

CALVIN NELMS CHARTER SCHOOLS STUDENT HANDBOOK

2017 - 2018

School Contact Information

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PREFACE

To Students and Parents:

Welcome to Calvin Nelms Charter Schools! Teachers and other school staff members want this year to be an especially good one for each student. For this to happen, we all have to work together: students, parents, and teachers. This student handbook is designed to help us do that. Our student handbook contains information that both students and parents need during the school year.

We have attempted to make the language as straightforward as possible. However, please be aware that the term “the student’s parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student. Students and parents also need to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct. This document is required by state law and intended to promote school safety and an atmosphere conducive to learning.

The student handbook is designed to be in harmony with Board policy and the Student Code of Conduct. Please be aware that the handbook is updated yearly, while policy adoption and revision may occur throughout the year. Changes in policy that affect Student Handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through newsletters and other communications.

In case of conflict between Board policy and the Student Code of Conduct, the provisions of Board policy or the Student Code of Conduct that were most recently adopted by the Board are to be followed.

We strongly recommend that you review the entire handbook with your child and keep it as a reference during this school year. If you or your child has questions about any of the material in this handbook, please contact the school at your convenience. Please complete and return the acknowledgment form, so that we have record of your acceptance of our rules and regulations.

Mission Statement

Calvin Nelms Charter Schools’ mission is to provide students with a safe and secure learning environment and a low student-teacher ratio to facilitate personalized and individual instruction.

Vision Statement

The philosophical foundations of Calvin Nelms Charter Schools include but are not limited to the following beliefs:

- All students have potential and purpose.
- All students can learn and achieve high academic standards.
- Zero tolerance concerning fighting, drugs and/or weapon possession.
- Adhering to all the rules in the student handbook.
- Limiting numbers to 20 in a classroom, facilitating a more effective learning environment.
- Counseling, mentoring, tutoring, and individualized education plans are essential to students’ successes.
- Service projects for the surrounding community contribute to the social development of the students and prepares them for roles as community leaders.
- It is crucial to have family and community involved in the students’ academic program.
- Service projects to the surrounding community contribute to the social development of the students.

NON DISCRIMINATION

Charter schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, 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 requirements:

Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding sex discrimination, is the superintendent.

Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding disability discrimination, is the Special Education Director.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

A child's education is benefited by strong partnership and communication between home and school. Your involvement in this partnership may include:

Encouraging your child to place a high priority on education and working with your child on a daily basis to make the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.

Becoming familiar with all of your child's school activities and with the academic programs, including special programs, offered in 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.

Attending scheduled conferences and requesting additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call or e-mail the staff member you would like to conference with. A teacher will return your call or meet with you at a mutually convenient time.

Exercising your right to review teaching materials, textbooks, other teaching aids, and tests that have been administered to your child.

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.
- Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or family.
- Sexual behavior and attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior.
- Criticism of individuals with whom the student or the student's family has a close family relationship.
- Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Income, except when the information 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 any teaching materials used in connection with such a survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Reviewing your child's student records when needed. You may review attendance records, test scores, grades, disciplinary records, counseling records, psychological records, applications for admission, health and immunization information, other medical records, teacher and counselor evaluations, reports of behavioral patterns, and state assessment instruments that have been administered to your child.

Granting or denying any written request from the District to make a videotape or voice recording of your child. State law, however, permits the school to make a videotape 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 co-curricular or extracurricular activity; or
- ✓ when it relates to media coverage of the school.

Instructional Conflict with Religious or Moral Beliefs

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

Becoming a School Volunteer

A parent may offer to serve as a parent representative on the district-level or campus-level planning committees assisting in the development of educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, contact the campus principal.

Attending Board meetings to learn more about District operations, including the procedure for addressing the Board when appropriate.

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

District employees are not authorized to give a student prescription medication, nonprescription medication, herbal substances, or dietary supplements unless:

Parental permission is granted in the form of written documentation accompanied by prescribed medicine labeled in its original container with the student's name on the label.

- If the medication is nonprescription, it must be provided by the parent, along with a written request, and be in the original, properly labeled container. This must be taken to and dispensed by office personnel. Students are NOT allowed to have medication of any type (prescription or non-prescription) in their possession.
- 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.

