IMPORTANCE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Philosophy of the student activities program: The scope of students’ activities in the high school of today is such that their administration requires definite policy, organization, and delegation of responsibility. In planning, and establishing a students’ activities program in the secondary school, it must be remembered that the purpose of those activities is to develop, through active participation and direction, traits essential in the life of an active, dependable, socially minded, and mature person.

SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Due to the size of the school and the large number of organizations on campus, effort must be made to avoid conflicts. Therefore, all activities, especially those that require the use of school facilities, must be placed on the official school calendar. This is completed through the student activities director. Dates will be assigned on a first come, first served basis, so activities should be scheduled as far in advance as possible.

GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES

1. A number of student organizations and co-curricular activities are included in the school program to provide enrichment and to contribute to the development of students.
2. The club sponsor schedules all school organizational meeting times. That sponsor informs the Student Activities Director of the times in an effort to avoid conflicts. Clubs are expected to follow arranged schedules.
3. The sponsor for any group is to secure approval from the principal before arranging for any extra or unusual activity.
4. After obtaining permission to schedule a meeting or activity, the sponsor should notify the head building engineer and make arrangements for the room.
5. Your organization will be charged for the custodian at time and one half for overtime for supervising the use of the building. Any other arrangements must be cleared through the principal.
6. Clubs or organizations will not be permitted to meet unless the school sponsor is present.
7. Clubs or organizations are limited to two on-campus fund raising projects per year. These must be pre-approved by the student activities director.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

RE: Student Activities

A well-planned student activity program shall be maintained in each secondary school. Standards for membership and/or participation in student activities shall be described in a student handbook made available to all students. All student activities shall be under the direction of the principal in charge and shall be designed to contribute to the moral, physical, aesthetic, and social development of participating students.

The standards for the student activity program of each school shall be evaluated annually by the principal to determine the following:
1. The degree to which the program is serving the needs of the individual students.
2. The degree of contribution to the total school program.
3. These same determinations should be made as new activities are planned.

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

RE: Control of Fundraising Activities

Prior to the beginning of any money-raising activity, the sponsor of the organization shall receive permission from the principal. The principal is required to receive prior approval from his/her appropriate director of operations. Fundraising activities to finance trips require approval of the director of fine arts.

Principals shall be responsible for controlling the fundraising activities in their schools. Money may not be collected by the students or teachers unless it is done so with the knowledge and consent of the principal.

School organizations other than the Student Council are limited to two fundraising activities per year. This guideline does not apply to fundraisers conducted by parent groups.

Students may not be dismissed from classes to help in the distribution of materials for commercial purposes.

Fundraising activities in the elementary school, other than those sponsored by the PTA, are discouraged, and any such activity must receive prior approval from the director of elementary operations. No door-to-door selling by elementary students shall be authorized.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

RE: Prohibited Assemblies

No meeting which is in any way contrary to the American way of life or the purposes of the Garland Independent School District shall be held in a school building or on school property of the District. Specifically, this shall mean:
1. Doctrines or theories which are subversive to the Constitution or laws of the State of Texas or the United States of America.
2. Doctrines or theories which advocate violence to accomplish social or political change.

Other prohibited assemblies include:
1. Commercial entertainers without approval of the superintendent or his/her designee.
2. Commercial enterprises with the exception of local teachers of fine arts. (Private and parochial schools are classified as commercial enterprises. This includes the nonprofit as well as the profit enterprises.)
3. Presentations or productions which are, in the judgment of the Board of Trustees, not in harmony with the goals and purposes of the Garland
Independent School District.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

STATEMENT OF POLICY
RE: Soliciting of Funds – Students
The Board of Trustees is in agreement with the purposes for many social and civic organizations and campaigns; however, the collection of funds from students during school hours shall be limited to school sponsored activities and projects. It is also the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to ensure safeguards in the area of soliciting funds from students.

It shall be the policy of the Garland Independent School District to designate one week of each school year for community organizations and other area school organizations to make requests for student participation in fund-raising programs. The superintendent or his/her designee will evaluate and grant approval for those organizations to participate in fund-raising activities within the schools of the District.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

STATEMENT OF POLICY
RE: Student Organizations
All student organizations shall be under the supervision of a faculty sponsor and the principal in charge. Organizations presently existing or new ones that come into being must be justified on the basis of a definite contribution made to the school. There shall be no secret societies in the Garland Independent School District, no organizations which are fraternal in nature, and none which are discriminatory in membership selection.

