

CONTENTS

Purpose	1
Philosophy and Objectives	1
Our School	2
Academics and Curriculum	2
Admissions (Non-discriminatory Policy)	4
Attendance	5
Responsibilities of Parents and Guardians	7
Student Responsibilities	8
Rules and Regulations	9
Discipline	11
Grievances	12
Appearance	13
Finances	15
Appendix A - References	16
Appendix B - Clean and Unclean Meats	17
Appendix C – Harassment Policy	19
Appendix D – Weapons at School	20

Note:

The use of the word “parent” in this handbook shall include the term “parent/guardian.”

PURPOSE

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint patrons with our school, its standards of conduct, policies, and principles that are deemed vital for the successful operation of the school.

PHILOSOPHY & OBJECTIVES

Seventh-day Adventists believe that their students are the children of God; their teachers are servants of God. Their schools are commissioned to follow after the mind and will of God, the knowledge of which is communicated by revelation.

Educational efforts are directed toward self-understanding and the full development of each student's character. This includes a true knowledge of God, and companionship with Him in study and service. We encourage the students to draw close to Christ so that they will reflect His likeness.

"True education means more than the pursuit of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, and spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world, and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come."¹

Waterford Adventist School is dedicated to the preparation of young people for unselfish service to God and to their communities. Above everything else, we desire to lead our students to establish and maintain a personal walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Waterford Adventist School strives to teach its young people to *think*, to *do*, to *be*: honest, courteous, obedient, self-forgetful. Thus they will discriminate in the use of leisure time and the choice of entertainment, developing and preserving sound mental and physical health. They will do their best in every activity, because of a sense of responsibility to God and their fellow man.

The **Mission of the Waterford Adventist School** is:

1. **To help** our students know God and have a vital, personal relationship with Him and be ready for Christ's Second Coming,
2. **To prepare** our students to be successful citizens in the world by maintaining high academic standards,
3. **To train** our students to be soul winners, to be good neighbors in our community, and to reach out in friendship to all.

OUR SCHOOL

Waterford Adventist School is operated by the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Waterford Riverside Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Waterford Adventist School is located on Pontiac Lake Road between Airport Road and Crescent Lake Road on the banks of the Clinton River.

It consists of two large well-equipped classrooms, a kitchen, a gymnasium, an office and other miscellaneous facilities situated on several acres of lawn, playground, and athletic field.

We are located within easy traveling distance of many museums, parks, refuges and nature centers; making it possible to enrich our classes with various field trips and outings.

ACADEMICS & CURRICULUM

Waterford Adventist School is an accredited elementary/middle school and is part of the Seventh-day Adventist worldwide educational system. In addition to religious training we offer a basic high school preparatory curriculum.

Our course of study includes the following subjects:

Art	Music
Bible	Physical Education
Computer Literacy	Practical Arts
Language Arts	Science-Health
Mathematics	Social Studies

The school operates a growing library of good literature. Students are encouraged to develop a love of good books. Students shall show respect to the Bible as the inspired Word of God. All students will be required to own a Bible, for use in devotions and Bible classes.

Monthly Bible labs, consisting of Community outreach experiences, are provided to help students learn to apply what they are taught in Bible and other classes.

Daily morning worship is held during school hours as well as Week of Prayer two times each year.

Other out-of-school activities might be planned such as campouts, missionary activities, etc.

Students in grades 1-4 will be encouraged to join the Young Hawks Adventurer Club and students in grades 5-8 will be encouraged to join the Pontiac Chiefs Pathfinder Club, where various nature and craft classes are taught, along with many camping, hiking, and other recreational activities.

To give the students a chance to gain experience in public performance and to give the community the opportunity to see our students in action, we sponsor various programs during the year. Among these are a Thanksgiving or Christmas program, the Investiture program, Eighth Grade Graduation and various Sabbath Services.

We believe that cleanliness is next to Godliness; we believe that the school should be representative in appearance and that a part of a pupil's education is to learn to work, take responsibility and have civic pride. The students may be expected to take part in certain work assignments as directed by the teacher as a part of a work-study program.

High scholastic standards are fundamental in the education of youth. Our daily challenge is to provide the best teaching tools and methods to enrich the lives of the students who attend this school. Our school board and faculty have a program in harmony with the State of Michigan, the Lake Union Conference Department of Education and the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Department of Education.

In order to graduate from Waterford Adventist School, students must achieve passing grades in all subjects.

Students may not take correspondence courses while in attendance except with consent of the faculty.

