

# **KNOB NOSTER R-VIII SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **CERTIFIED STAFF GUIDE**

*(Revised 2018)*



## **CERTIFIED STAFF GUIDE**

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## **Knob Noster R-VIII School District**

401 E. Wimer, Knob Noster, MO 65336  
Office: (660) 563-3186 Fax: (660) 563-3026  
Student Services: (660) 563-5597

Dr. Jerrod Wheeler, Superintendent

Mr. Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Angela Rolofson, Director, Student Services

**Proud Past – Bright Future**

### **Welcome to the Knob Noster R-VIII School District.**

In this guide, you will find various policies, regulations, and other informational items. This guide is intended for informational purposes only and will not answer every question or anticipate every situation. A complete set of policies and regulations is available for your review at [www.knobnoster.k12.mo.us](http://www.knobnoster.k12.mo.us).

You are a valued employee of this school district. We appreciate your continued support of the goals and mission of the Knob Noster R-VIII School District.

### **Knob Noster R-VIII School District Vision Statement**

*We exist to empower learning through success for every student.*



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### **Proud Past – Bright Future**

To: Knob Noster Teachers

We realize how important all teachers are in the education process of all students including students with special needs. In an effort to continue to improve and provide you with the necessary and important information concerning individual students and their specific needs, additional permissions on SISK12 are now turned on that will allow you to view documents for those students with special needs.

In order for us to truly reach the goals set for our students, it is important that you become familiar with the IEP or 504 Plan of each student that you may have in your classroom. Your responsibility will be to view the IEP or 504 Plan and implement the accommodations and modifications stated in these documents. These documents serve as your guide while working together with the case manager and special education teachers for each individual student. The case managers look forward to helping you answer questions and will work with you to develop ideas and strategies to ensure we are implementing the plans as outlined.

**Your completion of the handbook module indicates that you understand it is your responsibility to view and implement appropriate portions of the IEP or 504 Plan as they apply to those students with special needs in your classroom.**

We are excited and look forward to you being a part of individual student teams that make a difference in the lives of our students.

## **GENERAL WELCOME**

As a member of the certified staff you fill a vital role in the education of our children. You perform tasks necessary to the operation of our school district. In addition to the individual jobs you do, you are representatives of the school to the community. Because you perform your jobs in the “public eye,” you have a greater responsibility in the performance of your duties and personal conduct. You have been offered employment with the district with the confidence that you can do your job well and also serve as representatives of the district.

## **AIM AND PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE**

The aim and purpose of this book is to provide information to all certified employees. District policies and regulations have been developed to assure the educational goals of the district are pursued through uniform practices and consistent performance of duties. As you read the following pages, please be aware that the purpose of this book is to help you be successful by providing you necessary and pertinent information. While this manual covers a wide array of information, it cannot possibly address all issues and situations. Please refer to board policy and procedures for items not covered. Board policy supersedes all district handbooks/guides.

## **BOARD POLICY BOOKS**

Knob Noster Board policy books are located online at [www.knobnoster.k12.mo.us](http://www.knobnoster.k12.mo.us).

## **NONDISCRIMINATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT**

As a political subdivision, employer, recipient of federal funds and educational institution, the Board of Education is prohibited from, and hereby declares a policy against engaging in unlawful discrimination, including harassment creating a hostile environment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age or use of leave protected by the Family and Medical Leave Act, in its programs, activities and with regard to employment. The Board is an equal opportunity employer.

### **Safe Workplace**

It is the goal of the district to provide a safe workplace for employees and students. Unfair treatment or unkind remarks that refer to a person’s race, religion, gender, ethnic background or national origin will not be tolerated in the workplace and should be reported immediately.

All employees have responsibility to make the workplace safe. One area that has become an important issue in recent years is sexual harassment. It is important that you understand what it is and how to deal with it. Sexual harassment is not tolerated at Knob Noster Public Schools. In the school setting, harassment may involve two adults, an adult and a student, or two students.

If you become aware of possible harassment from observation or from someone reporting to you, always treat this as a serious matter, never make a comment that may diminish what is reported. Be sure to follow through by reporting any such incident to your immediate supervisor. You should also make a record of your actions.

Sexual harassment may include comments, language or actions that may not be directed at any particular person but is found objectionable or offensive by one or more people.

### **Equal Opportunity**

The Knob Noster R-VIII School District is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of this district to afford equal opportunities to qualified individuals regardless of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, socioeconomic status, marital status, sex, age, disability or memberships in legally constituted organizations, to the extent required by law. This policy applies to all aspects of the employment relationship, including recruitment, selection, placement, training, assignment, promotion, transfer, compensation, benefits and termination.

### **Notice of Non-Discrimination**

Applicants for admission or employment, students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, sources of referral and applicants for employment, and all professional organizations that have entered into agreements with our School District are hereby notified that our School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in, its programs and activities.