Regulations concerning eligibility for membership, activities, size of the organization, and other cogent details of all organizations (including band, drill teams, cheering groups, choral groups, and other school sponsored organizations) shall be developed by the superintendent or his/her designee. A copy of such regulations shall be retained by each principal and each sponsor and shall be made available to all students. Guidelines shall be annually evaluated by the superintendent or his/her designee. Any club or organization seeking approval for organization in school must submit a copy of its constitution and by-laws with its request.

Class Officers
Class officers are elected from within their respective classes by students. Senior, junior, and sophomore officers are elected in the spring, and freshmen officers are elected in the fall. The officers consist of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, historian/reporter, and PTSA representative. Classes will be sponsored by teachers in the school, but they shall work most directly with the parents’ club. Proms are not school sponsored and teacher sponsors are not responsible for fund-raising activities. The parents’ club, however, notify the class sponsor, the director of student activities, and the principal of all activities planned for the school year. The qualifications for class officers are: (a) an overall 2.5 grade-point average cumulative from the ninth grade. A candidate for ninth grade class officer must have an overall average in academic course work of 80 for the semester previous to the election. (b) no more than one N in citizenship during any six weeks period prior to the election (c) no U in citizenship during any six weeks period prior to the election (d) no failing semester grades the semester prior to running for office or while holding office (e) must not have been placed in In-building Suspension, suspended, or expelled during the current year.

Student Council
The SHS Student Council, chartered in 2002, is open to all students in good standing. Election of officers is held in April of each year. All qualified candidates may pick up applications from the Student Council sponsor. The officers must meet the following qualifications.

PRESIDENT
Student must: (a) be a senior during the reign of his/her tenure (b) must have and maintain an overall grade point of 3.00 cumulative from the ninth grade and have no more than one N in citizenship in any six weeks period prior to the election (c) must be elected by a vote of the entire student body. Other qualifications are listed on the officer application.

VICE-PRESIDENT
The vice-president is also elected in April by a student body vote. The qualifications for the vice-president are the same as those for president.

OTHER OFFICERS
The remaining officers of the student council include: treasurer, secretary, historian, parliamentarian, and PTSA Representative. These officers are elected by a student body vote. Students must meet the following qualifications: (a) must have and maintain an overall grade point of 2.5 cumulative from the ninth grade and have no more than one N in citizenship in any six weeks period prior to the election. Other qualifications are listed in the Student Council Officer Packet.

HONORARY ORGANIZATIONS

ACADEMIC DECATHLON/OCTATHLON
The purpose of the Academic Decathlon/Octathlon team is to encourage students to develop a greater respect for knowledge, to promote wholesome interschool competition in academic areas of study and interest, and to stimulate intellectual growth and achievement. Study guides are provided, as well as instructional help from specialists in the various fields. The Decathlon/Octathlon Team is designed to include students from all academic backgrounds and all scholastic levels. The team includes sophomore, junior, and senior students whose grade-point averages fall into the A, B, and C categories. Student selection is determined by teacher recommendation, student application, and interview. Being a team member requires a time commitment, a competitive spirit, and willingness to learn.

NATIONAL BETA CLUB
The National Beta Club is a national honorary service-leadership organization. Its purpose is to promote activities which will benefit the school and community. Membership is attained during the spring of a student’s sophomore or junior year. Members must have and maintain an overall 3.0 grade point average. Nominations are made by the faculty and staff. From this list of nominations, the members of the Beta Club shall be selected. Any student who has been placed in In-building Suspension, suspended, or expelled during the current year is ineligible for membership.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
Membership in the SHS Chapter of the National Honor Society of Secondary Schools is both an honor and a great responsibility. Juniors and seniors who maintain a 3.5 grade-point average will be considered for selection. Students selected by the SHS faculty council are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, and character exemplary of pupils at Sachse High School.

