

**HOPKINS ACADEMY
SENIOR RESPONSIBILITY POLICY**

File: JHCA

I. Philosophy

Our Senior Responsibility Policy is based on the premise that seniors, as mature, responsible citizens of our school community, should be allowed to decide how they will spend their "free" time during the school day. This policy is a revision of a 1982 agreement between the Student Advisory Committee, the School Administration, and the School Committee.

II. Eligibility

- A. A senior must maintain a C- or better cumulative average from his/her freshman year through the previously completed marking period of his/her senior year.
- B. A senior must be passing all subjects in his/her senior year with a grade of C- or better for the marking period just completed, except when the first quarter of the senior year has not been completed; then the grades of the fourth quarter marking period of the junior year will be used to determine initial eligibility.
- C. A senior must have paid class dues up to the current time.
- D. A senior must give evidence of some form of current and continuing contributions to the school community. Juniors are expected to show evidence of current and continuing contributions to the school community that will lead to senior privileges. This service should be happening outside of class work, i.e. sports teams, pep or stage band, As Schools Match Wits, Math team, tutoring, guidance, library, or individual teacher aide, etc. Students who are having difficulty meeting this condition are encouraged to obtain suggestions from staff.
- E. A senior must have a record of good behavior and acceptable attendance. Students with excessive tardies (as defined in the Student Handbook) will not be eligible.

III. Privileges

Those seniors who meet the eligibility requirements may:

- A. Sign out of the building during lunchtime.
- B. When the network is down, VHS students will be allowed to sign out of the building to work at home.
- C. Report to designated areas, for use as a quiet area, rather than lunch (senior hallway or quad).
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IV. Procedures

The following rules and procedures have been developed to implement the senior privilege Responsibility.

- A. A senior responsibility Application and Release form must be completed.
- B. Students will sign in/out on the office register.
- C. If driving, a student must have completed the proper form and have been assigned a parking permit by the principal. Students will abide by all automobile regulations as outlined in the Student Handbook.
- D. A current eligibility list will be maintained by the principal.
- E. All necessary forms to implement this policy, including application, parental permission slips, "sign out" and "sign in" registers, and written rules governing the use of cars, will be made available in the main office.
- F. A review committee to validate eligibility and to hear appeals based on extenuating circumstances will be established yearly and will consist of teachers and administrators. Any student who wishes to initiate an appeal of denial of privileges may do so by contacting the review committee chairperson. Appeals will be reviewed in a timely manner.
- G. Student abuse of this policy (i.e., arriving late to the next class, disturbing students in other classrooms, failing to sign out and/or sign in) will result:
 - 1. The first time, in a warning,
 - 2. The second time, in the suspension of the student's privileges for a minimum of three weeks,
 - 3. The third time, in the permanent suspension of the student's privileges. Leaving the parking lot at excessive speeds, even as a first offense, will result in either 2) or 3) being invoked. In the event of widespread abuse of the policy, it is understood that the school administration reserves the right to modify or suspend the provisions of this policy as circumstances warrant.
- H. Quarterly renewal of privileges will be automatic, unless one or more signatories revokes his or her statement of eligibility. In that event, privileges will be immediately suspended and the student will be required to reapply for senior privileges in order to receive reinstatement of senior responsibility status.

Adopted by the Hadley School Committee : September 22, 2014