

# **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT COMMUNICATIONS ARTS HIGH SCHOOLS CAMPUS POLICY**

**2024-25**

## **ADMINISTRATION OF WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT HIGH SCHOOL**

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Jennifer Ríos.....Associate Principal	Shelby Blackmon.....Assistant Principal
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Science.....Pamela Word	
Mathematics..... Melissa Mentzer	Social Studies .....Christopher Wheeler
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## **ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNICATIONS ARTS HIGH SCHOOL**

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## Section A

### Campus

### Policy

<b>Introduction to Parents and Students</b> .....	A-1	School Dances .....	A-6
To Parents .....		Students Selected for Popularity Courts .....	
.....A-1 To		..... A-6 Bus Loading Area	
Parents and Students .....	A-1	..... A-6	
1			
<b>William Howard Taft</b> .....	A-1		
<b>Alma Mater</b> .....	A-1		
..... 1			
<b>Code for the Good Citizen of the American H.S.</b> .....	A-2		
<b>School Staff</b> .....	A-2		
..... 2			
Principal .....	A-2		
Associate Principal .....	A-2		
Academic Dean .....	A-2		
Assistant Principals .....	A-2		
Counselors .....	A-2		
Teachers .....	A-2		
Secretaries.....			
A-2           Instructional           Assistants			
(IA's).....                   A-3   Custodians			
..... A-3			
Cafeteria Personnel.....	A-3		
<b>Campus Rules</b> .....	A-3		
..... 3			
<b>Attendance</b> .....	A-3		
..... A-3			
Procedures to Follow when Absence Occurs .....			
..... A-3 Late to			
School.....	A-3		
Leaving School during the Day.....	A-3		
Closed Campus Policy			
.....A-3			
Excused Absences			
.....A-3			
Attendance Recovery .....			
..A-3			
Unexcused Absences			
.....A-3			
Truancy			
..... A-4			
Make-up Work for Truancy .....			
A-4                               Withdrawals			
.....A-4			
Tardy Students .....	A-4		
Change in Name, Home Phone Number, or Address .....	A-4		
<b>Conduct</b> .....	A-4		
..... A-4			
Classroom Policy.....	A-4		
Social Behavior.....	A-4		
Public Display of Affection .....	A-4		
Harassment .....	A-4		
Dress and Grooming .....	A-4		
Financial Obligations .....			
...A-4			
Hall Passes			
.....A-5			
Nuisance Items			
.....A-5			
Electronic and Telecommunication Devices			
.....A-5 Detention Hall			
..... A-5			
In-School Suspension .....			
A-5			
Visitors.....	A-5		
<b>Student Activities</b> .....	A-5		
..... 5			
School Pride .....	A-5		
I.D. Cards .....	A-5		
Internet Use .....	A-5		
Graduation .....	A-5		

Parking Permits and Lots  
School-Hour Pick-Up  
Procedures.....  
A-7 Post Football Game Pick-up  
Procedures ..... A-7  
Senior  
Lunch.....  
..... A-7  
Junior Lunch  
..... A-7  
Handbills  
..... A-7  
Posting Notices  
..... A-7  
**School Services**  
..... A-7  
Guidance and  
Counseling.....  
... A-7  
Safe and Drug Free Schools (SDFS)  
Counseling and Education  
Program ..... A-7  
College  
Preparation.....  
..... A-8  
GO  
Center.....  
..... A-8  
Registrar.....  
..... A-8  
Student  
Records.....  
..... A-8  
Transcripts  
..... A-8  
Health Service  
..... A-8  
Health Cards  
..... A-8  
TEA Forms  
..... A-8  
Lockers.....  
..... A-8  
Telephones  
..... A-8  
Lost and Found  
..... A-8  
Library  
..... A-9  
**Clubs and Organizations**  
..... A-9  
Membership and Club Charters  
..... A-9  
Eligibility Requirements for All  
Offices..... A-9  
Maintenance-Removal from Office  
..... A-9 Class  
Officers.....  
..... A-9  
**Student Organizations**  
..... A-9  
**Publications**  
..... A-9  
Taft: Raider Review  
..... A-9

Testimony  
.....  
... A-9  
Literary Magazine  
..... A-9  
Communications Art  
*La Comunidad*  
..... A-  
10  
Unity  
..... A-10  
..... A-10  
*Ampersand.*  
..... A-10  
**Air Force JROTC**  
..... A-10  
**U.I.L. Activities**  
..... A-10  
**Band**  
..... A-10  
**Vocal Music**  
..... A-10  
**Academic Awards**  
..... A-10  
**Service Organizations**  
..... A-  
10  
**Spirit Organizations**  
..... A-10  
Cheerleaders  
..... A-10  
Highsteppers  
..... A-10  
Drill.....  
..... A-10 Sidekicks  
..... A-10

## **INTRODUCTION TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS:**

This handbook outlines the policies and procedures pertaining to student activities and responsibilities as set forth by the Board of Trustees of the Northside Independent School District. It is the responsibility of each student to read, understand, and abide by the rules and regulations stated in this handbook.