Any persons having inquiries concerning our School District's compliance with the laws and regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), the Age Discrimination Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), or Titles II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), is directed to the Compliance Coordinator below, who has been designated by our School District to coordinate our School District's efforts to comply with the laws and regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, the Age Discrimination Act, Section 504, and the ADA. In addition, any inquiries concerning our School District's compliance with the employment provisions of the Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is also directed to the Compliance Coordinator below.

Our School District has established grievance procedures for persons unable to resolve problems arising under the statutes above. **The Compliance Coordinator for the applicable law, whose position listed below, will provide information regarding those procedures upon request.**

Any person who is unable to resolve a problem or grievance arising under Title VI, Title IX, the Age Discrimination Act, Section 504, or Title II of the ADA, may contact the Office for Civil Rights, Region VII, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114; phone (816) 268-0550.

### **Compliance Coordinator for Laws Listed in this Notice:**

Michael Cohron, Assistant Superintendent  
401 E. Wimer St.  
Knob Noster, MO 65336  
(660) 563-3186

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The school calendar shall provide for a minimum of 170 pupil attendance days and 185 total contract days. Days for meetings, holidays and other days may be scheduled as part of the employees designated work calendar. Days the district's schools are closed for inclement weather and/or other reasons will be made up in accordance with state law, as approved by the Board. All certified staff will receive a designated work calendar.

## **CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES**

### **Contract of Employment**

A *Contract of Employment* will be issued to show the district's commitment to employ the certified staff member for the school year and salary and benefits will be included. The *Contract of Employment* must be signed and returned to the central office by the date specified. Designated work calendars will be distributed for all positions. The *Contract* will typically be issued following Collective Bargaining and Board approval of salaries.

### **New Employee Payroll Paperwork**

New employees to the Knob Noster R-VIII School District must complete the following paperwork as well as all the items listed under returning employees.

- Federal and State W-4's
- I-9 (requires necessary items for identification)
- Retirement application (if they work 20 hours or more per week)
- Direct deposit of payroll (mandatory for new employees) (requires voided check)
- College transcripts
- Medical and dental insurance applications
- Background Check Results (needs to be initiated **immediately** after employed)

## **ANNUAL PAPERWORK**

All employees will need to annually complete the following items. You will be notified in a timely fashion as to when these need to be completed.

### **403(b) and Flex 125 Enrollments**

All staff must complete these forms during the annual enrollment period. The forms must be on file for every staff member whether they participate or decline to participate. Both plans can be changed annually during the enrollment period.

- 403(b) enrollment is an opportunity to contribute money in a 403(b) retirement savings plan (tax sheltered annuity or TSA). Your contributions must be made through payroll deduction and through an approved vendor. Forrest T. Jones and Company oversees the district's 403(b) plan. All employees will go through the Forrest T. Jones & Company to enroll even if they make contributions to a different vendor than Forrest T. Jones & Company.
- Flex 125 enrollment allows the employee to pay premiums (tax-free) on other allowable insurance coverages for the employee and/or dependents. The employee may also set aside dollars to pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses and/or child care providers. Under this portion of the plan, the employee is responsible for the submission of their receipts to the company. The employee will be locked into this



plan for the school year. This is a use or lose plan. Any contributions not reimbursed by the deadline will be lost.

**District Required Annual Training**

Annual training will be completed either via the online modules through Canvas or during the all staff meeting day prior to the school year starting. All employees must annually review and document that they have participated in the required annual training covering the following topics:

Anti-bullying	
Blood-borne pathogens	
Fire Safety	
Sexual harassment/Smarter Adult Safer Child	
EpiPen	
Seclusion, Isolation, and Restraint	
Sexual Abuse	
Staff Conduct	
Drills	
Technology Usage	
Copyright	
Sexual Harassment	
AED	
Confidentiality	
Policy Reviews	
Grant Compliance	
HR Functions	

**MEDICAL, DENTAL, LIFE AND LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The Board of Education will provide medical, life, and dental insurance options to all regular, not substitute, certified staff employees who work twenty (20) hours per week or more. These are three separate insurances. The employee may participate in or waive the coverage. In the event that a benefit is waived, no alternate benefit will be paid in lieu of health and/or dental insurance.

**RETIREMENT PLAN**

All certificated employees that work at least (20) hours per week are enrolled in the Public School Retirement System (PSRS). A portion of your wages will automatically be taken out of your paycheck pre-taxed. These contributions cannot be withdrawn until you retire or terminate employment with the district. You can review the retirement website at <https://www.psrs-peers.org/PSRS>.

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

A job description has been developed for each job classification of the certified staff. Although general in nature, the job descriptions should provide valuable information to each employee. Employees should note that while the job description describes basic components of the job, it is not inclusive of all tasks that may be assigned. The district reserves the right to assign employees where needed. Job descriptions will be available from your supervisor or the District Team Office.