In certain emergency situations, the District will maintain and administer nonprescription medication to a student, but only if:

- The District has obtained from its medical advisor, licensed to practice medicine in Texas, (or from a licensed physician at the county or regional health authority) a protocol for treatment of the particular emergency; and
- The parent has previously provided written consent to emergency treatment on the District's form.

A student with asthma who has written authorization from his or her parent and physician or other licensed health care provider may be permitted, at the student's discretion, to possess and use prescribed asthma medication at school or school-related events. The student and parents should see the principal if the student has been prescribed asthma medication for use during the school day.

PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

A student may 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.

Written reports of your child's grades or performance and absences in each class or subject are issued to you at your request. Progress reports of your child's grades are issued at least once per six weeks grading period.

STUDENT OR PARENT COMPLAINTS AND CONCERNS

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed simply—by a phone call or a conference with the teacher. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the District has adopted a standard complaint policy. In general, the student or parent should first discuss the complaint with the classroom teacher. If unresolved, a written complaint, suggested solution, and a request for a conference should be sent to the campus administrator. If it remains unresolved, a written complaint, recommended solution, and a request for a conference should be sent to the Superintendent. If still unresolved, the District provides for the complaint to be presented to the Board of Trustees.

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 or older or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

The law specifies that certain general information about students is considered "directory information" and will be released to anyone who follows procedures for requesting it. That information includes:

A student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth.

The student's photograph, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of members of athletic teams.

The student's dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status, honors and awards received in school, and most recent school previously attended.

The student's e-mail address on the District's computer network.

Release of any or all directory information regarding a student may be prevented by the parent or an eligible student. This objection must be made in writing to the principal within ten school days after the parent has been provided this notice.

Virtually all information pertaining to student performance, including grades, test results, and disciplinary records, is considered confidential educational records. Release of information is restricted to:

- The parents—whether married, separated, or divorced—unless parental rights have been legally terminated and if the school is 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 go 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 a student’s records. Such persons would include school officials (such as Board members, the Superintendent, and principals), school staff members (such as teachers, counselors, and diagnosticians), or an agent of the District (such as a medical consultant).
- Various governmental agencies or in response to a subpoena or court order.
- A school to which a 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 principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students at the assigned school. The principal is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated.

Records may be inspected during regular school hours. If circumstances effectively prevent a parent or eligible student from inspecting the records, the District shall either provide a copy of the requested records, or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review the requested records.

A parent (or the student if he or she is 18 or older or is attending an institution of postsecondary education) may inspect the student’s records and request a correction if the records are considered inaccurate or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights. If the District refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor 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.

Please note:

Parents or eligible students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education if they believe the District is not in compliance with federal law regarding student records.

The parent’s or eligible student’s right of access to, and copies of, student records do not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records—such as teachers’ personal notes on a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher and records on former students after they are no longer students in the District—do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

STATE ASSESSMENT

All students will take the following STAAR assessments:

Grade 6 – Reading and Mathematics

Grade 7 – Reading, Mathematics, and Writing

Grade 8 – Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

Grades 9 – 12 will be required to take the following End of Course (EOC) assessments:

English 1, English 2

Algebra 1

Biology

United States History

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Because class time is important, doctor's appointments should be scheduled 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 and according to the campus sign-out procedures.

LATE ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

Students are expected to be at school on time every school day. Three tardies are treated as one absence. Students who are tardy must sign in at the front office or principal's office before they are allowed into their first class of the day.

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 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.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS

The District offers career and technology programs to help students learn a marketable skill.

Steps will be taken to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and career and technology programs.

CLASS SCHEDULES

Every student is assigned at least a 4 1/2 hour schedule in high school; otherwise the student will attend the full day session.

SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Each high school student is required to participate in at least one community service project per semester of enrollment at Calvin Nelms Charter Schools. Service to your community includes, but is not limited to, service projects organized by the community service coordinator. Court appointed community service does not fulfill this requirement.

Middle school service projects will be organized at the middle school level.

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 should be aware that electronic communications using District computers are not private and may be monitored by District staff.

