, police involvement may occur.**
- **It is illegal for advisors to drive a student to a match or competition and will subject the advisor, the administrators, and the Board of Education to legal action.**
- **Occasionally, a club may have to limit the number of participants for a variety of reasons, such as the nature of the activity or space restrictions.**

- **The advisor has the right to remove a student from a club or activity because of an excess of absences from the required meetings, competitions, or events.**