## **JOB RESPONSIBILITIES**

As an employee of the Knob Noster School District you hold a position of trust within the community. To maintain this trust you should strive to exhibit the character traits the community has come to expect. Namely, you are expected to serve as a role model for the students you serve. As a role model you should dress professionally, use appropriate language and always conduct yourself in a proper manner. In your position you may have access to confidential information. Remember, confidential information should remain confidential. Sharing such information could result in disciplinary action, including dismissal.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY**

To maintain a safe and productive work environment, Knob Noster Schools expects employees to be reliable and to be punctual in reporting for scheduled work. Absenteeism and tardiness place a burden on other employees and on the school district. In the rare instances when employees cannot avoid being late to work or are unable to work as scheduled, they should notify their supervisor as soon as possible in advance of the anticipated tardiness or absence. Punctuality and dedication are two additional character traits you should strive to exhibit as you do your job. Leave documentation should always be accurate.

## **WORK DAY**

As certified employees, the hours of your work day may vary. Since most of our jobs relate to the students, your day will in most cases coincide with their day.

Early dismissals will occur from time to time during the school year. Sometimes this may be planned and other times it may be due to the weather or some other factor. Your supervisor will let you know if you can leave when weather dismissals are made.

## **PAID HOLIDAYS**

Each employee is entitled to a number of paid holidays during the school year. Each employee is compensated for eligible holidays at the same rate and number of hours as he or she receives for a regular day provided they have worked their scheduled work days prior to and after the holiday. Your designated work calendar will indicate the paid holidays for your position.

## **PAY DAY**

Pay day is typically the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Pay stubs can be viewed and printed via the SISFIN employee portal.

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS**

The district recognizes that assigning qualified staff members to positions throughout the district is essential to providing an excellent educational program for all students. Every effort will be made to assign district staff to areas of the greatest need for the benefit of the students. While the district will accept request for transfers within the school district, movement of personnel will be based on what is best for our students.

The board directs the superintendent to assess the staffing needs of the district annually and to assign certified staff as necessary to meet those needs. Although the superintendent will take the employee's expressed preference into consideration, the ultimate decision must be based on the district's needs. The superintendent may reassign certified staff members to different positions or buildings at any time, including in the middle of the school year.

Certified staff may request a transfer to a different position or building by applying for open positions by using the link of the district website at [knobnoster.k12.mo.us](http://knobnoster.k12.mo.us).

Transfers in the middle of the year are discouraged and will be considered only in extraordinary circumstances.

### **EVALUATIONS**

All certified employees of the district are evaluated on a regular basis using Talent Ed. It creates common understandings among teachers, principals, and District Team Office administrators of the criteria, standards, and rubrics used for evaluation. Ultimately, the purpose of the evaluation process is to improve performance and build the instructional capacity of team members. Your evaluation will be based upon the performance of the responsibilities shown in your job description. The person completing your evaluations should review the completed evaluations with you, provide you an opportunity to reply if you wish and give you a copy for your evaluations.

### **ACTIVITY PASS FOR KNOB NOSTER SPORTING EVENTS**

All certified staff may request an activity pass for the current school year from the Activities/Athletic Director. This pass will allow you to attend Knob Noster sporting events at no charge.

### **RESIGNATIONS OF CERTIFIED STAFF MEMBERS**

Any certified staff member who desires to resign must submit a written letter of resignation to his or her immediate supervisor. The letter should specify when the resignation is to be effective, what position(s) are being resigned, and should be submitted as soon as possible.

### **RETIREMENT OF CERTIFIED STAFF MEMBERS**

Certified staff members are participants in the Public School Retirement System (PSRS) of the State of Missouri as allowed by law.

A retired employee, as well as his or her dependents, surviving spouse and children, shall be allowed to remain or become members in the health benefit programs by qualifying for the coverage in the manner prescribed by law under the provisions of such plan and paying the premiums of said plan.

### **CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS**

The Knob Noster R-VIII School District is committed to providing a safe environment for students to learn. As part of this effort, the district will require criminal background checks on all employees. All employees receiving a Contract for Employment will have the criminal background check charges paid by the district.

A search will be made of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's criminal history files, the Missouri Highway Patrol's criminal database and sexual offender registry, the central registry of child abuse and neglect of the Children's Division of the Department of Social Services, or other databases designated by law or by the district.

The district reserves the right to require any employee to submit to additional criminal background checks at the district's expense or to rerun background checks at any time. Any employee refusing to submit to a background check may be disciplined or terminated.

Information received by the district pursuant to a criminal background check is confidential. The district will only use this information for the district's internal purposes in determining the suitability of an individual for employment.