ACADEMIC COUNSELING

Students and their parents are encouraged to talk with a teacher, counselor, or principal to learn about course offerings, the graduation requirements of various programs, and early graduation procedures. Each spring, students in grades 8 through 12 will be provided information on anticipated course offerings for the next year and other information that will help to make the most of academic and vocational opportunities.

To plan for the future, students should work closely with the counselor to take courses that best prepare them for post-secondary graduation. The counselor can also provide information about entrance exams and application deadlines, as well as information about automatic admission to state colleges and universities, financial aid, housing, and scholarships.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to do their own work. The instructional environment offered at CNCS demands honesty when dealing with individual student work. Integrity is defined as the uprightness of character and honesty. Academic integrity means every student is expected to do course work to the best of their individual abilities.

Students are at risk of immediate dismissal if they are found guilty of plagiarism, copying another student's work, cheating, possession of another student's work, or not working to their full potential.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The District provides special programs for bilingual students, migrant students, students with limited English proficiency, dyslexic students, and students with disabilities. The superintendent or coordinator of each program can answer questions about eligibility requirements for each program.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Upon the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal committee, a student with disabilities may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her individualized education program (IEP).

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is assigned at the discretion of the teacher. Students are expected to complete all homework as required for course completion. Satisfactory completion of homework is required to earn passing grades, perform well on tests and remain in good school standing. Parent contact will be made if a student fails to turn in quality homework.

TEXTBOOKS

Responsibility for lost textbooks and damage to the books lies with the student. The student must pay for lost or damaged books before credit will be awarded for a completed course. School records may also be held until damages are recovered. No textbooks are to be removed from a classroom without prior teacher approval.

ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is essential for the student to make the most of his or her education to benefit from teacher-led activities, to build each day's learning on that of the previous day, and to grow as an individual. 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.

Expectations

Every student enrolled at Calvin Nelms Charter School are expected to attend school every day that school is in session.

Students are expected to arrive at school on time and are expected to go to every class.

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 or her 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. The student's presence on school property is then unauthorized and may be considered trespass.”

School employees must investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law. A student absent from school without permission from any class will be considered truant and subject to disciplinary action.

Truancy may also result in assessment of penalties by a court of law against both the student and his or her parents. A complaint against the parent may be filed in the appropriate court if the student:

- is absent from school ten or more days, or parts of days, within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- is absent three or more days, or parts of days, within a four-week period.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE CREDITS

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends fewer than 90 percent 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.

If credit is lost because of excessive absences, the attendance committee will decide if the student may regain credit and present a plan of action to do so. The student or parent may appeal the committee's decision to the District's Board of Trustees by filing a written request with the Superintendent.

If attendance falls below 90 percent, a phone call or conference may be scheduled with the parent and student.

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

When a student is absent from school, a successful contact must be made between the parent and the school the day of the absence. The school will make every effort to contact the parent using the phone numbers(s) on file. However, it is recommended that the parent make contact with the school before 9:00 AM the day of the absence. Failure to make contact may result in an unexcused absence and missed work may not be allowed to be made up.

RETURN FROM ABSENCE AND TARDY PROCEDURES

Upon return from a school absence, students must obtain an admittance slip from the school principal prior to the start of the school day. If a student arrives to school after the first period bell has begun, students must sign in and obtain admittance from the campus principal.

Excused Absences

The following absences will be considered excused absences, if the appropriate documentation and/or contact is made by the parent or guardian:

1. Personal illnesses that do not exceed (3) consecutive days.
2. Illnesses that extend beyond three (3) days will require a doctor's note in order for the student to return to school.
3. Temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the principal and /or superintendent.
4. Students will be allowed the same number of days absent to make up work missed.

Missed days that are considered Present

According to state law (Texas Education Code 25.087) the following absences from school will count as a day present, if the student provides all of the proper documentation for the absence:

1. Documented health care appointment, if the student begins classes or returns to school on the same day as the appointment.
2. Observance of religious holidays.
3. Juvenile court proceeding documented by a probation officer.
4. Required screening, diagnosis, and treatment by a probation officer.
5. Board approved extracurricular activity.
6. Sounding "Taps" at a military honors funeral held in Texas for a deceased veteran.
7. Is 16 years old or older and misses school for the purpose of serving as an election clerk.
8. Student misses school to appear at a government office to complete US citizenship.
9. Student misses school for the purpose of taking part in the students own United States naturalization oath ceremony.