### **To Parents:**

The home is the greatest influence upon the child during the formative years; from these influences the child develops his first habits and obtains most of his ideals and attitudes. The influence of a good home environment cannot be duplicated within the classroom; therefore, it is imperative that the home and school work cooperatively for the maximum development of your child.

Please make every effort to encourage your child to attend school regularly and punctually. Chronic tardiness and irregular attendance inhibit school success.

The purpose of this handbook is to supply you and your child with information about William Howard Taft and Communications Arts High School. Frequent reference to this handbook will acquaint you with functions of your school. Please feel free to confer with the teachers, counselors, and administration when you deem it necessary. Communication among stakeholders will result in a more efficient and successful school program.

### **To Parents and Students:**

Questions regarding interpretations of rules and regulations in this handbook should be directed to the campus administration. William Howard Taft High School & Communications Arts HS are fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

## **WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT**

*1857-1930; Chief Justice-Supreme Court 1921-1930*

*William Howard Taft was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 15, 1857. His father, Alphonso Taft, was a successful Ohio attorney who served in President Grant's cabinet. He was married to the former Nellie Herron in 1886, the daughter of a Cincinnati lawyer.*

*Taft was a graduate of Yale University in 1878, received his law degree from Cincinnati Law School, and was admitted to the bar in Ohio in 1880.*

*His first step up the judicial ladder came when he was appointed as judge on the Supreme Court in Ohio in 1887. From this position he was appointed as Solicitor General of the United States in 1889. This position advises and counsels the Attorney General. This position provided Taft with the opportunity to obtain thorough grounding in constitutional law and procedures. He resigned this position in 1892 to accept President Harrison's appointment as a United States Circuit Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit. His career took a turn toward politics in 1900 when President McKinley asked him to head a commission to establish civil rule in the Philippines. He stayed in this position until 1904 when he was appointed to President Theodore Roosevelt's cabinet as Secretary of War.*

*Taft was known to be a strong supporter of Roosevelt's policies and eventually became Roosevelt's choice to succeed him in the Republican Party as a Presidential candidate when Roosevelt decided not to run again.*

*President Taft was elected in 1908 and served one term. He was defeated by Woodrow Wilson in the election of 1912.*

*Former President Taft then became a Professor of Law at Yale University until his appointment as the tenth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in 1921 by President Harding. William Taft was the only man in our history to serve as both President of the United States and Supreme Court Justice.*

*During his term as President, he appointed six justices to the Supreme Court, the most of any President until that time.*

*Authors credit his strengths while Chief Justice as that of an exceptional administrator of the Court. His reforms in procedure led to expediency in the Court, and during his first year as Chief Justice, more cases were heard and concluded than ever before.*

*He was also credited with "welding them together and making them harmonious" according to Oliver W. Holmes who served on the Court, referencing his respect of Taft for leading the Supreme Court to become an efficiently-run organization and one in which each man respected the other, regardless of legal opinion.*

*Taft expanded the role of Chief Justice through his influence with the presidents on lower court appointments. He felt the role of the Chief Justice was that of being responsible for the entire judicial system. He is widely known as a reformer of the system.*

*His ideal was John Marshall, and he once stated, "I would rather have been John Marshall than any other American."*

*In summary, William Howard Taft was viewed as an extremely successful administrator of the Court, remarkable as a moderator with the ability to bring the Court together and make it harmonious. He expanded the role of the Chief Justice, and his reforms in court procedures led to his respect as a judicial architect. He worked diligently in Congress and asked for the support of the bar association, the media, and others to accomplish his reform goals.*

## **ALMA MATER**

To Taft, our Alma  
Mater We raise our  
voices strong  
Pride in the white and

crimson Forever we'll  
belong  
Within your hallowed halls  
Our dreams and goals held  
fast Within hearts and minds  
forever true To William  
Howard Taft

(written by: Carol Pachecano)

## **CODE FOR THE GOOD CITIZEN OF THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL**

I realize that, as a student in an American high school, I owe an obligation to parents or relatives, whose sacrifices have given me the foundation upon which I am building, to the school which offers me an opportunity to develop my natural powers, and to the community which makes my educational advantages possible, to my country which gives me liberty under law, to my own future as an individual, and as a citizen.

As a token of my determination to discharge this obligation I promise:

That I will use the facilities offered by the classroom to enlarge and broaden my interest, to increase my knowledge, to bring me closer to truth, and to cultivate habits of industry and sound thinking.

That I will broaden my sympathies and practice the arts of sociability, true friendliness and helpfulness in my home, in the school and in all my association; avoiding snobbishness in my own conduct and condemning it in others.

That I will develop habits of reading and conversing which will broaden my culture and enable me to better understand the problems of community, state, and union. That I will carry on discussion in and out of classroom, not to overcome opponents and gratify my pride, but that I may grow in knowledge and wisdom.

That I will avoid every form of cheating or dishonesty and will undertake to discourage all dishonorable practices.

That I will obey every rule or law of school, city, state, and nation, reserving the right to criticize rules and laws constructively, but respecting them so long as they prevail. That I will use my powers and influence for the common good. That I will pursue happiness myself and strive to establish conditions under which happiness and opportunity may be hopefully pursued by everyone in my home, my school, my community, my country, and the world.

