STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK ADDENDUM

2021-2022

Up-to-Date Information can be found at the following locations:

Windham.cttech.org

@WindhamTHS
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Mission and Vision

Windham Technical High School is a comprehensive high school that engages students in trade technology and academic programming. The Windham Technical High School Faculty and Staff are dedicated to ensuring that ALL students reach their individual potential. Instruction that supports our vision requires a myriad of teaching methods to ensure that all Windham Technical High School Students reach their potential. Curricula are integrated, challenging, and adapted to students’ needs. Students demonstrate their knowledge in a variety of ways with multiple opportunities: authentic, proficiency-based, standardized, and Work-based learning (WBL) to demonstrate their progress.

Student Learning Expectations

Windham Technical High School is committed to creating a community of reflective learners and thinkers that develop and demonstrate:

- Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- Proficiency in Trade Knowledge
- Career and Employability Skills
- College Readiness
- Self-Directed Learning
- Strong and Persistent Work Habits
- Creativity and Innovative Problem Solving Skills
- Teamwork and Collaboration

Windham Tech Philosophy of Student Discipline

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<th>What Students Can Expect of Administration</th>
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<td>We will demonstrate respect toward you and all members of the school community.</td>
<td>Whether you agree with them or not, abide by teachers, shops, and school rules.</td>
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<td>We will do our best to maintain your anonymity if you bring an issue to one of us that concerns another student or adult.</td>
<td>Respect all members of the school community, along with their personal space and property.</td>
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<td>We will listen to your account of an incident and expect you to listen to the accounts of others, faculty, staff, and other students.</td>
<td>When we talk about an incident, tell the truth about what you do know to the best of your ability even if you are afraid of the consequences, embarrassed, or unsure of exactly what happened.</td>
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<td>We will wait until a more appropriate time to talk if you are too angry, frustrated, or upset to talk immediately after an incident.</td>
<td>If you are aware of an issue that involves physical or emotional harm to another student, adult, or school property, tell someone in the school that you trust.</td>
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<td>We will arrange for other people to be in a meeting (another student, teacher,</td>
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guidance counselor, etc.) if requested by the student.

We will ask that you give descriptive accounts of incidents in writing to ensure accuracy.

We will contact your parents or guardian regarding any incidents.

We will make all efforts to ensure the process and consequences are a learning experience and not solely disciplinary in nature.

Don’t stand by while someone is bullied or harassed: Say something to a staff member or an adult that you trust. Even if you cannot do it right away, tell someone as soon as possible.

Realize that although you may disagree with the consequences you receive, it is our responsibility to enforce the school and district rules and policies to provide a safe and positive environment for all school community members.

**Whom Should I Contact About a Concern or Question?**

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**General Summary of School Expectations and Procedures**

1. Students are to be in their assigned area at all times, from the time they arrive in the morning until dismissal. During class or shop time, students must have a hallway pass signed by the teacher if they are out of shop or class. Students must sign in and out on the class or shop sign out sheet. Students not in their assigned area are subject to discipline up to and including in school suspension.

2. Parents: please do not phone or text your son or daughter during school hours. If you need to speak with your child, please phone the guidance department and we will ensure that contact is made.

3. Wristbands or rings with metal spikes, wallet chains, and similar kinds of jewelry that can cause a safety hazard will be confiscated by administration. Sunglasses and reflective lenses are not to be worn, unless they are part of a medical or other accommodation.

4. Students are not permitted to bring food or beverages purchased in the cafeteria out of the cafeteria. Likewise, if students bring food or beverages purchased from outside the school to breakfast, they cannot be consumed outside of the cafeteria. **THIS INCLUDES COFFEE AND ICE COFFEE!**

5. Once students arrive at school they are not allowed to leave the school grounds until dismissal. School doors open at 6:45am for students to enter the building.

6. At dismissal all students must leave the building and grounds promptly unless they are staying for a sanctioned activity. Busses leave 5 mins after the 2:05 dismissal bell.

7. Gambling is not permitted.

8. Students who bring items to school for repair must have a written production order completed by the Department Head and signed by the administrator.