### **SHORT-TERM LEAVE POLICY** (See Board Policy File for complete policy)

#### **IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

The Board defines "immediate family" to include the employee or spouse's parents, children, brothers, sisters, grandparents, grandchildren, and the husband or wife of any of these. Immediate family would also include others regardless of relationship if they have been a permanent resident in the home immediately prior to death.

#### **ANNUAL/SICK LEAVE**

Employees whose assignment calls for employment only during the regular school term will receive ten (10) annual leave days per school year. Unused annual leave will become accumulated sick leave at the end of the school term. Unused sick leave will be cumulative to sixty (60) sick leave days. Each year the first ten (10) days of absence for any reason of a chargeable nature will be recorded as Annual Leave before accumulated sick leave may be used.

Annual leave **MAY NOT** be used during the first or last ten days of school for an item of personal business which **cannot be handled outside regular school time** unless approved in advance by the superintendent. Leave may not be used to extend a vacation, holiday or break. **Leave will not be granted for an employee due to adverse weather conditions.** If an absence falls under the district annual or sick leave policy, the employee must use this leave before taking any unpaid days.

The district may require an employee to provide the district a doctor's note or other verification of illness, injury or incapacity before the district applies the applicable paid leave to the absence. The district may require an employee to present a certificate of fitness to return to work.

Annual leave may not be used during the period the employee receives Worker's Compensation for time lost to a work-related incident.

Teachers need to submit leave paperwork via the SISFIN Employee Portal for all pre-arranged absences.

#### **ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS-LEAVE FOR BIRTH, ADOPTION OR FOSTER PLACEMENT**

The following conditions apply to leave without pay in connection with birth, adoption, or foster placement of a child.

1. Leave must be taken within one (1) year from the date of birth or placement of the child.
2. Leave may not be taken intermittently or on a reduced-schedule basis, unless approved by the superintendent or designee.
3. If both husband and wife are employed in the district and both are eligible for leave under this section, the amount of leave is limited to 60 aggregate days in a 12-month period, unless their combined available leave with pay is greater.

### **DESIGNATED LEAVE**

Employees may be granted designated leave to attend conferences, meet with mentors or participate in other approved professional growth activities. Designated leave must be approved by the superintendent or designee, arranged well in advance and is not considered annual leave.

### **BEREAVEMENT LEAVE**

Employees will be allowed three bereavement days per occurrence, not to be a part of the ten (10) per year or accumulated sick leave. Bereavement leave would apply in the case of death of a member of the immediate family. The district reserves the right to require verification of the need for the leave. After the exhaustion of the three days of bereavement leave, the employee must use annual leave.

### **JURY DUTY LEAVE**

The employee will be granted paid leave for time spent responding to a summons for jury duty, time spent participating in the jury selection process or time spent actually serving on a jury. An employee will not be terminated, disciplined, threatened or otherwise subjected to adverse action because of the employee's receipt of a response to a jury summons. Upon receipt of the jury duty pay voucher, the employee is responsible for reimbursing the pay voucher total to the school district.

### **LEAVE FOR COURT SUBPOENA**

If the subpoena is directly related to the employee's school duties, the employee will be released for court appearance without loss of leave. Other court appearances will be deducted from annual leave.

### **ELECTION LEAVE**

Any employee appointed as an election judge pursuant to state law may be absent on any election day for the period of time required by the election authority. The employee must notify the district at least seven (7) days prior to any election in which the employee will serve as an election judge. No employee will be terminated, disciplined, threatened or otherwise subjected to adverse action based on the employee's service as an election judge.

### **LEAVE TO VOTE**

Employees who do not have three (3) successive hours free from work while the polls are open will be granted a leave period of up to three (3) hours to permit the employee three (3) successive hours while the polls are open for the purpose of voting. Requests for such leave must be made prior to election day, and the employee's supervisors will designate when during the workday the leave should be taken. Any employee who properly requests leave to vote and uses the leave for that purpose will not be subject to discipline, termination or loss of wages or salary.

### **MILITARY LEAVE**

The Board shall grant military leave as required by law. The salary position of an employee on military leave who returns within three (3) years will be carried forward. Their rate of pay will remain the same as their rate of pay when they left employment.

### **FIREFIGHTER LEAVE**

Employees will be allowed to use annual leave, vacation and/or unpaid leave for any time taken to respond to an emergency in the course of performing duties as a volunteer firefighter. See file: GDBDA. Employees covered under this section shall not be terminated from employment for joining a volunteer fire department or for being absent from or late to work in

order to respond to any emergency. Employees shall make every reasonable effort to notify the principal or supervisor if the employee may be absent from or late to work under this section. Employees are required to provide their supervisors with a written statement from the supervisor or acting supervisor of the volunteer fire department stating that the employee responded to an emergency along with the time and date of the emergency

### **CRIME VICTIM LEAVE**

Any employee who is a crime victim, who witnesses a crime or who has an immediate family member who is a crime victim will not be required to use vacation or annual leave in order to honor a subpoena to testify in a criminal proceeding, attend a criminal proceeding, or participate in the preparation of the criminal proceeding.