*Adopted by the National  
Association of  
Student Councils.*

## **SCHOOL STAFF**

### **Principal**

The Principals are responsible to the Superintendent of Schools for the proper administration of William Howard Taft and Communications Arts High School. It is their duty to organize, supervise, and administer all of the affairs of the school as they affect students, teachers, and patrons. They will be glad to help you with any of your problems.

### **Associate Principal**

The Associate Principal works directly with the principals in the administration and organization of the school. The associate principal assumes the responsibility of the principal in his or her absence.

### **Academic Dean**

The Academic Dean works directly with the principal in the administration of the instructional program of the school. The academic dean works closely with the teachers and department coordinators to ensure student success.

### **Assistant Principals**

The Assistant Principals work to coordinate and supervise the everyday activities of the student body. They handle student attendance problems and student discipline. They also work in the area of teacher service and assist the principal in the development of the school curriculum and the evaluation of the school instructional program.

### **Counselors**

The Counselors assist students with educational, career, and personal concerns through group and individual counseling and classroom guidance sessions. Students are assisted in selecting high school courses which will allow them to achieve their future goals. Assistance is also available in completing scholarship applications, in exploring careers, and in learning effective personal and social skills.

Educational records including courses taken, grades earned, results of standardized tests, and selected personal data are maintained for each student in the registrar's office located in the Counseling/Career Center. This information assists counselors as they advise students regarding their high school programs and future plans.

### **Teachers**

Our Teachers are specialists in the fields in which they teach and are eager for every student to get the most out of their classes. They are classroom leaders and are charged with following all policies and procedures established by the Board of Trustees and administration.

Each teacher is assigned a conference period as part of his/her teaching assignment. This period is set aside to give the teacher opportunity for carrying out plans for both classroom work and individual guidance with students. Another purpose of this period is to provide a teacher with a scheduled time to confer with parents. To make an appointment to see a teacher, parents should

telephone the office or email the teacher directly.

### **Secretaries**

The Secretarial staff is available to help administrators, teachers, and patrons with situations that deal with the day-to-day operation of the school. Every major office in the school has a secretary to help in any way possible

## **Instructional Assistants**

The primary responsibility of Instructional Assistants (IA) is to assist teachers in the necessary clerical and record keeping tasks in order to ensure that student data is accurate and current.

## **Custodians and Cafeteria Personnel**

The custodial staff is directed by a plant manager who assigns duties for custodians during both the day and night shifts. They are charged with the responsibility of maintaining and cleaning the entire school grounds and facilities. They also have the duty of keeping all systems and equipment operational for the entire school.

Cafeteria personnel provide wholesome, well-balanced, nourishing meals for the student body and the staff at a reasonable cost. Our cafeteria is managed by an experienced person who is trained in nutrition and management.

Courtesy should be extended to these individuals and concerns may be directed in an appropriate manner to the manager or the vice principal.

# **CAMPUS EXPECTATIONS**

## **ATTENDANCE**

Parents are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that their child comes to school and attends all scheduled classes. Students are expected to attend school and be on time to their classes--the first rule of success for a student is to arrive on time. Attendance is one of the principal's top priorities because students cannot learn in absentia, and the teachers cannot teach empty seats. State law and school policy require attendance every day that school is in session. Illness, doctor/clinic visits, a death in the family, court appearances, religious holidays, and school-sponsored activities are the only excusable reasons for nonattendance. The legitimacy of absences for other reasons will be determined by the principal or his designee. Students cannot exceed the following number of absences in order to earn credit: 8 absences fall semester, 9 absences for spring semester courses and 17 absences for year-long courses. Both excused and unexcused absences account for the total number of absences. Any students that are not in compliance with the 90% rule of the State Attendance Law will lose the privilege of attending social school events such as Prom and/or receiving their Verification of Enrollment.

## **Procedures To Follow When An Absence Occurs**

When an absence occurs for a non-school-related reason, the parent or guardian should provide the child with a note stating the reason for the absence(s) on the day of the student's return. The note should contain the student's full name, student ID #, date and periods of the absence(s). The note must be signed and dated by the parent/guardian, and it should include a daytime phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached. The student will take the note to the attendance office.

## **Late to School**

Being late to school is a violation of Texas state law. If a student arrives at school or class five minutes after the tardy bell, that student will be counted absent and must report to the attendance office for an admit slip. Classes start at 9:00 a.m., and students are expected to be in the classroom by this time. Students who are consistently late will be referred to the Associate Principal's office for disciplinary action.

## **Leaving School During the Day**

Students who become ill during the day must be excused through the health clinic or attendance office. A student who has a documented appointment with a health care professional during regular school hours will be considered present all day for every class if the student has attended a portion of that school day. The appointment should be supported by a note from the health care professional. The parent/guardian must sign the student in and out at the attendance office on the medical log sheet.