9. Sale and fundraising activities are not permitted unless approved in advance by the student council and administration.

10. Students may not possess prescription or over-the-counter medications at any time. If students need to take medication, it must be stored with the school nurse.

11. Safety glasses and safety shoes/boots must be worn in designated shop areas at all times, including during the ninth grade exploratory program.

12. The school cannot be responsible for personal property that is damaged, lost or stolen. Shop lockers must be secured with a school lock and gym lockers must be secured with the student’s own lock during the gym period. Locks are available for purchase in the Business Office.
Key Information Regarding Chromebooks

Windham Technical High School is proud to partner with Google Apps for Education, which is used by thousands of schools and universities worldwide to make collaboration tools available for students. Students will now be able to work collaboratively on documents, presentations and projects. All student work will be stored online and will be accessible from home, school, and anywhere there is an Internet connection.

In order to access Google Apps, we will be providing Chromebooks for all students. Students will be assigned a Chromebook for the entire year, which they may bring home and return at the end of the school year.

Google accounts allow students and teachers to communicate and collaborate in a safe and structured manner with their class. Students will take home their login and password information. Teachers and staff will be working with students on how to access their account, as well as discuss digital citizenship and online safety. Parents are also encouraged to talk with their child about using online tools safely. Students should
consider their school Google Account as an extension of the classroom, subject to the same rules of respect and courtesy that we expect in school.

It is strongly advised that you purchase a protective covering for the device that you have been issued. Students only get one (1) Accidental Damage Repair with Dell. Anything beyond that has to be paid for by the student. Cracked Screen Options: Repair at School OR Send to Dell (Student pays for repair if he/she has already used up their 1 time accidental damage repair). Dell will generate a damage report that will determine if damage was accidental or purposeful. If purposeful, the school will be notified and the student pays for damage.

**Uniforms During the Academic Cycle**

The school has chosen to work with Darter Specialties Inc., who will provide the school uniforms. All shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, and other tops, which will have the school-approved logo imprinted on them, must be purchased on-line through this vendor. Furthermore, our school has adopted specific bottoms that have the embroidered school approved logo on the front left pocket. These pants, shorts, and skirts must also be purchased online from Darter Specialties, Inc. Sneakers or shoes must have backs and closed toes. During both trade and academic cycles, if boots or shoes have black soles, the soles must be labeled “non-marking.” To promote school spirit, T-shirts, long sleeved t-shirts and non-hooded sweatshirts displaying Windham Tech in a positive manner are also allowed for tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders. **Ninth graders must wear the school issued shirts.** Uniform add-ons such as suspenders, ties, scarves, hats, gloves, etc. are not allowed. Additional Windham Tech uniform apparel is available from Darter Specialties at [www.WindhamTechClothing.com](http://www.WindhamTechClothing.com).

**Wearing Uniforms and Displaying ID Badges**

All students are expected to be in uniform while clearly displaying their own ID badge every period, every day. Students are expected to be in uniform as they enter the school. ID badges must be worn to the cafeteria to purchase food. At the end of the day, students are encouraged to put their ID badges in their lockers. Students will not be admitted to a shop or homeroom without their ID and will be sent to the SAIL/ISS room if they cannot follow school policy. Students out of uniform (academic or trade) will be referred to the SAIL/ISS room. (See Frequently Asked Questions regarding uniforms).

Whether or not the student is able to obtain the ID or uniform components in order to go to class, students in violation are subject to the following:

1st violation – Temp ID and warning
2nd violation – Detention and call home from administration
3rd violation – 90 minute SAIL and call home from administration
4th violation – 1 day suspension and call home from administration

Any additional violations, progressive discipline applies.
**Wearing of Face Masks**

All students are required to wear face masks while in the building. *(Face masks may not have any offensive words or pictures on them.)* Not wearing a face mask or refusing to keep the face mask on can result in disciplinary action.

**Search and Seizure**

Students have the right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures under the fourth amendment of the constitution of the United States. Balanced against this right is the school administration's responsibility to create and maintain an environment consistent with the school's educational mission. School officials have a duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students under their authority.

