

RHS Student Handbook

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year at Ripley High School. These next years will be some of the most memorable years of your life. You will study new subjects, make new friends, and develop new skills.

The staff is here to assure that you have every opportunity to excel in all academic areas and achieve the success that you desire. Further, a wide variety of extracurricular activities and clubs allow all students to be involved in school outside the academic day. Research shows this involvement is directly attributable to increased academic success.

I encourage both you and your parents to stay actively involved in you educational career at Ripley High School and beyond. Good luck, and have a great year.

Stephen Byrd
Principal

RHS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Ripley High School is to maintain a safe learning environment that ensures that every member of the school community reaches a high level of academic achievement as determined by state and national standards.

RHS VISION STATEMENT

All adults work together to foster students' knowledge and desire for opportunities after graduation.

Lauderdale County Schools Core Values, Mission, and Vision

We Value:

- The academic achievement and social development of all children.
- An environment conducive to learning clean, safe, respectful, and positive.
- The involvement of parents in the education of their children.
- Quality teachers and administration who are competent, passionate, and put the children first.
- Accountability in all things and the use of sounds, accurate data in decision making.

Our Mission:

To provide each child with the education and social skills needed to be productive citizens.

Our Vision:

Our students will experience high academic achievement; prepare for post-secondary education or the workforce upon graduation; and have positive impact on the growth and development of Lauderdale County.

Activities and Organizations**Varsity Sports:**

Baseball	Boys Basketball	Boys Tennis
Boys Track	Cheerleading	Football
Girls Basketball		Girls Tennis
Girls Track	Golf	Soccer
Softball	Volleyball	

Clubs and Organizations

Band Beta Club Choir
Student Council JROTC Color Guard
JROTC Drill Team JROTC Marksmanship
Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)
Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)
FFA
Family, Careers & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
Health Occupations Student of America (HOSA)
Youth Leadership Lauderdale

Graduation Requirements

COURSES	CREDITS
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ENGLISH	4 Credits
MATH	4 Credits (at least one per year regardless of total) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra I • Algebra II • Geometry • 4th higher level math course
SCIENCE	3 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology I • Chemistry or Physics • 3rd lab course
SOCIAL STUDIES	3.5 Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World History and Geography • U.S. Government and Civics • U.S. History and Geography • Economics/Personal Finance
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS	1.5 Credits
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2 Credits May be waived for students who are not planning to attend college
FINE ARTS	1 Credit May be waived for students who are not planning to attend college
ELECTIVE FOCUS	**3 courses beyond required courses listed above 3 Credits in 1 elective focus area– <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Arts* * • Humanities* * • Math/Science* * • Career and Technical Education Program of Study <p style="text-align: center;">A student may have multiple elective focus areas</p>
ADDITIONAL CREDITS	4 – 7 Credits
TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED	26 Credits

PARKING REGULATIONS

All student vehicles are required to be registered with the office. Students must purchase a parking permit, which should be displayed in the appropriate place every time the vehicle is on the property. Parking places are numbered and assigned. **STUDENTS ARE NOT TO BE AT OR IN AUTOMOBILES WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE OFFICE.** Students are urged to lock their cars. Students not complying with these rules, as well as those of safe driving, may lose driving privileges and/or may be subject to fines or towing fees.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOLS

Students arriving on school prior to 7:40 a.m. must report to the front lobby of the main building. The CTE buildings will not be open until 7:40 each morning. Only those students who are under direct supervision of a teacher may be in these buildings prior to 7:40 a.m. Students may use the library in the morning, provided they have obtained a pass from a teacher.

ALL STUDENTS SHOULD LEAVE CAMPUS AT 3:15 PM UNLESS ENGAGED IN SCHOOL FUNCTIONS OR WAITING TO BE PICKED UP.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are to be at school every day. Attendance in class is necessary to ensure that students receive the instructional information and participate in class discussion. Lauderdale County Board of Education policy states that students who are absent for eight (8) days or more from a one credit course may not receive credit for that course. Students who are absent five (5) or more days from a one half credit course may not receive credit in that course.