10. A junior or senior and misses no more than 2 days per year to visit a college/university.

Unexcused Absences

1. Any absence not listed in the excused absence list will be considered unexcused.
2. Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to over sleeping, personal business, vacation, non-school extra-curricular activities.
3. If the school is unable to make contact with the parent and the parent fails to make contact with the school during an absence, the absence may be considered unexcused and work missed cannot be made up.

Truancy

1. A student absent from school without an excuse for ten (10) or more days within a 6 month period in the same school year or on three (3) or more days within a four week period is considered truant and in violation of the compulsory attendance laws.
2. The parent or guardian is subject to prosecution (TEC, Sec. 24.0939) if the student fails to comply with attendance laws.
3. A student who is 12 years old or older is subject to prosecution (TEC, Sec. 24.094) or referral to juvenile court if he/she fails to attend school as required by law.
4. **Vacations** need to be taken during scheduled breaks, as listed on the official Calvin Nelms Charter Schools calendar.
5. **Texas Statute does not allow a student to be absent from school for vacation during instructional days.**

STUDENT CONDUCT

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 do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner and always exercise 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.
- Display academic integrity.

SCHOOL CONDUCT ENFORCEMENT BOUNDARIES

To achieve the best possible learning environment for all our 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:

- during the regular school day and while a student is traveling to and from school on District transportation.
- during lunch periods.
- within 300 feet of school property.
- while a student is in attendance at any school-related activity, regardless of time or location.
- for any school-related misconduct, regardless of time or location.
 - This includes school social events to which a student brings a guest. Guests are expected to observe the same rules as students attending the event, and the person inviting the guest will share responsibility for the conduct of the guest.
 - A student attending a social event will be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the event; anyone leaving before the official end of the event will not be readmitted.
- when retaliation against a school employee or volunteer occurs or is threatened, regardless of time or location.
- when a student commits a felony, as described by Texas Education Code 37.006.
- when criminal mischief is committed on or off school property or at a school related event.

As required by law, the District has developed and adopted a Student Code of Conduct that prohibits certain behaviors and establishes 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.

DISRUPTIONS

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 nonstudent—who:

- interferes with the movement of people in an exit, an entrance, or a 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.
- uses force, violence, or threats in an attempt to prevent participation in or cause disruption during an authorized assembly.
- 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 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.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell phones, music devices, pagers, cameras and electronic games/devices are not appropriate for an instructional setting. All electronic devices, including cell phones, must be turned “OFF” to avoid confiscation. Use of any unauthorized electronic device during the student’s school day will result in confiscation and a \$20 fine. Cell phones and other electronic devices may only be used before or after a student’s scheduled school day. If a student is released before the end of the official school day, they should not be using electronic devices in the school building without permission from school staff. For safety reasons all students should refrain from using electronic devices while walking to the bus line and/or car rider lines. Refusal to relinquish a device to requesting school personnel is not an option. Student refusal will result in the elevation of the offense and an immediate conference with the campus principal.

At the middle school level, all electronic devices must be turned in to their first period teacher and will be returned to the student by their last period teacher. Failure to follow this policy will result in confiscation and a \$20 fine.

HARASSMENT ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR DISABILITY

Students must not engage in harassment behaviors directed toward another student motivated by 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.

The District encourages parental and student support in its efforts to address and prevent harassment of any form in the public schools. Students and/or parents are encouraged to discuss their questions or concerns about the expectations in this area with a teacher, counselor, principal or the superintendent.

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 campus principal or superintendent. The allegations will be investigated and addressed. A substantiated complaint against a student will result in appropriate disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense and the Student Code of Conduct.

The student or a parent may appeal the decision of the principal regarding the outcome of the investigation in accordance with board policy.

BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

Bullying and/or cyberbullying will not be tolerated. Bullying may be written or verbal expression or physical conduct that creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student. Examples of bullying include, but are not limited to: threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, or ostracism. Cyberbullying occurs when such threats or intimidation are expressed through electronic means.

