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Dr. Daniel Kemsley, *Principal*  
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Dear Superintendent Hood,

I am writing to you to provide a little background regarding how I would like to approach our handbook revisions this year. Frankly, our handbook is in need of a major overhaul. Sometimes, institutional documents like this get “added on to” rather than actually revised. I suspect that is the case here for years. A significant portion of this handbook is outdated or no longer best practice. This revision is my attempt to get it in a more user-friendly, updated format. Importantly, all of academic policies related to dual enrollment, MVU, etc—vetted by Assistant Superintendent Bailey and other stakeholders, have been included.

There are four things I want you to please keep in mind while looking over this document:

1. Please do not be alarmed by the significant portions of this handbook that I want deleted. These items are antiquated; no longer used; or don’t make sense.
2. Please do not feel like we have to spell out “every little rule or thing” in the handbook; for a high school, this is not possible if we want to create a document that people will actually read and be able to navigate.
3. We have changed our attendance policy: I am not comfortable linking behavior (absences) with learning (grades). The natural consequence for missing school is the grade itself- there is no need to add even more pressure in an academic sense on our students regarding their grades. Attendance IS important: we will use our truancy resources and loss of privileges as some other compelling reasons why students should have good attendance. Also, from our privileged vantage point, we know that sometimes students miss school due to no fault of their own—this change is in line with our focus on continued equity work.
4. Finally, I look forward to creating an athletic handbook with our new athletic director; no need for that information to be in our student handbook. All athletes are students; all school rules and MHSAA rules apply regardless.

I have added brief comments as rationale to some of the deletions or additions. My team will be happy to attend a Board meeting at a later date to answer any lingering questions you may have. I apologize for the Board’s “homework,” but I thought this may be better for them to review the handbook document on their own, have time to think about any questions, and we can finalize at a Board meeting.

2023-2024 proposed handbook changes: [2023-2023 proposed changes document](#)

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Dan Kemsley