## **Closed Campus Policy**

Taft has a **closed campus policy**. When students board a bus or arrive on campus by other means, they are considered to be "in school." Before leaving campus, they must check out through the attendance office even if the first bell has not rung. Parents picking their child up before the end of the school day must sign their child out at the attendance office. The student will be considered **truant** if they are not properly signed out. This will be considered an unexcused absence.

## **Excused Absences**

When students are absent, make-up work will be allowed through arrangements with the teacher. Whenever possible, students should attempt to get assignments in advance of their absences. In the case of a long period of absence (3 or more days), parents may contact the receptionist to request homework assignments. In order to allow teachers adequate time to provide requested assignments, the homework will be available for pick-up with the receptionist one day after the request is made. Upon return to classes after any absences, it is the student's



responsibility to contact the teacher for missed assignments at the earliest possible date.

### **Attendance Recovery**

The Campus Attendance Committee has designated Attendance Recovery as an alternate way to make up work and class time for students in danger of losing credit due to absences. In order to regain credit due to excessive absences for extenuating circumstances, students will be allowed to recover attendance hour for hour during the teachers regularly scheduled tutoring time.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Students who are absent without their parents' permission or knowledge are considered truant. Students have three days after returning to school to clear their absence with a note or the absence will be considered unexcused. A warning notice will be issued on the third unexcused absence.

## **Tuancy**

Students who are truant will receive appropriate disciplinary action which may include (but is not limited to) a court referral. When a student is determined to be truant, their administrator may code the absence as "TRU". Absences due to truancy may not be recovered through Attendance Recovery.

## **Withdrawals**

When it becomes necessary for a student to withdraw from school, the parent and student should report to the attendance office. The parent may send a note requesting to withdraw their child but must come to school to sign the withdrawal application. Upon acceptance of a verified note, the student should attend scheduled classes in order to get clearance from each teacher. The student is expected to remove all items from his/her locker, turn in all textbooks and other school-issued items, and pay for any school property he or she has lost. Failure to clear properly will cause a delay in the withdrawal process.

## **Tardy To Class**

Students are required by law to be in class at the designated times. Students who are late are not only violating the law but disrupting the learning environment for other students. Students who are consistently late to class will be referred to the Associate Principal's Office for appropriate disciplinary action, including the loss of parking permits and off-campus lunch privileges. Students arriving to class over five minutes late will be considered absent and will be referred to the associate principal's office for truancy.

## **Change in Name, Home Phone Number, or Address**

The attendance office should be informed of any change in the student's name, phone number, or address. This information and notification of such changes should be given to the secretary in the attendance office immediately. It is important for the school to have this information in case of an emergency.

## **CONDUCT**

In order to maintain a safe and secure learning environment, students are expected to abide by the laws of the Federal Government, State of Texas, City of San Antonio, and policies and regulations of the Northside Independent School District. Students shall be held responsible for their conduct at school, in transit to and from school, and at any school-sponsored activity.

### **Classroom Policies**

1. **Students must bring** proper supplies to class.
2. **Students** shall be in class when the tardy bell rings.
3. **Students** will not loiter in the hallway or around the classroom door.
4. **Students** will show respect for teachers, classmates, and school property.

### **Social Behavior**

Students are reminded that the respect of all adults on the Taft/Communications Arts campus is expected.

### **Public Display of Affection**

Hugging, kissing and inappropriate physical contact will not be tolerated on campus or at school activities.

### **Harassment**

Harassment may include behaviors ranging from excessive teasing to intimidating physical contact. Since this usually happens when adults are not present, it is important for students to inform their teachers or school personnel when this happens. Students engaging in harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. (Sexual Harassment: see Section C)

### **Dress and Grooming**

For safety reasons, shoes such as house slippers and other types that might slip off easily are not appropriate for school.. Since chains may be deemed as a weapon under the Texas Penal Code (See Section C under Weapons), they may not be worn while on school property. Any chain not classified as jewelry will be confiscated immediately. The final determination as to whether an item is classified as jewelry, rests with the school Principal or designee.

Any item confiscated shall be returned only to the parent through the Associate Principal's office during school hours.

Because fads in dress change suddenly and frequently, other clothing items may be considered inappropriate by the building principal or designee. These adaptations to the dress codes will be communicated to the students as the need arises. (For additional information, see Section D)

Repeated dress code violations may result in a referral to the Associate Principal's office for disciplinary action.

### **Financial Obligations**

In order for a senior to participate in school-related activities including but not limited to prom, invitation distribution, cap/gown

distribution and graduation rehearsal, the student must be in good financial standing with the campus and the school district. Students must clear all debts and obligations prior to these events. Debts and obligations could occur from club, class, or organization dues; spirit, fine arts, and athletic organization supplies and activities; uniforms; textbooks; fundraising events; and any other financial debt or obligation from school-owned items checked out to the student.

### **Hall Passes**

Students out of any class must possess a hall pass signed by a member of faculty or staff. Any student out of class without a pass is subject to disciplinary action.

### **Nuisance Items**

Students are not allowed to carry a **skateboard** during the school day. Skateboards must be dropped off in the APO upon their arrival to campus and can be picked up after the dismissal bell. There is absolutely no skateboarding allowed on the premises of Taft High School.