Because bullying and cyberbullying foster an adverse educational environment, such actions will result in District action regardless of whether the actions occurred on or off campus and, in the

matter of cyberbullying, without regard to whether the electronic means and devices were school property or school issued.

Any student who has experienced bullying or believes that another student is the victim of bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, campus principal, or other District employee.

The campus principal or designee will investigate and take appropriate corrective action.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT/SEXUAL ABUSE

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

The District will notify the parents of all students involved in sexual harassment by student(s) when the allegations are not minor, and will notify parents of any incident 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 designee or with the Title IX coordinator who is the superintendent. The student or parent may appeal the decision regarding the outcome of the investigation in accordance with board policy.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school:

- the campus principal will 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.
- the campus principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the parents unless the interviewer raises what the campus principal considers to be a valid objection.
- the campus principal ordinarily will be present unless the interviewer raises what the campus principal considers to be a valid objection.
- the principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation.

Students Taken Into Custody

State law requires the District to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- to comply with an order of the juvenile court.
- to comply with the laws of arrest.

- by a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- by a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- to comply with a properly issued directive to take a student into custody.
- 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 the Family Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.

Before a student is released to a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the officer's identity and, to the best of his or her ability, will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the Superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a custody action, notification will most likely be after the fact.

Notification of Law Violations

The District is also required by state law to notify:

- all instructional and support personnel who have responsibility for supervising a student who has been arrested or referred to the juvenile court for any felony offense or for certain misdemeanors.
- all instructional and support personnel who have regular contact with a student who has been convicted or adjudicated of delinquent conduct for any felony offense or certain misdemeanors.

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL MATERIALS

Publications prepared by and for the school may be posted or distributed, with prior approval by the principal, sponsor, or teacher. Such items may include school posters, brochures, murals, etc. All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the campus principal.

DISTRIBUTION OF NON-SCHOOL MATERIALS

Unless a student (or a nonstudent) obtains specific prior approval from the campus principal, written materials, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, or other visual or auditory materials may not be posted, sold, circulated, or distributed on any school campus. Any student who posts material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The District's dress code is established to prevent disruption, minimize safety hazards, and encourage self-respect, but still allow students to express individualism. Students are expected to adhere to standards set by the school.

Students May Not:

- wear low cut clothing, immodest attire, and excessively sagging pants.
- wear tube tops, spaghetti straps or pajamas attire, including slippers.
- allow undergarments to show, including underwear, bra straps, etc.
- wear gang-related paraphernalia, “colors”, etc.
- wear clothing or tattoos with inappropriate slogans or symbols, including references to sex, drugs, violence, alcohol, tobacco or profanity.
- wear clothing with writing on seat of pants or shorts. (Hottie, Hooters, Pink, etc.)
- wear clothing with slogans, symbols, pictures, etc. that are disrespectful or discriminating toward any person regarding race, gender, ethnicity, age, etc.
- wear head coverings or hoodies that cover eyes or face.
- wear hoods up inside the school building.

No yoga, spandex, or form fitting pants may be worn without appropriate coverage. This type of clothing must be covered by pants, shorts, or skirts that are within 4 inches of the knee.

Dresses/skorts/skirts may not be spandex or other form fitting materials. They must meet the acceptable length requirement regardless of whether leggings are also worn.

Clothing may not have holes, slashes, or slits at levels higher than four inches above the knee.

Male students may not wear sleeveless shirts. Female students wearing sleeveless shirts must have a shirt that is not revealing around arm opening whereas any part of the bra may be visible.

Students May:

- wear hats – if worn with brim forward – (no fish hooks or sharp objects).
- wear shorts/skirts – no shorter than hand-width (3”-4”) from knee when standing/sitting.
- wear coats, jackets, etc. as weather dictates, not to cover up inappropriate clothing.

Students Must:

- wear appropriate footwear at all times.
- wear only prescription glasses while in the school building. (no sunglasses)
- wear a belt when pants do not stay at student’s waistline without assistance.

The campus principal will be the determining authority on questions of appropriate/inappropriate dress and grooming.

BAGS/BACKPACKS

- No backpacks are allowed on either campus. If a bag or backpack is required for an extracurricular activity, the bag must be stored in the appropriate room or gym prior to the start of the school day.
- Purses need to be small in size and not be able to hold a text book.