Desks, lockers, and other storage spaces are provided to students for their convenience. These storage areas remain school property, and as such, are subject to periodic inspections and searches by school authorities. Such inspections allow responsible school authorities to confirm that lockers are being used appropriately in a manner consistent with the health and safety of all students. Students should not store items in lockers which violate school policy or law.

School authorities are authorized to conduct searches of students or their property when reasonable suspicion indicates that a particular student is in possession of an item or a substance that represents a material threat to school routine or is prohibited by school policy, administrative regulations or by law. Student property shall include, but not be limited to, purses, bags, toolboxes, and cars. School authorities, in cooperation with the local or state police departments, reserve the right to also conduct searches with dogs.

**Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing may be issued a “0” by the teacher for that assignment and may also face disciplinary action. It is at the discretion of the instructor to allow a student to redo or resubmit plagiarized assignments. **If a student is caught cheating or plagiarizing a second time, the teacher will issue a “0” for that assignment and MUST refer the student to the appropriate administrator.** The student will be placed on In School Suspension for the 2nd offense, as per the school’s progressive discipline policy. Students who knowingly permit other students to cheat or plagiarize (for example, by sharing homework) are also subject to the consequences listed.
Procedures for Absences and Tardies

All students who have been absent or who are reporting to school late must report to the Attendance Office for an admission slip. All requests for readmission must contain the following:

1. The student’s full, printed name
2. The student’s grade, shop, and ID number
3. The date(s) absent or tardy
4. The reasons for tardiness or absence
5. The signature of the parent or guardian and a phone number where they may be reached that day for verification.

Tardiness

Tardiness cannot be accumulated and utilized as the basis for denial of credit, nor can it be utilized for reduction of grade. The attendance policy treats an absence in terms of its effect on academic and skill progress, HOWEVER, tardiness is regarded as a disciplinary problem subject to either classroom or administrative consequences. Habitual tardiness should be seen as a correctable behavior requiring counseling and parental conferences. Please review the Tardy Protocol at the end of this addendum with your student.

Early Dismissal

It is not the school’s policy to dismiss students during school hours. Parents are asked to schedule medical, dental, and other appointments after school hours. Students have daily assignments and commitments that are an essential part of the school’s total educational program and they should not be missed, except for emergencies. When it is absolutely necessary for a student to be excused, the parent must send a note to explain the reason for dismissal. Early dismissal for medical or dental appointments should be accompanied with an appointment card or other verifiable documentation. The written early dismissal request must include the phone number where the parent or guardian may be reached that day, in order that the request may be verified. If the request cannot be verified, the student may not be dismissed.

Any request for early dismissal must be presented in writing to the Dean of Students. Students with requests should report to the attendance office immediately after homeroom. Early dismissal requests may be denied if they negatively impact the educational interest of the student.

In the event of an emergency requiring a student to be dismissed early and a note has not been sent, the parent or guardian must call the Dean of Students and come into the main office to sign the student out.
Tardies/Early Dismissals and Participation in School Activities or Sports

On full length school days, in order for a student to participate in a school extracurricular activity or interscholastic sport, the student must be in school for at least the equivalent of half the scheduled school day (3hrs, 21mins).

Arrival/Dismissal at School

All students are to enter the school through the front courtyard entrance. These doors will be unlocked at 6:45am each morning for entry. No students are allowed in shops or homerooms before the homeroom advisory warning bell at 7:15 am. Students in grades 10-12 arriving at school prior to the homeroom advisory warning bell are to report immediately to the student dining hall, library media center (LMC), or small gym. Grade 9 students should report to the tiered lecture hall (TLH). Loitering in the parking lot is not permitted.

The final dismissal bell will ring at 2:05 p.m. At that time, all students who are dismissing should be out of the building, and buses will depart (See Appendix A for the bell schedules) At dismissal, all students are to immediately vacate the building unless they have after school activities, sports, detention, or an appointment with a faculty member.

