



HOME OF THE MIGHTY PANTHERS

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West Gadsden High School
200 Providence Road
Quincy, Florida 32351

*From the Desk of
Dr. Ida Denise Walker*

In a few short weeks, summer vacation will come to screeching halt and it will be time to get back to the basics. I'm writing to share a few words of encouragement with everyone that is going to become a member of the *Panther Nation* so that you will get off to a great start and have a successful year. Last year, President Obama said, "*Nobody gets to write your destiny but you. Your future is in your hands. Your life is what you make of it. And nothing – absolutely nothing – is beyond your reach.*" I agree with him. As long as we are willing to dream big; as long as we are willing to work hard; and as long as we are willing to stay focused on our educational goals; nothing will have as great an impact on what we accomplish together than the academic imprint that we will leave on the students that we are preparing for tomorrow's challenges.

Just as the West Gadsden High School faculty and staff has an obligation to students to make sure they're getting the best education possible, parents, you have an obligation to your students as well. We expect you to make sure that they are prepared for success in the classroom and beyond every day. Your students should display an attitude of "I have a responsibility and a job". Both require that they show up to school on time; pay attention and participate in class, complete their homework, study for exams, stay out of trouble and be respectful at all time. It will also take all of us collaboratively doing our parts to prepare them for success in future endeavors. We pledge that we are prepared to go above and beyond for the cause of propelling you (the students) into the realms of achievement.

Faculty and staff, as you return you will meet new employees in new capacities. Let us welcome them wholeheartedly and extend our assistance. Don't avoid new challenges – seek them out, step out of your comfort zone, and don't be afraid to ask for guidance when given tasks that seem unconquerable.

I excitedly await your return. Looking forward to seeing you!

**REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE
2012-2013**

7:40	FIRST BELL
7:45 – 8:45	FIRST PERIOD
8:50– 9:50	SECOND PERIOD
9:55 – 10:55	THIRD PERIOD
11:00 – 12:00	FOURTH PERIOD
12:05 – 1:05	FIFTH PERIOD
12:00 – 12:30	M.S. LUNCH
12:05-1:05	H.S. FIFTH PERIOD
12:35 – 1:05	M.S. FIFTH PERIOD
1:05 – 1:35	H.S. LUNCH
1:40 – 2:40	SIXTH PERIOD
2:45 – 3:35	SEVENTH PERIOD

*****SIGN AND RETURN TO YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER*****

PARENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Please sign acknowledging receipt of your student’s agenda. Signing also indicates that you have read it and shared its content with your student. Thank you for choosing West Gadsden High School and entrusting your student to our care, guidance, and instruction.

Parent Signature

Mailing Address

Telephone Number

Date

WEST GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

MISSION STATEMENT

Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Challenges

VISION STATEMENT

We envision West Gadsden High School as being an example of notable excellence in student achievement. We see our students as “scholars” – highly motivated and having numerous opportunities. We envision the faculty, staff, administration, students, home and community actively working together as a unified force to accomplish our mission and to make our vision a reality.

MOTTO

“Exposure to Excellence Promotes Excellence”

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR SCHOOL SAFE!