STUDENT FEES

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds and are at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide his or her own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Fees for lost or damaged books
- Fees for electronic device violations
- Fees for summer school courses
- Fees for graduation including cap, gown, tassel, diploma

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the superintendent.

Please see the school website under the resources tab for list of needed materials.

WWW.CNCHS.NET

FUND-RAISING

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 must be made to the principal at least 10 days before the event.

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), rubella, mumps, tetanus, Haemophilus influenzae type B, poliomyelitis, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and varicella (chicken pox). The school nurse can provide information on age-appropriate doses or on an acceptable physician-validated history of illness required by the Texas Department of Health. 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 student (or by the parent, if the student is a minor) 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. This statement must be renewed yearly.

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, in the doctor's opinion, 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.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES/CONDITIONS

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases are not allowed to come to school while contagious. 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.

Among the more common of these diseases are the following:

Amebiasis	Hepatitis A (acute)	Ringworm of the scalp
Campylobacteriosis	Impetigo	Rubella (German Measles), including congenital
Chicken pox (varicella)	Infectious mononucleosis	Salmonellosis, including typhoid fever
Common cold with fever	Influenza	Scabies
Fifth disease (Erythema Infectiosus)	Measles (Rubella)	Shigellosis
Gastroenteritis, Viral	Meningitis, Bacterial	Streptococcal disease, invasive (group A or B)
Giardiasis	Mumps	Tuberculosis, Pulmonary
Head Lice (Pediculosis)	Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis)	Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

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. It can be caused by viruses, parasites, fungi, and bacteria. Viral meningitis is most common and the least serious. Bacterial meningitis is the most common form of 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.

HOW CAN BACTERIAL MENINGITIS BE PREVENTED?

Do not share food, drinks, utensils, toothbrushes, or cigarettes. Limit the number of persons you kiss.

While there are vaccines for some other strains of bacterial meningitis, they are used only in special circumstances. These include when there is a disease outbreak in a community or for people traveling to a country where there is a high risk of getting the disease. Also, a vaccine is recommended by some groups for college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms or residence halls. The vaccine is safe and effective (85–90 percent). It can cause mild side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. Immunity develops within seven to ten days after the vaccine is given and lasts for up to five years.

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 web sites for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov>, and the Texas Department of Health, <http://www.tdh.state.tx.us>.

PHONE USE BY STUDENTS

Students are not permitted to use the phones located in the teachers' rooms. These phones are for communications with the front office and emergency situations. Students will be able to use a phone designated by the principal.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Periodically health screenings are conducted as required by law or TEA.

PRAYER

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. The school will not require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Student safety on campus and at school related events is a high priority of the District. Although the District has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensure school safety. A student should:

- avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk.
- follow the behavioral standards in this handbook and the Student Code of Conduct, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, teachers, or bus drivers.
- remain alert to and promptly report to a teacher or the principal safety hazards, such as intruders on campus and threats made by any person toward a student or staff member.
- know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other District employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Except for the purchase of insurance against bodily injury sustained by students while training for or engaging in interscholastic athletic competition or while engaging in school-sponsored activities on a school campus, the District, under state law, cannot pay for medical expenses associated with a student's injury.

SAFETY 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.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT & INFORMATION

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a 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 campus principal to update any information.

FOOD, DRINKS, AND GUM

Off-campus food and drink are not allowed except for student lunches brought from home. Those lunches must be placed in the appropriately designated refrigerator and may not be accessed until the lunch break. Vending machines are available to students on campus.

- Gum is not allowed on campus. It must be removed and thrown in the trash at the entrance to the building.
- Classroom birthday parties are not allowed. Please do not bring or drop off birthday items to limit disruptions to the instructional day.
- Food and drinks are not allowed in the cloth chairs at any time.
- Water bottles will be allowed in the classroom at the discretion of the teacher. Water should be in its original container or a clear water bottle.

PEST CONTROL NOTIFICATIONS

The District periodically applies pesticides inside buildings during long weekends and holidays. Parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide application inside their child's school may contact the campus principal.

VANDALISM

The taxpayers of the community have made a 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.

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. Such searches are conducted without a warrant and as permitted by law.