Emergency School Closing/Delayed Opening/Cancellation

School will be in session every day as specified on the school calendar. On occasion, it may be necessary to delay school opening, close school for the day, or dismiss early due to mechanical failure or weather emergency. In this event, announcements will be made through radio and television, as well as through the “all call/email” alert system. Generally, but not necessarily always, Windham Tech follows Windham Public Schools with respect to weather related delays, early dismissals, and cancellations, however, radio and television will list Windham Tech’s status separately.

Hallway Passes and Class Sign-Out Procedures

Students will not be allowed in the hallways during scheduled class periods unless they have a signed pass with them. The pass will include the date, time in/time out, and the teacher’s initials. These rules apply when using a hallway passport:

1. Students will sign-out on the classroom master sheet
2. Students must take the shortest route possible to their destination and must use the restroom closest to their classroom.
3. Passes will not be issued for students to go from academics to shops, or vice versa, without administrative approval, and in cases of emergency.
4. Students should not request to use the main office phone during instructional time unless there is an emergency, and only then with advance administrative approval. Otherwise, students should use the phone during lunch.

Students found in violation of these procedures or out of an assigned area may be subject to pass restriction and/or discipline, up to and including in-school suspension.
Parking Restrictions

Generally, only seniors who have met the necessary requirements regarding grades, discipline, and senior class dues are eligible to park in the school parking lot. Juniors, by special permission of the Dean of Students, may be considered after the second marking period. Restrictions may apply. All students who park in the school lot do so as a privilege, and only with the Dean’s permission. All cars must be registered. Cars parked in the school’s lot are subject to search by school administration if there is reasonable suspicion of contraband connected to an incident under investigation or believed to be in the car. Parking privileges may be revoked for reasons such as reckless driving, failing grades, administrative discipline, misuse of a parking sticker, or excessive tardies to school.

Students should not park in the first row at the front of the school, or in handicapped, faculty, or office parking spots. Faculty, students, and parents may not park behind the school, alongside the school, along the fence behind the school at the top of the athletic fields, or in the roadway that leads from the top of the athletic field to the cafeteria. No one should enter the driveway that leads to the back of the school with the intention of parking next to or behind the school. **The only areas permitted for parking are in the designated spaces in the parking lot in the front of the school.** These restrictions are enforced every day of the year, regardless if school is in session. Failure to comply may result in the vehicle being towed at the owner’s expense. These rules are in compliance with state and local fire ordinances.

In order for eligible students to obtain a parking sticker they must provide the school with the following:
- a copy of their driver’s license
- a copy of the car’s registration and insurance
- a signed copy of the CT State Teen Driving Regulations form
- a completed parking application form

Once the application has been approved, students will apply the sticker (while under the supervision of a school staff member) to the inside rear, driver’s side, window. Parking stickers are non transferable and may not be shared or borrowed by other students.

Parking Sticker Colors:
- Orange: Students under the age of 18 and less than 1 year driving experience
- Blue: Students 18 years old and more than 1 year driving experience

**ALEKS Math Program Grades 10-12**

**Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces** is a Web-based, artificially intelligent assessment and learning system. ALEKS uses adaptive questioning to quickly and accurately determine exactly what a student knows and doesn't know in a course. ALEKS
then instructs the student on the topics he or she is most ready to learn. As a student works through a course, ALEKS periodically reassesses the student to ensure that topics learned are also retained. ALEKS courses are very complete in their topic coverage and ALEKS avoids multiple-choice questions.

In Mastery-Based Learning through ALEKS, students do not receive credit for their course until they have completed the course. Their actual grade for their course is based only on DSA grades, Performance Tasks, and completion of each student’s ALEKS Pie Reports.

**Mastery-Based Learning**

Windham Technical High School utilizes a Mastery-Based Learning program in core academic courses for all students. The purpose of this program is to provide students with an innovative approach to learning that directly positions with the current trends of education, as well as the direction of the Commissioner of Education.