We must follow rules to assure that West Gadsden High School community is a safe and orderly place to learn and teach. The Faculty and Staff will model the behaviors we expect of students. We agree to the following: (1) being great role models for students, (2) treating students and other members of the West Gadsden High School community with respect, (3) avoiding unnecessary confrontations; and (4) being fair and consistent in the applications of our classroom and school policies.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Attend all classes, arrive on time, and bring necessary materials.
2. Walk down the right hand side of the hallway when moving from one area to another while refraining from running and unnecessary horse playing in the building.
3. Treat themselves and others in their environment with respect. Refrain from racial/ethnic slurs, sexual harassment and disruption that incite fights.
4. Cooperate with all school staff (teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, custodians, lunch room staff, etc.)
5. Dress appropriately for school (see dress code).
6. Treat school facilities, materials, and property of others with care and respect.
7. Refrain from bringing gum, food, and drinks into the hallways or classrooms.
8. Refrain from bringing sunglasses, hats, radios, tape players, recorders, televisions, toys, pagers/beepers, walkman, CD players, cellular phones, cards, die, and noise makers of any kind that will be confiscated until the last day of school and must be picked up by the parents.
9. Refrain from the use of the following items on West Gadsden's campus; tobacco substances, illegal substances, weapons, fireworks, lighters/matches or other contraband. Possession of any of these will result in suspension with the Principal's recommendation for expulsion.
10. Refrain from displaying affection in public to include holding hands, hugging, kissing, and sitting on laps, etc.
11. All (prescription and over-the-counter) medication **MUST** be checked in at the Health Clinic with appropriate forms filled out by the parent/guardian. This includes Tylenol, cold medicine, etc. Students may only take medication with a doctor's prescription and/or parent permission.
12. Refrain from using the telephone during the school day except in the case of an emergency.
13. Refrain from having deliveries sent to the school (i.e. flowers, balloons, etc.) These are disruptions to the learning environment. (If something is mistakenly delivered, it will be held in the front office until the end of the school day.)

THE CAFETERIA

The Panther's Café' is designed to encourage good behavior. We are proud of the picture it presents to visitors. As a general rule, students are required to behave as if you were dining in a restaurant, therefore, students must use low-toned voice conversations at their table, practice good table manners and eating habits, and respect the rights of others. Each teacher will review the cafeteria rules and regulations with students and students will be expected to line up, single file in the cafeteria in an orderly manner, with no breaking in line, saving places, or pushing. You are expected to pick up your lunch quickly and proceed directly to the assigned table. If you are not buying a lunch, proceed directly to your table. There will be no running or throwing food or paper. When finished, you must clean the table area and deposit the trash in the waste container. Food must not be taken out of the cafeteria.

SCHOOL BUS BEHAVIOR

Bus students have the privilege of utilizing the transportation services of the Gadsden County School District. A student who fails to maintain appropriate conduct while on the bus, or walking to or from the bus stop may be suspended from riding the bus.

1. The bus driver is in full charge and must be obeyed.
2. The bus driver may assign seats.
3. Students must be on time; the bus will not wait for students who are late.
4. Band instruments will be allowed on the bus if the student holds them securely so that they are not a hazard.
5. Students may not ride any other bus except the one assigned to them.
6. Students will be suspended from the bus for fighting, smoking, possession or use of controlled substances, and/or gross insubordination that includes cursing and/or disrespecting the driver.

NOTE: Video cameras are installed on all buses for passenger safety and protection.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

During the year there will be fire drills to prepare for evacuations in case of emergencies. Each classroom has an evacuation diagram posted which shows the way to leave classroom in case of a fire drill. Your teacher will tell you that we are conducting a fire drill and that you are to take your valuables (purses, wallets) and line up single file. You should line up quickly, single file, and follow your teacher's directions. When you are outside, stay with your class. Fire Drills are serious! If a real fire occurred, a life could be lost due to carelessness. Treat all fire drills as a real situation because it could save a life – yours. Your teacher will tell you we are conducting a tornado drill. Teachers have been instructed with the correct procedures to follow in this case. Follow all directions that your teacher gives you quickly, quietly, and carefully. Remember that either your life or another member of the school's life may depend on it.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Whenever you move, your parents must notify the office. Frequently a change of address also means a change of bus or bus stop and might even mean a change of schools. In addition, having the correct address and phone number could really make a difference if you become ill or injured.

WITHDRAWAL

As soon as you become aware that you will be withdrawing from school, your parents must notify the office and complete a withdrawal form. You will be given the form to have each of your teachers sign and then return to the office. All books and other materials belonging to the school must be returned before withdrawing.

GUIDANCE ASSISTANCE

The school counselors are an integral part of the educational team. The counselors' major concerns are the normal developmental needs and proper adjustment of all students within the school. The counselors are available to provide information and services to students, parents, and teachers, as well as to act as the contact person for the community.