CONTRABAND

Students are prohibited from possession, use and/or distribution of the following items while on school property: weapons (knives, guns, pocket-knives, needles, razors/razorblades, etc.), tobacco products, lighters, illegal drugs, prescription drugs not reported to school personnel, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, sexually explicit materials and any other items deemed inappropriate by the principal.

Contraband items will be immediately confiscated. Law enforcement will be contacted as violation warrants. Students will be subject to withdrawal from CNCS for serious violations or repeated minor violations.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and others 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. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted with prior approval of the campus principal and teacher. All visitors are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted. Visitors must also follow the Calvin Nelms dress code.

ON CAMPUS ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

In certain circumstances, it may be necessary for a student to be placed in the On Campus Alternative Education Program. The hours of operation for this program will be 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM. Students are responsible for their own transportation. Failure to attend daily and on time will result in further disciplinary action or withdrawal from Calvin Nelms Charter Schools.

HIGH SCHOOL SPECIFIC TOPICS

COLLEGE REQUIREMENTS

Most colleges require either the American College Test (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for admission. Students are encouraged to talk with the counselor during their junior year to determine the appropriate exam to take; entrance exams are usually taken at the end of the junior year.

CLASS RANK/TOP TEN PERCENT

For two school years following their graduation, District graduates ranked in the top ten percent of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission into four-year public universities and colleges in Texas. The final official ranking of all students who graduated throughout the school year is completed during the month of May each year. All academic high school grades are used to calculate GPA. These GPA's are sorted and the top 10% is determined.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Students who have financial need according to federal criteria and who complete the Recommended High School Graduation Program may be eligible under the Texas Grant Program for tuition and fees to Texas public universities, community colleges, and technical schools, as well as to private institutions.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

The District permits high school students to take correspondence courses through a university approved by the superintendent for credit toward high school graduation. A maximum two credits may be earned through correspondence courses.

COURSE CREDITS – Earning

Course credit may be earned at the end of each semester.

Students must earn six to seven credits per year to remain “in good standing.” Students behind in credits or not earning credits at an appropriate pace may be required to attend an extended school day. Failure to show progress is grounds for possible withdrawal from the Calvin Nelms Charter Schools program.

CREDIT BY EXAM—Previous instruction

A student may be eligible for a CBE if the student has received prior instruction in a course but did not receive credit. Student eligibility for the exam is determined at the time of school enrollment. To initiate the process, a student must request to be administered a specific CBE, if

determined to be eligible, test administration will be scheduled during the school year. The CBE is based upon the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for each course. A student must show at least 70% proficiency on the exam to receive credit. No retakes.

CREDIT BY EXAM—No prior instruction

Due to changes in the standardized testing assessment process and state graduation requirements, students are no longer allowed to receive credit by examination for courses for which they have never been enrolled.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT (DUAL CREDIT) COLLEGE COURSES

Some high school (junior/senior level) classes can be taken through the college campus. Students must have attended Calvin Nelms for at least one semester and be classified as a Junior or Senior to be eligible. Students must attend all mandatory meetings regarding dual credit and meet all deadlines to enroll. Students must be in good academic, attendance, and discipline standing to be approved. These courses will generate both high school and college credit. Students must maintain a 3.0 or above in all college courses to continue in the program. Courses most popular for dual credits are: English 1301, English 1302, Economics, Government, College Algebra, Psychology, Sociology, US History, and Speech.

GRADE CLASSIFICATION

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

Credits Earned	Classification
6	Sophomore
12	Junior
18	Senior

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive a high school diploma from the District, a student must successfully complete the required number of credits (26) and pass the designated statewide assessments.

For high school students, the statewide assessment system shifts to State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) testing. Those students will annually be required, during the final half of the spring semester, to demonstrate mastery of five academic subjects in order to receive a high school diploma. Over the course of their high school career, students will demonstrate mastery of the following subjects:

English 1, English 2, Algebra 1, Biology, and United States History.

All course credits and testing requirements must be satisfied before a student may participate in a graduation ceremony.

GRADUATION PROGRAMS

Starting in 2014 all incoming freshmen will graduate under the Foundation plan and choose one of the following endorsement plans: STEM, Business & Industry, Arts & Humanities, Public Service or Multi-disciplinary Studies. The District offers the following graduation programs. The guidance counselor can help you decide which program is best for you.