A nuisance item may be anything that creates a distraction or a safety concern, or in some way disrupts the instructional environment. The designation of an item as a "nuisance" is at the discretion of the principal; these items are not permitted on campus.

### **Personal Electronic Devices/BYOD**

Devices may be used in the classroom; however, it is at the complete discretion of the teacher and must not interfere with instructional time.

### **Detention Hall**

When a student is assigned to a Detention Hall, s/he is expected to attend. Failure to report to the Detention Hall can result in being assigned to In-School Suspension.

### **In-School Suspension**

In-School Suspension (ISS) will be used as a disciplinary measure by the associate principal's office to help students assume more responsibility for their actions.

Students will be expected to successfully complete assigned ISS work, class work, participate in responsibility counseling, and demonstrate their ability to follow rules. Failure to follow ISS rules may result in suspension and a parent conference before a student can return to school.

### **Visitors**

All Parents and Visitors are required to register in the Administrative Office with the receptionist and indicate the reason for visiting the campus.

For student safety and security, parents and visitors must show a valid photo ID when registering. Upon sign-in, all Parents and Visitors will receive a Visitor's Pass that must be worn in a visible area on the person for the duration of their time on campus. They are also **required** to sign-out prior to leaving the campus.

### **Campus Safety- Metal Detectors**

The use of metal detectors will be used randomly throughout the school year. Their use will allow the random checks of students, staff, or visitors, and will be coordinated by NISD police and campus administration. This will also support the work of our police canine unit on campuses.

## **STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **School Pride**

Students at Taft/Communications Arts demonstrate Raider Pride by respecting themselves, one another, and the faculty and staff. We show pride in our campus by keeping the cafeteria, patio, classrooms, hallways and parking lot clean.

### **I.D. Cards**

1. Every Taft and Communications Arts student is required to display on their person an identification card. Students will have the opportunity to obtain an ID Card at Prep Days, as well as at the beginning of the school year. In the event of a lost ID card, please report to the APO to obtain a new one for a \$5 fee.
2. This card is the official student activity card and must be displayed on their person by the student at all times on campus.
3. Students are required to present this card to any official or authorized representative of the school upon request. Failure to do so is a breach of regulations and makes the student subject to disciplinary action.
4. I.D. cards are issued at no cost the first time a student registers at Taft/Communications Arts. Lost or stolen cards must be replaced at a cost of \$5.00 to the student. Returnees to Taft are charged a replacement fee unless they have their original card.

### **Internet Use**

The STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT FOR ACCEPTABLE USE OF THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM form must be filled out and signed before a student can have access to the internet.

## **Graduation**

The graduation ceremony is a school function, and being such, is part of the school year. The school year for a senior, ends with the completion of the graduation ceremony. Therefore, a graduating senior who violates the Student Code of Conduct, and as a result is assigned to an alternative placement for a period of time that extends through the date of graduation, will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Graduation is a dignified ceremony. Students should dress as if they are preparing to interview for an important job. Facial piercing (other than earrings) will not be permitted. Students are expected to observe proper etiquette during the entire graduation ceremony. While they are on the stage and receiving diplomas, students must keep their hands at their sides at all times. The only time hands may be lifted is when students are receiving diplomas from school board members and shaking hands with the superintendent. Students who raise their hands above their waists for any reasons other than receiving the diplomas or shaking hands may be removed from the graduation ceremony. Students demonstrating any other behaviors that serve to lessen the dignity of the event may be removed from the graduation ceremony.

## **School Dances**

Dances sponsored by the school, or any organization affiliated with the school, held on campus or at sites off-campus, will be open to Taft and Communications Arts students ONLY at the discretion of the administration. Students must be picked up within 30 minutes following the end of the event. Failure to do so will result in the revocation of privileges for attending extracurricular activities.

## **Students Selected for Popularity Courts**

Students are elected to courts in conjunction with various events held on the high school campus. Examples include but are not limited to homecoming court and prom court. It is the position of the district that these selections are based on popularity. However, if these court representatives are involved in activities that are extracurricular, or if the activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered extracurricular (i.e. Homecoming Court), then the students must meet all eligibility rules relating to extracurricular activities. Student participation in courts that are not considered extracurricular (i.e. prom court) must follow the guidelines as specified by the activity sponsor or the campus principal. Student participation on any popularity court will ultimately be at the discretion of the campus principal.

## **Bus Loading Area**

The bus loading area is for bus riders only. A separate traffic circle is provided for loading and unloading of students by car. As students wait for the arrival of their assigned buses, they must remain behind the railing or on the curb. Students should not stand in the street. Students must wait until their buses come to a complete stop before proceeding toward the buses. The bus circle is designed with the safety of our students in mind, and students violating the above rules will be subject to disciplinary measures.