THE SPANISH NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
The National Spanish Honor Society is a national organization to promote high standard of scholastic achievement and student interest in foreign language. Membership in this organization is one of the highest honors obtainable by a student. To be a member, a student must have taken Spanish for at least three semesters and have an average of 85 or above in Spanish and a 3.5 GPA overall. The member must be a second semester sophomore, junior, or a senior. Other considerations for membership are leadership, character, and service.

THE FRENCH NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
The aim of the French National Honor Society is to stimulate interest in the study of French, to promote high standards of scholarship, to reward scholastic achievements, to create enthusiasm for and an understanding of francophone culture civilization, to promote and perpetuate international friendship, and to reward efforts toward furthering solidarity in the French-speaking world. To be a member, a student must be enrolled in French III or above and must maintain a French average of 85 and an overall GPA of 3.5. Leadership, character, and service are also considered.

THE GERMAN NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY (Delta Epsilon Phi)
Delta Epsilon Phi is the National Honor Society for high school students of German. This organization recognizes high school scholastic achievement in the study of German and promotes interest in the study of German language, literature, and civilization. It also encourages and perpetuates international friendship. In order to be eligible, students must have completed at least three semesters of German, have attained a cumulative 3.5 GPA in all work attempted, and an 85 in all German work.

MU ALPHA THETA
A nationally recognized math honor society, Mu Alpha Theta’s purpose is to promote scholarship in, and enjoyment and understanding of mathematics among high school and two-year college students. Members must have completed at least two years of college preparatory mathematics (Algebra I and geometry) and must have completed or be enrolled in a third year of a more advanced course. Math coursework must have been done with distinction by maintaining a 3.0 average on a 4.0 scale.

SPIRIT ORGANIZATIONS

CHEERLEADERS
The purpose of the varsity cheerleaders, junior varsity cheerleaders, and freshmen cheerleaders is to promote the type of sportsmanship that will help students acquire basic attributes of good citizenship, develop wholesome school spirit, promote cooperation between the student body and school staff, and help the school achieve the most worthwhile objectives of its interscholastic athletic activities.
SWINGSTERS
The SHS Varsity drill team (Swingsters) is open to 10-12 grade students. The line and officers will be selected based on tryout performances by qualified judges. The varsity drill team entertains audiences at varsity football, basketball games, and also competes at local and state competitions.

LARIATS
The SHS Junior Varsity drill team (Lariats) is open to all grades. The officers are selected by qualified judges. The organization entertains audiences at junior varsity football, basketball games and serves as a pep squad at all home varsity football games.

ORGANIZATIONS

BILLIARDS CLUB
The Billiards Club is designed for students who have an interest in the sport of billiards. Students compete against other high school teams on a local district level and continue to the state and national levels.

BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL OF AMERICA (BPA)
BPA provides leadership training and the opportunity to compete with other students using their office skills. Club members also participate in special service projects that help to reinforce citizenship and patriotism. Club membership also helps students develop relationships with community leaders and potential employers.

CHESS CLUB
The Chess club is designed for students who are interested in Chess. Students compete against other high school teams in tournaments.

FUTURE BUSINESS LEADERS OF AMERICA (FBLA)
The purpose of FBLA is to promote and give direction to those students who are interested in the business field. Regularly scheduled meetings are held and programs are geared to prepare members for a career in business. The organization has national affiliation, and membership is open to any interested student that has had one business course or is presently enrolled in a business course.

HEALTH OCCUPATIONS STUDENTS OF AMERICA (HOSA)
HOSA is a national vocational student organization which exclusively serves Health Occupations Education by educating the people to health matters and organizations. HOSA develops leadership and team building skills, encourages civic and social responsibility, and provides local, state, and national competitive events. HOSA’s motto: “The Hands of HOSA Molds the Health of Tomorrow.”

INTERNATIONAL CLUB
The International Club is open to all students interested in learning about the many cultures and ethnicities present at Sachse High School. The purpose of this organization is to create a more informed student body through multicultural activities.

LIGHT BRIGADE
Light Brigade is for students who have an interest in educating fellow students in all levels of school about the dangers of substance abuse and drug use. Members lead anti-drug programs as well as visit and perform plays for elementary classes.

MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB
The Mountain Bike Club is open to students of all grades and who are interested in competing in mountain bike as well as some road and cyclocross racing. The team competes at the local level as well as district, state and national competitions.