In a Mastery Based Learning environment, students are given multiple pathways to master critical content knowledge and skills. Students who are struggling to demonstrate mastery of a competency receive targeted individualized support and more time to learn and practice, as well as multiple opportunities to demonstrate their progress and mastery. Students who have mastered the competency can move on to a deeper learning task. This increases student engagement and benefits all learners across the continuum. While the learning expectations and evaluation criteria are consistent, teachers can be more flexible in teaching and students have more choice in learning. By demonstrating competency, students meet course expectations and are given credit.

**Habits of Work Rubrics**

We at Windham Technical High School believe there is a clear connection between student “Habits of Work” and academic success. Our Habits of Work rubric assesses how the student interacts with others, how the student approaches learning challenges, and how the student participates in class.

Habits of work are grounded in the Windham Technical High School Mission and Vision Statements, and more specifically, embody our Student Learning Expectations. Windham Technical High School Habits of Work (HOW) Categories evaluate students on the following criteria:

- Preparedness
- Engagement
- Perseverance
- Problem Solving
- Professionalism

Historically, one single number grade combines academic achievement, homework, effort, participation, and behavior. This never truly provides the student or family with specific feedback. We hope that you find this information useful in demonstrating what contributes to student success at WTHS, as well as in a college or career setting. Please also use these scores to have more open and specific communication with your son or daughter, as well as his or her instructors.
These evaluations are not reported as part of a student’s grade or influence GPA in any way, although the categories directly affect student success. Student cumulative Habits of Work scores will be shared with parents and guardians at the end of each marking period.

Work Based Learning

Work Based Learning (WBL) is offered during the trade/technology cycle as an extension of the technical training offered in the trade/technology component of the school year. Students are allowed specific hours of release from school time based on their academic standing as a junior or senior student. The experience may legally extend beyond school hours. The student’s shop grade reflects input from the employer and the release time from school replaces the credit bearing time in the shop or at a production site. WBL may be extended to the academic cycle if the student's schedule permits and if they are a participating CWE student. This would be in lieu of senior release or last period(s) study halls.

In order to be eligible to participate in the WBL program students must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria:

- Successfully complete their sophomore year at a Technical High School
- Be at least 16 years old
- Maintain an overall marking period grade average of 70 or above with no failures and a minimum grade of 70 or above in trade/technology and
- Demonstrate trade/technology proficiency based on performance criteria established in the curriculum

Final decision of eligibility rests with the principal in consultation with the trade/technology department head, the student’s counselor, and the WBL coordinator. Students under the age of 18 enrolled in a WBL program are permitted to work in most age restricted and hazardous occupational areas. The student may be withdrawn from the program by request of the student’s parent/guardian, the school, the employer, or the student.

Eastern Connecticut State University and Quinebaug Valley Community College Partnerships

Grades 11 and 12 students in good academic standing (cumulative GPA of an 83%, no failing grades) and with the recommendation of their school counselor can take part in free courses at ECSU or QVCC. No more than two courses per semester can be taken and the classes must meet after regular high school hours. Students are responsible for purchasing books and supplies. Courses are offered on a space-permitting basis and run at the discretion of the college. Credits earned in college coursework cannot be used as a substitute for Windham Technical High School graduation requirements and do not appear on the high school transcript.
Student Transportation Vehicles

The Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) Student Transportation Vehicles (STVs) are utilized and scheduled for educational reasons. While on any trip, all students are considered to be “in” school. This means that conduct and dress standards will be appropriate for the trip’s activity. The same policies that are in effect while on the CTHSS campus are to be upheld while on a school-sponsored activity.

Guidelines have been established for the use of the STV: Each student is to be assigned a seat while on a STV. Students are responsible for the seating area of the STV assigned to them. The school administration and staff may conduct an inspection of a STV to maintain the integrity and security of the STV. Students may be assessed damage to equipment or materials. In accordance with state law, the school reserves the right to withhold grades, transcripts, or report cards until the student pays for the damaged content on the STV. However, the school district will not withhold a transcript from a college or other secondary school to which the student has applied.

Student violations of the guidelines can result in termination of access privileges and in disciplinary actions. All students and parents/caregivers must sign the acknowledgement form which indicates that a student agrees to use the STV in a safe and compliant manner as instructed by the driver.