## **Parking Permits and Lots**

Driving and parking a vehicle on the school campus is a privilege reserved for juniors and seniors only. Eligible students desiring to drive to school must register their vehicles with the campus police in order to obtain a parking permit. Registration of vehicles can be done through the Taft associate principal's office (APO). Registration requirements for each permit issued include a valid Texas driver's license, proof of liability insurance for the vehicle with the student listed as a driver on the policy, a current Taft/Communications Arts ID card, class schedule, and a payment of a \$20 fee. Each vehicle must be issued a separate numbered permit. Switching permits from one vehicle to another is strictly forbidden and will result in the loss of the student's parking privilege on campus. Allowing a non-registered driver to drive the vehicle on campus is also forbidden and carries with it the same penalty.

A Taft Administrator or Campus Police Officer will affix the parking permit to the registered vehicle. Parking permits are to be permanently affixed to the lower right-hand corner of the windshield. This permit entitles the student to park in the student parking areas only when space is available. The designated student parking lots are the "A" and "B" lots and all other parking locations are strictly prohibited. A & B parking lots are located in front of Taft HS and Communication Arts. Rules governing driving and parking on campus are subject to change if increased security measures are necessary.

Strict adherence to parking and driving rules is necessary for the safety of all students on the campus. The regulations also exist to ensure access to emergency response vehicles, buses and other essential vehicles. Furthermore, it must be clearly understood that Texas laws governing vehicular operation also apply on campus. Failure to follow these rules may result in a citation, loss of student parking, and being issued. Common sense and defensive driving will serve to provide a safe environment at Taft and Communications Arts High School.

Each driver must adhere to the following rules:

1. The 10-mph speed.
2. Parking is prohibited
  - On any curb, sidewalk or island
  - By a red curb, fire zone, in front of a fire hydrant
  - In any place designated as a loading zone or marked "no parking"
  - In front of a movable barrier
  - In any driveway, entrance or exit
  - In two spaces
  - In reserved areas (visitor spaces, faculty parking lot, etc.)
  - On lawn areas
  - If the vehicle is double parked
  - If the vehicle has no permit
3. If the vehicle is sold or is no longer in your possession, remove the parking permit from the vehicle and turn it into the APO.
4. If you have a valid parking permit and need to temporarily use another vehicle that is not registered at Taft and Communications Arts High School, you must report to the APO to get a temporary parking permit. A temporary parking permit can be used for a maximum of five days.
5. Overloading a vehicle with passengers is prohibited. Each person in a vehicle must be wearing a seat belt (e.g., a vehicle with six people must have six seat belts.).
6. Passengers are not permitted to ride in the bed of a pick-up truck.

7. Students who are absent from school or who leave campus earlier than the normal dismissal time are not allowed to return to the campus on the same day without specific permission from an administrator. This includes cases where the purpose is to pick up another student.
8. All persons must report accidents which occur on campus to the APO or campus police.
9. Students late to school three times in a nine-week period will have their parking permit revoked for 30 days.
10. Truancy in any form will result in the loss of parking privileges for all participants for 30 school days. Repeated offenses could result in permanent loss of parking privileges.

All drivers must exhibit responsible behavior when operating their vehicle on campus as noted in the ***Student-Parent Handbook***, Section Parking Permit and Lots.

Failing to follow any one or more of these rules will result in the loss of one's driving privilege on the Taft campus.

Additional disciplinary action by the associate principal's office is also possible.

- A. Vehicles that are properly registered at Taft/Communications Arts will receive two warnings (verbal or violation sticker). After two warnings for any violations, a parent will be notified. Any violation after a parent has been notified may result in towing of the vehicle without notice.
- B. Any vehicle that is not registered at Taft/Communications Arts will receive one violation sticker or a verbal warning by an administrator or campus police officer. In addition, an administrator may issue a written violation to the student for the violation which could result in a \$25.00 fine. A third violation notice or verbal warning may result in a wheel lock device (boot) being placed on the vehicle that is accompanied by a \$100 fine or the vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.
- C. If a student permit is revoked, the student is not permitted to operate or park any other vehicle on the Taft/Communications Arts campus. Further violations may result in additional consequences, up to and including towing.

### **After-School Pick-Up Procedures**

Taft High School is a closed campus. A closed campus means that the school reserves the right to deny access to individuals onto the school grounds.

Individuals arriving on campus for pick-up purposes are asked to keep the entrance lane cleared in order to facilitate a smooth flow of traffic. All non-school vehicles are restricted to the area in the three main parking lots, located at the front of the campus. Parking lot rules and regulations apply to all drivers. Drivers are asked to wait for students in marked parking spaces. The school reserves the right to request identification and/or a reason for being on the campus.

### **Post Football Game Pick-up Procedures**

1. Parents may use the "C" lot (far west entrance) to pick up their student.
2. Students with proper identification cards may enter the student parking lot for the purpose of picking up a game-related activity participant. Vehicles carrying students without proper Taft identification will be turned away. (Vehicles carrying an excessive number of students will also be directed to leave.)
3. Students from other schools will not be allowed on campus without prior approval from the associate principal's office.
4. Students waiting to provide rides must stay in the student parking lot. They will not be allowed in any other area.