Pre-arranging a conference allows a teacher time to gather all relevant information for the conference and allows the school to schedule the meeting around the teacher's classroom duties. Parents should contact the guidance department to arrange conferences.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The School Resource Officer (SRO) is a Deputy Sheriff placed at your school as a resource for you. The functions of your SRO include counseling, teaching, and being a direct link to your community. The SRO counsels students who are referred by teachers, parents, and other law enforcement personnel. Our goal is to divert students from the judicial system and into other programs that are geared to their needs.

TARDY POLICY

1st – 2 nd tardy	Teacher intervention (contact parent)
3 rd tardy	Teacher contacts parent
4 th tardy	Report to Guidance
5 th tardy	Team conference with guidance counselor, parent, and student
6 th tardy	Report goes to the In-School-Suspension teacher with attached class assignments (when students return to class and at the beginning of each quarter; tardies will turn into zeros).

VISITORS

All visitors must report to the main office for authorization to enter the school. Parents/guardians are welcome to visit their child and are encouraged to do so. Parents may visit classes after teachers have been given a 24-hour notice in accordance with teachers' contract.

ZERO TOLERANCE

In order to maintain positive student interaction, and to ensure the safety of all students at school, we will enforce the District policy ZERO TOLERANCE, which states: Anyone who is involved in a physical fight, regardless of who "started the fight," will be suspended from school for five (5) days. Remember –"NO Misbehaving"! Depending on the severity of the fight, administration will decide the punishment.

SCHOOL PROPERTY

When damage to property occurs, all possible means will be made to identify the students responsible and to deal with them accordingly. They will be responsible for paying for the damage. If textbooks given to the students by the school are damaged or lost, the students must replace them or cover their cost. When damage is done by a group of students, and it is impossible to identify the individuals responsible, the cost will be shared by the entire group. The school will provide students with year-end Report Card and / or student transcript when the cost of repairing such damages has been paid.

ATTENDANCE

Teachers will take attendance during first period and send report to office. Students are expected to be present and punctual for all classes throughout the year.

The following are reasons for excused absences:

1. Student illness
2. Illness in family
3. Death in family
4. Appointment with doctor or dentist
5. Attending court (required)
6. School Trips
7. Authorized religious holidays
8. County bus breakdowns

The following are reasons for unexcused absences:

1. Truancy (skipping school)
2. Suspension
3. Missing the school bus
4. Trips not approved in advance

HALL OR CAMPUS PASSES

Students are not permitted out of classes during class periods unless they are accompanied by a teacher or have a written pass from an authorized staff member. Authorization has to be written in the Student's Agenda book. "NO AGENDA, NO PASS."

PASSES FOR LEAVING SCHOOL

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time during the school day without a permit from the office. If you must leave school because of illness or any other reason, you **MUST** sign out in the office. Failure to follow the proper procedure will be considered an unexcused absence. Students will not be released without written or verbal permission from the parent/guardian. Leaving school without permission violates School Board Policy.

TEXTBOOKS

All basic texts are loaned to students for their use during the school year. Students should keep textbooks clean and handle them carefully. Reasonable damage is expected as a result of daily use. Unreasonable damage will result in fines. Lost textbooks must be paid for and replaced immediately. The fines for lost books must be paid to the teacher issuing the textbooks at the time of damage or loss. Students are required to carry textbooks to class.

MEDIA CENTER

Students are encouraged to attend the media center before school, during lunch, and after school. A written pass is required. All materials lost or damaged beyond repair must be paid for.

STUDENT INSURANCE

There is an accident policy for all Gadsden County students available from the school. It is recommended that all students have this coverage. This insurance is *REQUIRED FOR ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS*.

SELLING ITEMS ON CAMPUS

Permission to sell must be obtained in writing from the principal well in advance of the sale and requires the Superintendent approval in writing as well prior to any activity.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

During the school year the student activities committee will sponsor several special events. A small admission will be charged to all students who wish to attend. Those students who do not attend will either remain in class or report to an assigned study hall supervised by a staff member.

Campus Queen are representatives of the school and must maintain a 3.0 grade point average or above with no N's or U's in conduct during the previous school year or during year of their region. In addition they must maintain exemplary behavior once elected, maintain the required G.P.A. or they will be removed!