POETRY CLUB
The Poetry Club is for students interested in writing and sharing poetry.

PTA/PTSA
The Sachse High School PTSA is composed of parents, teachers, administrators, and students. The membership is open to all interested in promoting unity in the school and community.

SHOWSToppers
The Showstoppers is for students interested in learning to perform with a step group. The team competes at local competitions.

THESPIANS/DRAMA
Thespians is a group of students who are enrolled in the drama course, have been enrolled in drama, or have a love of acting. The Thespians have opportunities to participate in social events and to see live theatre productions. They also are the first to know everything that’s happening in SHS theatre.

INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE STATEMENT OF POLICY
RE: Interscholastic League
The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of organized fair competition as sponsored by the University Interscholastic League. The superintendent and the athletic director or their designees shall be responsible for the scheduling of Interscholastic League events which provide educational returns in full proportion to the time and energy spent. It shall be their responsibility also to maintain all necessary records and reports and to see that all rules and regulations of the League are met.
PERFORMING ORGANIZATIONS

CHOIRS

A Capella Choir
This course is designed for the advanced vocal student who has proven through audition the ability to perform above average in the areas of vocal technique, sight reading, and audio perception. Specifically, the student is continuing his musical endeavors on a higher level of competence as he studies voice, sight reading, intervallic and rhythmic analysis, and style, while continuing to perform the most difficult music available for high school mixed choir. This choir performs numerous concerts and participates in UIL competition. Participation in UIL competition as individuals in solo and ensemble contest may be expected as well as participation in UIL as a choral group.

Mane Attraction
This course is specifically a performance-oriented course. This selected group is used to perform pop music for local civic functions and certain school events. It is for the highly advanced vocal student and requires many nighttime performances. Vocalists and select instrumentalists must maintain membership in one of the other choral organizations in order to be eligible for this class.

Women’s Chorale
Students develop advanced techniques necessary for the performance of difficult music for treble voices. The study of music theory fundamentals will be continued through sight reading, rhythmic reading, and intervallic analysis. Students participate in UIL solo and ensemble contests, as well as performing as a group in concerts in UIL concert and sight reading contests.

Treble Choir
Students develop advanced vocal techniques that are needed to audition for the top performing choirs and to develop an appreciation of good choral music. Desirable vocal skills will be stressed through the rehearsal and performance of a variety of styles of choral music. The basic fundamentals of music theory will be emphasized through sight reading and rhythmic reading exercises. Participation in UIL competition as individuals in solo and ensemble contests may be expected as well as participation in UIL as a choral group.

JAZZ BAND
The Jazz Band serves as the public relations tool for the band program and for Sachse High School. Membership is by audition. Students must be an active member of one of the concert bands.

SCHOOL YEARBOOK – THE GAIT
A class is provided for yearbook production, in addition to out of class production hours. Students will receive scholastic credit and should check with their counselor for specific information. The news writing course is recommended for those who apply for the staff, but it is not required. Positions on the staff are obtained by application and by selection of the journalism teacher during the spring term.

STATEMENT OF POLICY
RE: Publications
All publications edited, printed, or distributed in the name of the Garland Independent School District or within the schools themselves shall be under the control of the principal, school administration, and Board of Trustees. All school publications shall be under the supervision of a faculty supervisor and shall reflect the high ideals and expectations of the citizens of this District for their schools. No visual or auditory publication of any kind may be sold or distributed free on or near school property to students or personnel of this District without approval of the principal in charge.

SCHOOL DANCES
The Sachse High School formal dances will be open to all Sachse High School students and their guests. Conduct:
1. Students must conduct themselves according to all student regulations contained within the handbook.
2. Attire must be appropriate.
3. Please be aware of the dress code requirements on the SHS website and on the announcements.
4. ID is necessary for admission.
5. Students may bring non-SHS students as dates, provided that all rules and regulations for conduct are followed. ID’s for these persons are not required.
6. School Board policy prohibited substances and alcoholic beverages will be strictly enforced at all times.
7. Once admitted to a dance, no student will be allowed to leave the building and return to the dance.

**FALL DANCE**

A dance will be held during football season in the fall term. Attire is semi-formal, however, suits are acceptable for the young men in lieu of tuxedos. Students and their guests must adhere to the dress code requirements listed on the SHS website and on the announcements. Young men must also be clean-shaven.