If a student has missed more than the acceptable number of days, his/her parents or guardian may request a hearing to remove any or all of the absences. Absences can only be removed with proper documentation presented to the hearing officer(s). Proper documentation includes:

1. A note from the doctor/health department
2. A legal subpoena for court
3. Death in immediate family
4. Circumstances that required the student to be absent that were beyond his/her control

SCHOOL BUS POLICY

Lauderdale County Board of Education provides bus transportation for those within the district. This is a privilege and should be treated as such. Appropriate behavior is expected at all time, and violations of bus rules are covered in the bus discipline code and may result in suspension from riding. Bus drivers are given the responsibility of controlling behavior and have the same authority as teachers and other employees of the school system.

DISCIPLINE

It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the Lauderdale County Discipline Code. We take serious view of misbehavior and do not give punishment randomly. If you break the rules

set forth in this document, as well as others that apply to Ripley High School, you will be punished in accordance with the authority given to the teachers and principals by the Board of Education. Students are to obey all teachers, cafeteria workers, custodians, and all other adult employees of Ripley High School while on campus or during any school function. Direct disobedience to any of these people will be considered insubordination.

LAUDERDALE COUNTY DISCIPLINE CODE

Level I Offense

1. Possession, sale, use and/or transfer of alcohol or other controlled substance, including drug paraphernalia.
2. Weapons (possession and/or use) Dangerous weapons for the purpose of this policy shall include, but not limited to any firearm (guns, pistols, rifles, shotgun, etc).explosive weapon, butterfly knife, hawk bill knife, razor, box opener, brass knuckles, bats, or clubs.
3. Battery upon any teacher, principal, administrator, or other employee

Level II Offence

1. Possession and/or use of fireworks.
2. Threats, harassment, and abusive language to school employees
3. Assault and/or battery of any student on school property.
4. Breaking into and entering school.
5. Use of any object not referred to in Level 1 that creates an unsafe environment.
6. Threats, harassment (physical or verbal), abusive language to other students and misconduct of a sexual nature.
7. Fighting or attempting to incite a fight.
8. Stealing
9. Displaying gang signs or symbols or participating in any action sanctioned by a group that disrupts the school environment, destroys or defaces school property, or that threatens, harasses, causes, or could cause bodily harm to any student or school employee.

Level III Offense

1. *Destroying or defacing school property
2. Insubordination
3. Possession and/or use of tobacco products.
4. Lying (malicious)
5. Leaving Campus unauthorized
6. Gambling
7. Skipping class, detention or other required activity.
8. Profanity
9. Possession of pornographic material.
10. Use of personal communication devices
11. Disrespect to school officials.
12. Repeated disruption of the instructional process.

13. Indecent exposure
14. Unauthorized use of school equipment.
15. Forgery
16. Conduct detrimental to a positive school environment.
17. Verbal confrontation with another student.

Level IV Offense

1. Gum chewing
2. Close contact (petting)
3. In an unauthorized area without a pass (hallways etc)
4. Running in halls
5. Dress code violation
6. Eating/drinking in unauthorized area
7. Mischievous actions
8. Breaking line
9. Unauthorized games, radio, or tape players.
10. Inappropriate conduct during assembly
11. Cheating

A student found guilty of misbehaving may receive punishment ranging from verbal reprimand to suspension and/or expulsion, depending on the severity of the offense.

***Parents are financially responsible for willful defacing or destruction of school property, and a plan of restitution must be agreed upon.**

Any policies or changes made to this code by the Lauderdale County Board of Education will supersede this document.