ASSEMBLY

Students should present a courteous and refined behavior at all times. Each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school as whole. An example of unrefined and discourteous behavior includes whistling, unnecessary clapping, boisterousness, and talking during a program.

1. Attend all programs on time.
2. Enter quietly and occupy the seat assigned to you.
3. Listen attentively and participate willingly when asked.
4. Listen quietly and attentively in an orderly manner.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PROMOTION FOR GRADES 6-8
2011-2016**

Students must pass a minimum of five courses and **MUST PASS** language arts, mathematics, and science with a yearly average of C or better.
 Students must pass two of their other subjects for a total of five (5) subjects.
 Passing grades of C or better reflect achievement of at least 70% of the Grade Level Expectations (GLE's) for language, mathematics, and science.

Students must score above Level 1 on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) Sunshine State Standard Test for both Math and Reading

OR

Score above the 50th Percentile on the FCAT Norm Reference Test for Reading and Math. (Note: A passing grade of "C" is equivalent to achieving at least 70% of the GLE's. Students will be tested in Science on the FCAT beginning this school year.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

These requirements are pursuant to Florida Statutes 1008.22, 1003.428 and 1003.429, all of which were enacted in 2010

ENTERING 9TH GRADE 2012-2013

GRADE THIS YEAR 2011-2012	SCHOOL YEAR ENTERING 9 TH	ON-TIME GRADUATION YEAR	ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION
10	2011-2012	2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCAT 2 READING • 9TH Grade • 10TH Grade • PASS Algebra 1 EOC to receive credit • Pass Geometry EOC to receive credit • Pass Biology EOC to receive credit • Earn *Algebra II Credit • Or approved equivalent courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also Requires Completion of at least one course through on-line learning 			

These requirements are pursuant to Florida Statutes 1008.22, 1003.428 and 1003.429, all of which were enacted in 2010.

ENTERING 9TH GRADE 2013-2014

GRADE THIS YEAR 2011-2012	SCHOOL YEAR ENTERING 9 TH	ON-TIME GRADUATION YEAR	ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION
7	2013-2014	2016-2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCAT 2 Reading • 9th Grade • 10TH Grade • PASS ALGEBRA 1 EOC to receive credit • Pass Geometry EOC to receive credit • Pass Biology EOC to receive credit • Earn *Algebra II Credit <p>Pass one of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Physics • *Chemistry <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass One Equally Rigorous Science Course (from state-approved list) • Pass Civics • Take Civics EOS (Counts as 30% of final Civics grade) *or approved equivalent
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also Requires Completion of at least one course through on-line learning 			

These requirements are pursuant to Florida Statutes 1008.22, 1003.428 and 1003.429, all of which were enacted in 2010.

ENTERING 9TH GRADE 2014-2015

GRADE THIS YEAR 2011-2012	SCHOOL YEAR ENTERING 9 TH	ON-TIME GRADUATION YEAR	ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION
6	2014-2015	2017-2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCAT 2 Reading • 9th Grade • 10TH Grade • PASS ALGEBRA 1 EOC to receive credit • Pass Geometry EOC to receive credit • Pass Biology EOC to receive credit • Earn *Algebra II Credit <p>Pass one of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Physics • *Chemistry <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass One Equally Rigorous Science Course (from state-approved list) • Pass Civics to receive credit *or approved equivalent courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also Requires Completion of at least one course through on-line learning 			

These requirements are pursuant to Florida Statutes 1008.22, 1003.428 and 1003.429, all of which were enacted in 2010.

ENTERING 9TH GRADE 2015-2016

GRADE THIS YEAR 2011-2012	SCHOOL YEAR ENTERING 9 TH	ON-TIME GRADUATION YEAR	ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION
5	2015-2016	2018-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCAT 2 Reading • 9th Grade • 10TH Grade • PASS ALGEBRA 1 EOC to receive credit • Pass Geometry EOC to receive credit • Pass Biology EOC to receive credit • Earn *Algebra II Credit <p>Pass one of the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Physics • *Chemistry <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pass One Equally Rigorous Science Course (from state-approved list) • Pass Civics to receive credit • *or approved equivalent courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also Requires Completion of at least one course through on-line learning 			

These requirements are pursuant to Florida Statutes 1008.22, 1003.428 and 1003.429, all of which were enacted in 2010.