**COTILLION**

Elected honorees are presented in the auditorium at an awards ceremony. Attire is dressy/after-five. Students must adhere to the dress code requirements listed on the SHS website and on the announcements. Young men must also be clean-shaven.

**STUDENT ABSENCES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR OR OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Students cannot participate in any school related or sanctioned activity on or off campus that would require, permit, or allow a student to be absent from a class in any course more than ten times during the 180-day school year.

Practice is limited in extracurricular activities to eight hours per school week per activity and to not more than one contest or performance per activity per student per school week.

**SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS**

On school-sponsored trips (athletics, band, drill team, field trips, etc.), students must travel to and from events on busses when provided. On trips involving small groups, students may go in automobiles driven only by school employees. In the interest of safety, all students on bus trips are to remain seated and orderly. The school is not responsible for any accident incurred as a result of the student’s failure to observe the rules.

Students participating in school sponsored field trips are required to travel to and from the assigned destination with the school group/organization and sponsor. If an occasion arises in which a parent needs for their student to acquire another form of transportation to or from the field trip, the parent must write a note stating the reason for this request including a parent signature. This note must be delivered to the sponsor at least twenty-four hours in advance. The school is not responsible for any accident incurred as a result of the student’s failure to observe the rules.

**STATEMENT OF POLICY**

RE: Field Trips

All field trips taken by classes and school organizations must be justifiable on the basis of the contribution to the educational program of the school. The principal, the superintendent or his/her designee regardless of the mode of transportation used, shall approve each trip. A statement which releases the Garland Independent School District and its employees from liability arising from a designated field trip shall be received from the parent or guardian of each student, if at least 18 years of age, before the student is eligible to participate.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall implement appropriate administrative regulation to insure that each staff member of the District having charge of any group of students making field trips by any mode of conveyance shall annually exhibit actual knowledge of the requirements of this policy as to approval of field trips and release of liability to the District.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION (Field Trips)**

The Garland Independent School District recognizes that travel by student groups is frequently consistent with the effort to provide a comprehensive, well-rounded educational program. Such travel enables youths in band, choir, cheerleaders, drill teams, student council, vocational clubs, and other school-sponsored organizations to participate in regional, state, national, and occasionally even international competition/activities.

All trips must have administrative approval and are subject to the following guidelines:

1. Trips of fewer than 800 miles (one way) may be scheduled each year with advance approval from the organization sponsor, the building principal, and the director of fine arts.

2. The trip’s primary purpose is to compete, to perform, or to study, rather than to provide entertainment or recreation for the participants.

3. Trips may not require students to miss more than two days of class. Exceptions to this rule may be made only by the director of fine arts. Also, trips that include absence from school must be on the list of activities approved by the Texas Education Agency. Trips that do not involve absence will likewise be subject to appropriate TEA guidelines.

4. Students participating in the trip must meet all eligibility requirements as set forth in rules by the State Board of Education, the University Interscholastic League, and the Garland Independent School District.

5. Refunds for field trips/group trips will not be granted due to academic and/or behavior ineligibility.

6. When fund-raising is necessary to finance a trip, the organization must request approval for the fund-raising activity at the same time that permission to take the trip is requested. These requests must have the approval of both the building principal and the director of fine arts (GISD Trip Request/Permission Form #E-607). Moreover, all fund-raising activity must be consistent with GISD Board Policy and Administrative Regulations.

7. All trip requests must be accompanied by information that indicates the number of chaperones taking the trip and who will be paying their trip related expenses.
8. All trip sponsors must secure the appropriate parental consent and release forms.

9. Trips of more than 800 miles (one way) or trips outside of the United States may be scheduled only with the approval of the organization sponsor, building principal, director of fine arts, the assistant superintendent for educational operations, and the superintendent. Approval for these trips may be granted only once every four years and will be contingent upon the purpose of the trip, the amount of funds involved, the procedure for raising funds, and the approval of the Texas Education Agency. These trips of more than 800 miles are also subject to sections two through seven of this regulation.

These guidelines are applicable to all school sponsored trips taken during the calendar year from September 1 through April 30.