GRADUATION ACTIVITIES

Graduations will be held as scheduled on the school calendar for students who have completed all graduation requirements.

Students must apply for graduation at least four weeks prior to the date they expect to graduate. A graduation fee of \$50 must be paid prior to graduation. This fee will include the cost of diploma, cap & gown, and graduation tassel. These items become the property of the graduate at the time of graduation.

Students are expected to remain in attendance until their graduation. During this time, they will be assisting teachers, principal, superintendent, etc., as part of the community service requirement. Special exceptions may be made for student with attendance rates above 95%.

Graduates are role models and inspirations for younger students. As such, their participation in the graduation ceremony is considered to be a mandatory community service requirement.

DRIVER'S LICENSE (VOE)

Students between the ages of 16 and 18 must annually provide 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 in the office, with permission from the principal.

VEHICLE SEARCHES

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any 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 of his or her vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others.

STUDENT PARKING

Students with a valid Texas driver's license are allowed to park on school property. Students should exit vehicles upon their arrival at school. Keep music levels to a minimal volume when arriving or departing school grounds. Students should not return to vehicles or parking lot until the end of their school day.

TCSAAL PARTICIPATION

In order to participate in Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic (TCSAAL) activities, a student must earn at least the number of credits listed below. Students who have failed to meet the mandated goals are ineligible to participate for the 1st six weeks of the school year.

Credits Earned	Classification
6	Sophomore
12	Junior
18	Senior

CALVIN NELMS CHARTER SCHOOLS

SCHOOL CLOSINGS – Weather and other emergencies

Clay Road Campus will close due to bad weather or other emergencies. We will follow Katy ISD closings, listen to the radio and watch the TV during these times. School information will also be posted to the school website at www.cnchs.net.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMOTIONS

Students in grades 6 – 8 who fall below 70 in two or more core classes (math, science, social studies, English) and do not pass the appropriate STAAR test may be retained. The grade placement committee will consider placement into the next grade on a case by case basis.

AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION

Persistent violation of the Student Code of Conduct may result in an after school detention assignment. After school detention will be held Monday through Friday from 2:25 – 3:05 PM for high school and middle school students. Failure to attend after school detention on the day it is scheduled will result in further disciplinary action.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Calvin Nelms Charter Schools Director of Transportation is Michael Dean. He can be reached at 281-398-8031 ext. 102. In most areas, bus service is provided for full day students as numbers warrant.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY COURSES

Calvin Nelms offers training leading to a marketable skill with the following courses:
(* advanced CTE course)

Small Engine Repair*	Robotics*
Advance Small Engine Repair*	Electronics*
Landscape Design & Turf Management*	Forensic Science*
Travel and Tourism Management*	Child Development*
Professional Communications	Sports & Entertainment Marketing*

Horticulture	Diversified Career Preparation*
Principles of Technology*	Medical Terminology*
Child Guidance*	Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness*
Wildlife, Fisheries & Ecology Management*	Principles of Transportation
Principles of Hospitality & Tourism	Concepts of Engineering & Technology
Principles of Business, Marketing and Finance	Business Management*
Principles of Health Science	Health Science*
Anatomy and Physiology*	Entrepreneurship*

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Participation in school and 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.

Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law as well as rules of the TCSAAL—a statewide association overseeing interdistrict competition. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class, other than a class identified as advanced by either the State Board of Education or by the local Board, may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.

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 who misses a class because of participation in a school approved activity is expected to make up missed work on the next school day.

CNCS offers the following sports when interest is sufficient to field a team:

Volleyball	Track	Tennis	Softball
Basketball	Cross Country	Golf	Soccer

CNCS offers the following Academic TCSAAL contests:

Math Olympiad	Chess	Spelling Bee
Drama Monologues	Drama Duets	One Acts
Science Olympiad	Choir Duets	Choir Solo
Drawing and Painting	Creative Writing	

TCSAAL/UII ATHLETIC PHYSICALS

Physicals are required of all athletic programs sponsored by Texas Charter School Academic and Athletic League. This form may be obtained from your coach or found on our website.

WWW.CNCHS.NET