**WEST GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL
POLICY FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

All Middle School students (grade 6th – 8th) will adhere to the school uniform policy. Uniforms will be worn during the regular school day and on sponsored field trips.

**SCHOOL COLORS: BLACK, WHITE AND SILVER (GRAY)
TOP: BLACK, WHITE AND SILVER (GRAY)
BOTTOM: KHAKI AND BLACK**

1. Black top/bottom on black bottom/top will not be acceptable.
2. No sweat pants, overalls or jeans.
3. All shirts will have a collar. School logo is optional. Shirts will be tucked into pants.
4. Sneakers and leather shoes are acceptable in colors of black, brown and white. Shoelaces must match (be the same color) the shoes. No pants will be allowed inside their socks.
5. Wear only white, black and gray socks.
6. If pant has belt loops, belt must be worn. Belts must be black or brown.
7. Jewelry is limited to a watch, earrings and brackets. No medallion necklaces.
8. Young ladies have the option of wearing skirts, capris, shorts, or jumpers. They must be khaki or black in color.
9. Jackets and sweaters are permitted with or without the school logo. No trench coats or “starter” jackets.
10. Organizational uniforms allowed only when approved by the Principal.
11. Students may wear any color combination except black on black the first week of school. Black on black will not be a color combination the entire school year. Administration will allow students’ input for the remainder of the year.

HIGH SCHOOL

Students’ clothing should be appropriate for the occasion, in good taste, and in good condition. While the administration recognizes the individuality of each student and does not wish to stifle individual taste, consideration must be given to the primary reason for school attendance – academic excellence.

Clothing and/or other personal adornment that is so unusual or non-traditional that it attracts undue attention and distracts from the academic climate of the classroom cannot be allowed.

APPROPRIATE ATTIRE

- When young ladies wear shorts, skirts, and dresses, the length must be no more than one half inch from the knee from any position. The knee length is determined by the indentation of the tip of the student's middle finger when placed against the student's attire even standing or walking.
- Bound sleeveless shirts and/or dresses that cover the armpits may be worn. No cleavage will be exposed.
- Shirts/blouses must cover the midriff at all times.
- Young men will wear belts or suspenders with their pants. Elastic waist band/draw strings are acceptable.
- Hats and hoods may be worn outside of the building **only**.
- Shirts and blouses that are designed to be worn inside will be tucked into the pants/skirts.

INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE

- Tight-fitting, stretchy pants, leotards, bicycle pants, legging or body gloves
- Blouses or shirts that are unbuttoned, see-through, halter tops, tank tops, or muscle shirts and dresses that are strapless, spaghetti strap, or sun dresses
- Section cutout garments with holes
- Clothes that advertise alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, suggestive or sexually explicit logos, or offensive racial slogans
- Headbands, bandannas, scarves, stocking/wave caps, or any other head gear (male or female)
- Bare feet, bedroom slippers, flip-flops or beach shoes (shoes with toes out must have a backing i.e. sandals)
- Hair combs, hair picks, or hair rollers
- Drop pants (if pants have belt loop, a belt must be worn)

THESE DRESS CODE GUIDELINES ARE SUBJECT TO THE INTERPRETATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, AND STAFF OF WEST GADSDEN HIGH SCHOOL. ANY OTHER TYPE OF CLOTHING OR GARMENT THAT IS DISTRACTING, IMMODEST, OR INTERFERES WITH LEARNING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

Be reminded that the 2012-2013 Code of Student Conduct (Student Dress) will be enforced. **Penalty for violations of the uniform policy:**

**1st Offense – Send to Office
Call Parents to get corrected
Remain in ISSP until corrected**
**2nd Offense – Notify Parents
Assigned 2 days ISSP**
**3rd Offense – Notify Parents
Assigned 3 days OSS**
**4th Offense – Notify Parents
Assigned 5 days OSS**