All accidents, injuries, and unusual incidents must be reported to school personnel.

Cell Phone Policy

To minimize inappropriate social media distractions during class (SnapChat, Facebook, Instagram, non-class related YouTube videos, texting, etc.) cell phones must be kept in their lockers or backpacks. They may NOT be used in the classroom.

CTECS provides each student a free Chromebook which gives them internet access via Wi-Fi, eliminating the need for students to use their smartphones in class. Students must keep their cell phones locked in their lockers or kept in their backpacks while attending classes and trade related activities. Students are only allowed to use their cell phones before homeroom, during lunch break and after dismissal time. Students can also access their cell phones during hallway passing times when they visit their lockers.

If a teacher deems it necessary to allow students to use cell phones for approved class related activities they will inform students ahead of time and activity protocols will be provided, accordingly. This measure will ensure that our students are fully engaged in learning and are practicing authentic professional and business guidelines, as established by their future employers.

Students who fail to comply with the cell phone policy may be subject to disciplinary
consequences as follows:

1st violation: Verbal warning
2nd violation: Detention and call home
3rd violation: 90 minute SAIL and call home
4th violation: 1 day in-school suspension (ISS) and call home from administration
             (cell phone may be confiscated by the supervising administrator and will only be returned to the parent, guardian or

Any additional violations may result in progressive discipline.

Asbestos Management Plan
July 26, 2018

In accordance with 19a-333-1 thru 13, “Asbestos Containing Materials in Schools”, we are required to inform you that asbestos containing materials have been identified in various areas of the school, primarily in maintenance areas not accessible to students. Much of the material has been removed. What remains is included in an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program. This program is designed to prevent asbestos fiber release through proper cleaning, maintenance, and repair. The O&M program will remain in effect until all ACBM is removed from the buildings.

The buildings are inspected every six (6) months to determine any changes in the conditions of the materials. Additionally, the buildings are thoroughly re-inspected every three years by licensed asbestos inspectors following the same basic criteria as the original inspection.

The Windham THS maintains in its MAIN OFFICE a complete updated copy of the AMP. It is available during business hours for inspection. The Designated Person for the Asbestos Program is John Woodmansee, and he can be contacted at 860-807-2233.
Student/Family Uniform Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Some shops have their own pants. Can they be worn during academics?
A: No. Like the shop shirts, they are only for use during the shop cycle. For example, scrubs and culinary pants are only allowed during shop cycles.

Q: Should students arrive in school in full uniform?
A: Yes. The only exception applies to Culinary and Health Tech students. They may wear their academic uniform and then place their shop uniform on when they arrive in the shop due to sanitary reasons.

Q: If the climate is cold, what type of warm apparel can they wear in school?
A: Students can wear either a solid long-sleeve tee under their collared shirt, a WT fleece, WT wind jacket, or a WT sweatshirt (no hood).

Q: Are the students even allowed to enter the building with hoodies?
A: Like any other outerwear, they are permitted for entering and leaving the building, but they must be put away in their lockers (along with all other non-WT outerwear) BEFORE entering their homeroom!

Q: Is it OK to wear WT outerwear INSTEAD of a uniform shirt?
A: No. All students must be wearing WT pants and shirts at all times. The purpose of allowing WT outerwear, (OVER their uniforms) is for warmth.

Q: Are moccasins allowed if they have rubber soles?
A: No. As per the above policy link, slippers, moccasins, or Crocs are not allowed. Snow boots and footwear adorned with furry materials at ankle level and/or on/around the foot area are not allowed in school.

Q: What about sport related outerwear?
A: Yes, as long as the outerwear is student owned and without a hoodie. Students still need to have a uniform shirt underneath.

Q: Are students allowed to wear different T-shirts and long sleeved shirts with Windham Tech logos?
A: Yes, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students are allowed to wear Spirit wear purchased from the PFO or athletic teams as long as there are no hoods and that they are student-owned (school-owned athletic wear is not allowed).

Updated 8/3/21/ PP