### **Off Campus Lunch**

The Off Campus Lunch program is a privilege reserved for juniors and seniors only. Juniors and seniors having written permission on file with the APO may leave

campus provided they have the appropriate lunch sticker affixed to their ID card. Juniors and seniors returning from lunch late for the third time will lose their off-campus lunch privilege for 30 school days. Taking another student off campus who is not qualified for off-campus lunch will result in the driver losing parking and off-campus lunch privileges for 30 school days. Repeated offenses will result in the permanent loss of parking and off-campus lunch privileges.

### **Deliveries**

For the safety of our students and staff, absolutely no food or general deliveries will be allowed for any student on campus.

### **Flyers**

No student or group may distribute or post flyers for any activity or event unless it is approved by the group's sponsor and the administration. Generally, only Northside sponsored activities will be approved.

### **Posting Notices**

Any and all notices must be placed in designated areas only after they have been approved by the sponsor of the organization and the administration.

## **SCHOOL SERVICES**

### **Guidance and Counseling**

The Northside ISD Guidance Program delivers services to students, parents, and staff through four program components that Texas law (TEC 33.0005+) now prescribes for guidance services in Texas Schools.: Individual Planning, Guidance Curriculum, Responsive Services, System Support.

The Guidance program is a developmental educational program designed to help students acquire skills for social, personal, and academic success through planned educational experiences and activities.

Conferences with counselors are encouraged for students, their parents, and teachers at any time there is a need for special assistance with the student's educational, career, or personal concerns. Each junior and senior will be scheduled for a conference



to review his/her school record and to discuss future educational and career plans. Efforts will be made to contact every student in each class during the year to encourage early educational and career planning.

For additional information please visit the Northside web page under Guidance and Counseling.

## **College Preparation**

The entrance requirements of colleges vary. The individual student should check the website or catalog of the college he or she plans to attend and follow the particular recommendations of that college regarding high school courses to be taken. The Career Center, located in the Counseling Center, maintains a library of college catalogs for students' use and computers are available to research college websites.

## **Career Center**

The Career Center is available to assist students in learning more about themselves and the type of career they wish to pursue upon leaving high school. The Career Center offers many different types of occupational information designed to help students research the career fields of interest to them. The Career Center offers the following services to each student upon request:

1. Scholarship information.
2. Summer programs.
3. Computers for student use to assess interests, likes, and dislikes, possible suitable careers and educational information, and the DISCOVER program.
4. Information on a variety of post-secondary options, not limited to colleges and universities, are available for student use.

## **Registrar**

### **Student Records**

The Registrar maintains student records. Educational records including courses taken, grades and credits earned, results of standardized tests, and attendance are housed in the Registrar's Office. Student records are treated as highly confidential, and information is released only to authorized persons concerned with the student.

### **Transcripts**

Transcripts of a student's scholastic achievement record and state test scores may be obtained on request. Students who want copies of transcripts sent to colleges, employers, or other agencies should make their requests two weeks in advance and online at <https://nisdtx.scriborder.com/>. The cost for transcripts is \$3.00 each for current students and \$5.00 for former students. The additional amount is to cover the cost of retrieval and processing. Official transcripts will only be sent to schools or agencies designated by the requesting student (with parental signature if the student is under eighteen years of age). The parental signature is required only one time, allowing the Registrar to send copies as requested.

## **Health Service**

If a child becomes ill or is injured at school, the school nurse will give first aid only and notify the parent. She does not diagnose illnesses, but takes note of symptoms and notifies the parents of her observations. In an extreme emergency, EMS or an ambulance will be called.

## **VOE Forms**

Before the age of 18, each student must have a Verification of Enrollment (VOE) form in order to receive their initial driver's license. To be eligible to receive a VOE form students must comply with the guidelines set forth by the Texas DPS Headquarters. You may view these guidelines as the Texas DPS Website; [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov). **VOE requests must be submitted prior to the day of their appointment at the Texas Department of Public Safety. After submitting a request, allow 24 hours for processing. Completed VOE forms will be available from the Taft Attendance Office.**

## **Lockers**

Lockers are optional to all students and may be requested throughout the year in the Associate Principal's Office. Students may use the lockers when storing books and personal items. Responsibility for lost or stolen items is not assumed by the school or the administration. Every locker left unlocked will be considered out of use and its contents removed. Both **William Howard Taft and Communications Arts High School have sufficient lockers. The sharing of lockers is prohibited.** Locker problems should be reported to the Front Office. Each student is responsible for removing all belongings from his/her locker before the last day of the school year.

## **Telephones**

Office telephones are for business only and students are not to use them without permission. Telephone messages for students can only be accepted in cases of emergency from parents. Class will not be interrupted for telephone calls.

## **Lost and Found**

Students who find anything of value on the grounds or in the building are expected to turn it in to the associate principal's office, and the office staff will attempt to find the rightful owner. Students who lose anything should notify the lost and found department in the associate principal's office and identify the article.

## **LIBRARY**

Taft Library Mission Statement: In support of the mission of Northside ISD and the Department of Library Services, The Taft library provides support and leadership for Taft and Communications Arts teachers and students. In the Taft library, the student comes first, and all programs and activities encourage and support the growth, development, and enrichment of our students through their direct involvement in research, reading, and the effective use of technology.