### **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE**

Employees eligible for FMLA leave for the birth, first-year care, adoption or foster care of a child will have such leave applied in accordance with the FMLA. The district shall only apply up to six (6) weeks of accrued paid leave to such absences.

For all FMLA purposes, the district adopts a 12-month leave year beginning on July 1 and ending the following June 30.

The district reserves the right to require certification of any FMLA qualifying event or condition of the employee or employee's spouse, child, parent or next of kin. Employees on FMLA designated leave must periodically report on their status and intent to return to work. The district may also require that an employee present a certification of fitness to return to work.

Employees of the district are entitled to family/medical leave without pay for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days per year. However, this section does not act to limit the number of leave days allowed by other applicable policies of the Board. If the leave requested would otherwise fall within the provisions of the district's leave policies, the employee must use this leave before taking any unpaid leave. Any leave taken which would qualify as family/medical leave will be deducted from the 60 work day entitlement. The amount of time allowed each employee for unpaid family/medical leave under this section shall be determined by subtracting his or her applicable paid leave days available from the 60-day total. Employees who have more than 60 days of applicable paid leave available shall use their paid leave. The 60 days of leave will be granted and available for use based on the district's fiscal year. The employee will be expected to provide a written statement verifying the purpose of the leave.

All eligible employees are entitled to service member family leave for a period not to exceed 26 workweeks of leave per leave year for the care of a spouse, child, parent, or next of kin who is a covered service member. This leave is only available during a single leave year. When a husband and wife entitled to FMLA leave are both employed by the district and both wish to use FMLA leave for the same qualifying event, both employees will be limited to an aggregate total of 12 workweeks during a 12 month period in cases where the leave is taken for the birth or first-year care of the employees' child, adoption or foster placement of a child with the employees, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition.

Likewise, when a husband and wife are both employed by the district and both wish to use service member family leave or a combination of service member family leave and leave for the birth or first-year care of their child, adoption or foster placement of a child with the employees, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, both employees will be

limited to an aggregate total of 26 workweeks of leave.

Employees who take leave without pay under the provisions of the section shall be entitled to continued participation in the district group health plan. However, an employee who fails to return to work after the period of leave for which he or she is entitled has expired will be expected to reimburse the district for those paid benefits, as allowed by law.

To be eligible for unpaid family/medical leave, the employee must have:

1. Been employed in the district for the previous 12 months, and
2. Worked at least 1,250 hours in that 12-month period, and
3. Used all of his or her applicable leave with pay, and
4. Given at least a 30-day notice for foreseeable circumstances.

Family/Medical leave without pay may be taken for the following reasons:

1. Birth and first-year care of the employee's child.
2. Adoption or foster placement of a child with the employee.
3. Serious health condition of the employee or the employee's spouse, child or parent.

### **RETURN TO WORK**

Upon return to work, an employee on leave for personal medical reasons shall provide a valid physician's certification attesting to the employee's ability to return to duty. The employee will be entitled to return to his or her prior position or an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, and conditions of employment.

### **OTHER LEAVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

#### **Reference (GCBDA)**

Teachers hired before July 1, 2014 who have unused sick leave above the cumulative maximum will annually receive 50% of their current daily salary to each such day. Retiring teachers will receive 50% of their current daily salary for all unused days.

Effective July 1, 2014, teachers who have unused sick leave above the cumulative maximum will annually receive 100% of the current substitute pay for each such day. Retiring teachers will receive 100% of the current substitute teacher pay for all unused days. Teachers leaving the school system will receive 50% of the current substitute teacher pay for each day of unused sick leave.

### **CERTIFIED STAFF POLICIES**

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Employees of the Board will not engage in any activity that raises a reasonable question of conflict of interest with their duties and responsibilities as members of the Knob Noster R-VIII School District staff and may be disciplined or terminated for doing so. See the Board policy file.

#### **STAFF CONDUCT**

The Board of Education expects that each certified staff member shall put forth every effort to promote a quality instructional program in the school district. In building a quality program, employees must meet certain expectations that include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Become familiar with, enforce and follow all Board policies, regulations, and

administrative procedures, other directions given by district administrators and state and federal laws as they affect the performance of job duties.