CONSEQUENCES

Detention (Tiger Cage)

Detention is the least punitive discipline administered. Students assigned to Tiger Cage are served a sack lunch. This is a designated no talking area and is under the supervision of school staff. Failure to serve detention may result in ISS.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

Student who receive in-school suspension are responsible for completing assignments for all classes missed during the suspension. **Any student who continues to be a disruption during ISS will be sent home. That day must be made up, and parents must meet with an administrator the following day to have the student readmitted to ISS.**

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

While student is suspended at home, he or she will not be allowed on the Ripley High School campus. Students will be allowed to make up work and/or tests missed during at home suspensions.

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Remandment to Lauderdale County Alternative School is the penalty for zero tolerance violations, excessive Level III or higher infractions, and fighting. Remands range from 180 days for zero tolerance to 15 days for fighting. The number of days depends on the severity of the infraction(s) and is determined by administrative team. Any remand may be appealed. Case(s) may be reported to proper legal authorities.

Any suspension may result in the loss of attendance privileges to ball games and assemblies for the remainder of the current term. Students will be allowed to participate in activities under the direct supervision of a club sponsor or coach.

CELL PHONES

Cellphones & ear buds are NOT to be visible or in use from 7:45 am to afternoon dismissal bell. Phone are permitted before school, during lunch, and after school.

RHS CELLPHONE VIOLATION DISCIPLINE

1 st Offense	1 Days ISS	Keep phone for 24 hours
2 nd Offense	2 days ISS	Keep phone for five days
3 rd Offense	2 Days OSS	Keep phone for ten days
4 th Offense	3 days OSS	Keep phone for twenty days
5 th Offense	Remanded to Alternative School	

NOTE: Only a parent or legal guardian can pick up cellphone

RIPLEY HIGH SCHOOL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOSS OR THEFT OF ANY PERSON ELECTRONIC DEVICE OR CELL PHONE.

Harassment Reporting Procedures

Physical and/or verbal harassment of others in the Lauderdale County School System will not be tolerated whether committed by students or adults. Any type of harassment should be reported immediately to the appropriate school official.

Harassment by: **A.** A student should be immediately reported to a teacher, counselor, and/or school administrator. **B.** An adult who is not connected with the school but the harassment occurs on school property should be immediately reported to a teacher, counselor, and/or administrator. **C.** A school employee should be reported directly to the school principal or the employee's immediate supervisor. **D.** The school principal should be reported directly to the Supervisor of Human Resources at the Lauderdale County Board of Education, P.O. Box 350. Ripley, TN 38063 phone 901-635-2941 **E.** The Supervisor of Human Resources should be reported directly to the Supervisor of Human Resources for the Lauderdale County Department of Education.

All reports of harassment will be taken seriously and will be thoroughly investigated by the appropriate party.

School IDs

Students of Ripley High School are required to wear identification badges with bar codes. IDs are scanned in the cafeteria and in the Instructional Media Center (Library) The cost of the initial ID is included in the registration fee. A replacement ID is \$5. Students in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

EXPECTATION

Ids must be worn on the top half of the body and must display name, picture, and bar code.

DRIVER'S LICENSE REVOCATION

More than ten consecutive or fifteen total reported unexcused absences by a student during a semester renders a student ineligible to retain a driver's permit or license, or obtain such, if of age. In order to reclaim a driver's permit or license, the student must make a passing grade in at least three full unit subjects or their equivalency at the conclusion of a subsequent grading period.

Testing of Students for drugs

A student may be subject to testing for the presence of drugs in the student's body in accordance with the section (TCA 49-6-4213) and the policy of the LEA is there are reasonable indications to the school that such student may have used or be under the influence of drugs.

Media Release Permission

Ripley High School is requesting your permission to allow us to post your child's photograph and/or name on our school's website, in the newspaper, in the annual, and as part of any club, academic, or sports recognition.

Ripley High School wants to celebrate the successes of our programming and of our students. All Lauderdale County School Board policies governing the publication of such information will be followed.

If you do not wish for your child's photograph and/or name to appear on our school's website, in the newspaper, in the annual, or as part of any club or sports recognition please send a handwritten, signed letter to the school stating your wishes.