Home access to the online card catalog is available at <https://northsideisd.follettdestiny.com/>

### **Library Rules**

1. Library hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
2. Students may check out up to three items.
3. Books are loaned for a three -week period and may be renewed unless a hold has been placed on the books.
4. The student is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name until the name has been cleared.
5. If a book has been lost or damaged, the student will be required to pay for the book. If a book which has been lost and paid for is found in good condition, the student may request a reimbursement of the amount paid by submitting the receipt and a completed request for reimbursement form.
6. Students using the library are required to sign in and out on the log-in computer.

## **CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Membership and Club Charters**

Membership in clubs and organizations is open to all students. Students are encouraged to participate in clubs and organizations as they can profit from a wide range of experiences in their high school career.

All clubs and organizations have charters on file in the APO. Any student(s) or teacher(s) desiring to start a new club must submit a written charter and have approval of the administration.

### **Eligibility Requirements for All Offices**

#### **Entrance**

1. Candidates must have completed and passed all courses for the previous school year.
2. Candidates must not have more than two (2) "Needs Improvement" and/or one (1) "Unsatisfactory" citizenship grade for the previous school year.
3. Candidates must possess the ability to be a leader by being a hard worker with a good attitude. They must be willing to organize projects, speak in front of groups, if necessary, and be willing to meet before or after school as often as one time a week or more often as necessary.
4. Candidates will be screened by their teachers and administration for citizenship, leadership, and scholarship.

#### **Maintenance - Removal from Office**

1. Officers must maintain an overall average of 75 or higher in all classes throughout the school year with no grade falling below a 70 in any one class.
2. Officers missing more than two (2) scheduled meetings will be placed on probation. Missing a third meeting will result in removal from office.
3. If any officer fails to meet any of the above criteria, the student will be placed on probation for six (6) weeks. If there is a second probationary period, it will result in removal from office for the remainder of the school year.
4. Applications must be submitted by the deadline on the application form. No late applications will be considered.

#### **Class Officers**

Under no circumstances will one person be allowed to hold both a class and student council office at one time.

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Northside ISD recognizes the benefits of teams, clubs, and organizations that represent the school outside of the normal school day. These organizations assist in building leadership and good citizenship and in supplementing the curriculum taught during the school day. School-sponsored organizations may be either co-curricular or extra- curricular. FM (LOCAL)

### **Publications**

#### **Taft**

*Raider Review*

The school newspaper keeps the student and the faculty members informed of academic, athletic, and extracurricular activities.

***Unity***

The school yearbook is a pictorial record of events which occur during a particular school year.

## **Communications Arts**

### ***Unity***

Yearbook classes publish this visual document of student life at Communications Arts.

### **Air Force JROTC**

ROTC is an academic and participation program available to physically fit students in all grades. The curriculum includes air science instruction and exposure to leadership activities such as human relations, management techniques, and speaking skills. Participation in promotions and membership in color guard, drill team, briefing teams, etc., is competitive and based on "the best person for the job." Qualified cadets can receive an academy appointment or AFROTC college scholarship. Uniform and books are provided at no cost to the cadet. There is no military obligation; however, two and three years of successful AFJROTC completion entitle the enlistee to increased rank and pay upon completion of basic military training.

### **U.I.L. Activities**

William Howard Taft High School will participate in the full range of U.I.L. activities to include academic, speech, literary, drama, music, and athletic competition. It is the purpose of these programs to provide students and sponsors an opportunity to compete.

### **Band**

The William Howard Taft "Raider" Band plays for pep rallies, parades, concerts, and many other events during the year. They perform at football games during half-time activities. The band competes in the following Interscholastic League events: U.I.L. Marching Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and Concert/Sight-Reading Contest.

### **Vocal Music**

The Taft High School Vocal Music Department includes an auditioned mixed choir (Chorale), a women's choir (Treble Choir), and a select small vocal ensemble (Show Choir). These groups present a variety of concerts each year and compete in U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest and Concert/Sight-Reading Contest. An annual spring trip to a choral competition out of town is one of the many rewards for the hard work and dedication required of each singer. Students can "letter" in choir and receive a letter jacket for vocal music after meeting the necessary requirements.

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Each year William Howard Taft and Communications Arts recognize the performance of outstanding students in the areas of academic, vocational, leadership, and service to the school and community at an awards assembly. The method of selection of the recipient is at the discretion of the teacher. Teachers may consider academic excellence, achievement based upon ability, or improvement. Service and leadership awards are given at the discretion of the administration.

## **SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS**

Student Council and National Honor Society

## **SPIRIT ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Cheer**

Cheerleaders are the spirit leaders for the student body. An administrative procedure has been developed for membership selection.

### **Highsteppers Dance Team**

This organization is the dance team of William Howard Taft High School. This is the performing group for the Taft Spirit Organization.

### **Silver Star Drill Team**

This organization is the drill team of William Howard Taft High School. This is a performing group for the Taft Spirit Organization.

### **Sidekicks Pep Squad**

This organization seeks to promote school spirit in all aspects of school life. Membership is open to students who are interested in working for this goal.