2. Maintain courteous and professional relationships with pupils, parents/guardians, other employees of the district and all patrons of the district.
3. Keep current on developments affecting the employee's area of expertise or position.
4. Transact all official business with the appropriate designated authority in the district in a timely manner.
5. Transmit constructive criticism of other staff members or of any department of the school district to the particular school administrator who has the administrative responsibility for improving the situation.
6. Care for, properly use and protect school property.
7. Attend all meetings called by district administration, unless excused.
8. Be active participants in the Professional Learning Community process from 2:15-3:30 p.m. every Wednesday, at a minimum, in order to focus upon and make a commitment to the learning of each student and ourselves as professional educators.
9. Keep all student records, medical information and other sensitive information confidential as directed by law, Board policy, district procedures and the employee's supervisor. All employees signed a confidentiality agreement when they began their employment with the District. Teachers will also sign off on this at the first faculty meeting. Employees are required to follow all FERPA guidelines. The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) emphasizes the confidentiality of student records. Never discuss a student's performance, grades, attendance, etc. with anyone except the student, a guardian of the student or Knob Noster R-VIII School District staff members on a need to know basis. For further information, visit the following website: <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa>
10. Immediately report all dangerous building conditions or situations to the building supervisor and take action to rectify the situation and protect the safety of students and others if necessary.
11. Properly supervise all students. The Board expects all students to be under assigned adult supervision at all times during school and during any school activity. Except in an emergency, no employee will leave an assigned group unsupervised.
12. Obey all safety rules including rules protecting the safety and welfare of students.
13. Submit all required reports or paperwork at the time requested. Employees will not falsify records maintained by the school district.
14. Refrain from using profanity.
15. Dress professionally and in a manner that will not interfere with the educational environment.
16. Come to work and leave work at the time specified by the employee guide, Letter of



Intent or by the employee's supervisor. Employees who are late to work, stop working before the scheduled time or work beyond the scheduled time without permission may be subject to discipline including termination.

17. School employees, other than commissioned law enforcement officers, shall not strip search students, as defined in state law, except in situations where an employee reasonably believes that the student possess a weapon, explosive or substance that poses an imminent threat of physical harm to the student or others and a commissioned law enforcement officer is not immediately available. Any employee who strip searches a student in violation of state law will be immediately suspended without pay as required by the law and may be terminated.
18. School employees shall not direct a student to remove an emblem, insignia or garment, including a religious emblem, insignia or garment as long as such emblem, insignia or garment is worn in a manner that does not promote disruptive behavior.
19. Employees will not use district funds or resources to advocate, support or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office.
20. Employees will not use any time during the working day for campaigning purposes, unless allowed by law.

### **WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

The district provides Workers Compensation coverage for all district employees. All Workers' Compensation injuries will be sent to Central Family Medicine or Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg, Missouri for treatment. Not all injuries that occur in the workplace are work related. In the event an employee has a **work-related injury** the following procedures need to be followed. Any employee going to a doctor **without** authorization will do so at **their expense**.

Minor Injury: Employee should contact their supervisor prior to obtaining medical treatment. Employee should come to District Team Office to complete a Worker's Compensation Treatment Authorization prior to obtaining medical treatment. An appointment will be made for them.

Life Threatening Injury: In the event of a serious injury, the injured employee (with supervisor or school designee) should go to the Western Missouri Medical Center emergency room. District Team Office needs to be notified of the injury in the event the emergency room calls for permission to treat. As soon as possible, the employee or supervisor should come to the District Team Office in order to complete and submit the required paperwork.

Failure to notify supervisors **immediately** but not later than 30 days of injury and/or to follow the above directions, may jeopardize the employee's ability to receive compensation and other benefits pursuant to law and Board policy.

The following may result in loss of benefit.

An injury caused by failure of an employee to use safety devices provided by the district or to obey rules adopted by the district for the safety of employees. Example: do not use chairs as ladders.

Violation of the district's Drug Free Workplace policy or any other district policy, procedures or rules relating to the use of alcohol or non-prescribed controlled substances.

Refusal to submit to a post-injury testing for non-prescribed controlled substances or alcohol in accordance with Board policy.

Employee is disqualified from receiving temporary total disability workers' compensation benefits during any period of time in which the employee receives unemployment benefits.

Temporary, partial or total disability workers' compensation benefits are not payable if an employee is terminated from employment for misconduct post-injury.

### **CHAIN OF COMMAND**

In any organization, it is important to observe the chain of command and follow the appropriate channels of communication. Observation of this practice can prevent a variety of problems and assist you in solving others. The job description provided to each certified employee identifies the chain of command.

Employees should always work through the chain of command and progress to the next step when advised to do so or when the issue remains unresolved. If the problem is acute and is not resolved, it will eventually reach the desk of the Assistant Superintendent. District Team Office will welcome any issue you may bring to our attention if you have followed the chain of command.

The Board of Education serves as a hearing board for employee issues including employee, harassment and grievance issues. In order for board members to be part of a non-biased hearing board, the chain of command must be followed.

### **Morale**

Staff morale is very important to the smooth operation of any organization. High morale results from job satisfaction and produces high standards and levels of performance. Knob Noster Schools will do everything possible to maintain high staff morale. High morale develops best in a positive environment therefore, individual attitudes are important. The person most responsible for your morale is you.

### **Questions, Complaints and Grievances**

The best way to deal with questions is to ask the person that is supposed to have the answer. If that person cannot answer the question, follow the chain of command until you get an answer. If all else fails, feel free to give the superintendent or assistant superintendent a call at 660-563-3186. Complaints and grievances are addressed in District Policy. Copies of District Policy Books are available in each building and online at [www.knobnoster.k12.mo.us](http://www.knobnoster.k12.mo.us).

## **STAFF HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The health and safety of all employees is of vital importance to the school district. The Board will seek to provide safe working conditions for all staff members and will give prompt considerations to those conditions that may present a threat to the health and safety of staff members. The district will respond to employee requests for reasonable accommodations when an employee has a disability. All employees will receive annual training on universal precautions and the district's communicable disease policy.

### **Medical Inquiries and Annual Physicals**

The district will only make medical inquiries, require physical exams or keep medical information on an employee in accordance with law.

Employees in the transportation program must annually file a statement from a medical examiner with the district that indicates that they are physically qualified to operate district transportation for the purpose of transporting students. Medical records will be maintained on separate forms in separate medical files and shall be kept confidential.

### **Communicable Diseases**

The Board recognizes its responsibility to protect the health of students and employees from the risks posed by communicable diseases. The Board also has a responsibility to protect individual privacy, educate all students regardless of medical conditions and treat students and employees in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Employees with communicable diseases that pose a risk of transmission in school or at school activities (such as, but not limited to, chicken pox, influenza and conjunctivitis) will be managed as required by law and in accordance with guidelines provided by the Department of Health and Senior Services and local, county or city health departments. Such management may include, but is not limited to exclusion from school or reassignment as needed for the health and safety of students and staff.

Employees infected with chronic communicable diseases that do ***not*** pose a risk of transmission in school or at school activities (such as, but not limited to, hepatitis B virus or HIV) shall be allowed to attend school or continue to work without any restrictions based solely on the infection. The district will not require any medical evaluations or tests for such diseases.

There are certain specific types of conditions that could potentially be associated with transmission of both blood borne and non-blood borne pathogens. Employees who exhibit such conditions will not be allowed to work until the condition is resolved or appropriately controlled in a way that minimizes exposure.

All medical records will be maintained in accordance with law and Board policy. Breach of confidentiality may result in disciplinary action, including termination.

## **EMERGENCY PLANS/SAFETY DRILLS**

Emergency preparedness drills (fire, severe weather, tornado, bus evacuation, earthquake, bomb threat, intruder training, shelter-in-place and evacuation) will be developed. A number of drills will be conducted in each building to give instruction and practice in proper actions by staff and students. Emergency exiting procedures will be posted near the door in each instructional area. Instruction in fire drills shall be given early in the school year and drills shall be held regularly throughout the year.

Earthquake emergency exercises will be held at least twice each school year that will require students and staff to simulate earthquake emergency conditions and practice the procedures that are to be implemented under such conditions.

Students and staff may be retained for safety reasons at the school buildings or another safe place during actual emergency conditions. The district plan will include information on communicating with parents and instructions on how parents will locate their students in an emergency. During actual emergency conditions, emergency personnel and emergency vehicles will have priority near the schools.

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

### **Keys**

Certified staff members are issued keys during the year. Remember you are responsible for your keys; never lend your keys to **ANYONE**. If building security is jeopardized because of poor key management, you may become responsible for re-keying expenses or any liabilities that occur on school property as a result of your actions.

### **Loaning of School Property**

School property and equipment are purchased with specific purposes in mind. Only the Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent may grant you permission to borrow school property. Never take school property home without permission. For special equipment, a signature may be required to check out the item. This will assure that equipment is always at school when needed and will protect you from being accused of taking (stealing) from the district.

### **Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drug Free School**

The district prohibits the use of tobacco, tobacco products, alcohol, and non-prescribed controlled substances in all school facilities used to provide routine or regular services to children or on school transportation. Knob Noster Public School District is a smoke-free facility.

Employees will be tested for alcohol and controlled substances if the district has reasonable suspicion that the employee has violated Board policy. Employees who operate district transportation must submit to random alcohol and controlled substances testing as required by law. Employees who operate district transportation and are involved in an accident will be tested. Employees who make a Workers' Compensation claim may also be required to submit to a drug test. Any employee who violates the Board policy will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension, termination and referral for prosecution. Employees may be required to satisfactorily participate in rehabilitation programs.

### **Purchasing Procedures**

All purchases or reimbursements must have prior approval by the building principal and the superintendent **BEFORE** purchases are made. All purchase orders or reimbursement forms must be received in the District Team Office by the last day of each month to be paid at the next scheduled school board meeting. Anything received after that day will be held over until the following month.

**Purchase Orders:** The building, special program, or district office secretaries will type all purchase orders upon approval. When merchandise is received: check in the merchandise, check box for an invoice, and notify the secretary so she can submit the purchase order and/or invoice for payment. DO NOT REQUEST PRE-VIEW ITEMS.

**Reimbursements:** Staff members occasionally need to be reimbursed for travel expenses, registration fees, meals, and/or immediate local purchases. Any purchase made by an employee will not be reimbursed without prior authorization. **All expenses need prior approval.** Reimbursement forms are available in district offices. Reimbursement forms need to be completed and **ALL** itemized receipts must be attached to the back of the form. A request for reimbursement without a receipt will not be reimbursed. Tax will not be reimbursed for local purchases.

### **Check Requests/Field Checks: Please PLAN AHEAD!!!!**

During the upcoming month, are you sponsoring a dance, need a DJ, need a sport entry fee, going to a conference, need fundraiser funds? These requests should have been submitted on a purchase order prior to the last day of the month as outlined above. In the event of an extreme emergency, a field checks can be made with the approval of the superintendent. Field checks will be issued on a limited basis.

### **Student Fundraiser Sponsors**

All district-sponsored fundraising activities conducted in the district or sponsored in any manner representing the district must be approved by the building principal and/or superintendent. All activities must comply with the requirements set out in district policy and procedures, including the district's wellness program and district funds management rules. All funds collected in a district-sponsored fundraiser will be deposited in district accounts.

### **Building and Grounds Security**

It is the responsibility of the Board, administrators, professional and classified staff members, and students to see that district facilities are cared for, used properly and treated with respect. Access to school buildings and grounds outside regular school hours will be granted only to authorized personnel. An adequate key control system shall be established that will prevent the potential entrance of unauthorized persons. If building security is jeopardized because of poor key management, you may become responsible for re-keying expenses or any liabilities that occur on school property as a result of your actions.

**Firearms and other weapons:** No person shall carry a firearm, a concealed weapon or any other weapon readily capable of lethal use into any school, onto any school transportation or onto the premises of any function or activity sponsored or sanctioned by the district, except for authorized law enforcement officials.

Any person who possesses a weapon in violation of this policy will be asked to leave. In addition, administrators may report the incident to law enforcement officials, ban

the person from school property or school events in accordance with Board policy or seek other legal remedies.

**Vandalism:** The Board will seek all legal redress against persons found to have committed incidents of willful or malicious abuse, destruction, defacing and/or theft of the property of the Knob Noster R-VIII School District. Employees are urged to report incidents of vandalism to property belonging to the district, as well as the name(s) of the person or persons believed to be responsible.

### **Safety Programs**

The Board recognizes the necessity for a planned safety program to create a safe environment for the students attending and for the employees of the school district. The maintenance of health and safe conditions throughout the school district is a responsibility shared by all.

Every attempt will be made to meet safety and health standards established by state and federal laws and regulations. The cooperation of school, home and community in providing a safe and healthy environment is encouraged by the Board.

### **Hazardous Materials**

Hazardous materials shall be defined as any substance specifically designated as such by state or federal law, or any other substance or mixture of substances which may be explosive, ignitable, corrosive, reactive and/or toxic.

The district shall comply with all local, state and federal laws and regulations which pertain to the proper management of hazardous materials.

**Asbestos:** The district shall semi-annually survey and assess the exposure of friable asbestos in all buildings. This report shall be on file for public review in the superintendent's office and each respective buildings administrative office. The district shall take all steps necessary to comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, as described in regulations of the EPA.

### **Technology Usage**

The district technology resources may be used by authorized employees. Use of the district's technology resources is a privilege, not a right.

Employees must adhere to district policies, regulations, procedures and other district guidelines. All employees shall immediately report any security problems or misuse of the district's technology resources to an administrator.

As members of a school district, we are all watched closely by the public and news media. It is important to not communicate inappropriate information to students, parents or staff. For your protection and the protection of our students, be cautious in your verbal, written and computer communications. Be careful of all created or forwarded information on school equipment including e-mails, jokes, and stories which may not be appropriate. What does not offend one person, may offend someone else.

All employees must recognize that they do not have a legal expectation of privacy in any electronic communications or other activities involving the district's technology. All

employees must consent in their *User Agreement* to interception of or access to all communications accessed, sent, received, or stored using district technology. Because the computers are shared resources, it is not appropriate for an employee to access, view, display, store, print, or disseminate information via district resources, including e-mail or Internet access, which students or other users could not access, view, display, store, print, or disseminate without authorization by the district.

The district's technology resources are not a public forum for expression of any kind and are to be considered a closed forum to the extent allowed by law. The district's webpage, Facebook page, and Twitter account will provide information about the school district, but will not be used as an open forum.