ADMISSIONS

Waterford Adventist School has been established primarily for the youth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, membership in the church is not a requirement for admission. Students in Kindergarten (when

offered) through Eighth Grade who express and demonstrate a definite interest in receiving a Christian education are eligible for admission. No religious test is applied to those desiring admission; however, only those students who show due respect for the Word of God, maintain a reverent attitude toward that which is spiritual, and conduct themselves in harmony with the standards of Christian education as upheld by the Seventh-day Adventist Church should apply for enrollment in the school.

In all of its schools, including Waterford Adventist School, the Seventh-day Adventist Church admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications of admission, scholarship programs, and extracurricular programs.

Waterford Adventist School is not equipped to handle children and youth with severe learning, medical or behavioral challenges including young people whose lives center in insubordinate, aggressive and violent behavior. The school board will not knowingly accept such students. The school reserves the right to refuse admission to any student who it deems will undermine the mission of WAS. All applications are subject to board review and approval.

Admission is based on the satisfactory evidence of the following:

1. Any child applying for admission for the first grade must be at least six years of age by December 1. A birth certificate should be presented at the time of registration as proof of age, which is needed for school records.
2. A medical report from a family physician must be submitted by students entering school for the first time, fifth Grade, or a student new to the state of Michigan. All students must have their immunizations up-to-date, including Hepatitis B for those entering first grade. If you are not willing to immunize your child(ren), you must get a waiver from the Health Department that will bring your student(s) into compliance. Any special conditions existing which would exclude a student from normal school activities should be stated.
3. All students transferring from another school will be required to present a report card or transcript from the former school.
4. All tuition accounts must be cleared from the past year or a satisfactory written statement regarding the clearing of this account must be given.

5. All students requesting admission for the first time, whose parents are not members of the Waterford Riverside SDA Church, will be required to submit a completed application and two references. These references could include a teacher, a pastor, or another unrelated character reference.
6. Final action on all applications for admission will be taken by the school board each year following registration or at the earliest opportunity after we receive all the required forms for late enrollees.

ATTENDANCE

The purpose of the attendance system of our school is to insure each student's achievement of the fullest possible return from his/her investment .

1. Punctual and regular attendance at all school sessions and functions will be expected. School hours are 8:30 A.M. to 3:45 P.M. Monday thru Thursday and 8:30 A.M. and 12:45 P.M. on Friday. Students should arrive no earlier than 8:20 a.m. or leave any later than 4:00 P.M. Monday thru Thursday or 1:00 P.M. on Friday.
2. Students shall, upon arrival at school in the morning, report immediately to their classroom.
3. Teachers must be furnished with written excuse from parent or guardian of student in all cases of absence from sessions or part of a session of a school day. The written excuse is due the day the child returns to school. The date and the reason for the absence and the signature of the parent/guardian is to be included in the excuse. A note from the student's physician is also acceptable.

5

4. As a general rule, permission will not be given to be absent from school for other than legal reasons. Legal reasons for non-attendance include:
 - a. Verified illness of the student.
 - b. All types of medical services when an appointment cannot be obtained outside of school hours. Please

notify the teacher at least one day before the appointment.

- c. Bereavement or loss of immediate family.
5. Work missed during excused absences must be made up for full credit. It is the student's responsibility to check with his/her teacher as to how to accomplish this. Two days are allowed for each excused day absent, in which to make up any work missed.
6. Any absence other than legal excused absences are considered unexcused.
7. School work for unexcused absences must be made up within two days and will receive a penalty for late work.
8. Parents should request permission in advance of the absence in the event that it is necessary for a student to be absent for reasons other than those stated as legal reasons for non-attendance. School work missed during a period of approved unexcused absence may be made up according to the discretion of the teacher. Parents should check with the teacher before the absence as to how the work missed may be completed.
9. Students are expected to be on time for all appointments.
10. School will be open on all regular school days. We generally close if Waterford and/or Pontiac Public Schools close due to severe weather. If school closes for any non-scheduled reason, parents will be notified by telephone.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

"The parent's work of education, instruction, and discipline underlies every other. The effort of the best teachers must often bear little fruit, if fathers and mothers fail to act their part in faithfulness."²

"In the formation of character no other influences count so much as the influence of the home. The teacher's work should supplement that of the parents, but it is not to take its place. In all that concerns the well-being of the child, it should be the effort of the parents and the teachers to cooperate."³

1. We would encourage each parent to cultivate a friendly acquaintance with the teacher. If a problem arises, please see the *Grievance* policy beginning on page 12 of this handbook.
 2. Parents should refrain from making critical remarks about the teacher before any of the pupils at any time. You are your child's influence. Respect for the teacher from you will encourage proper respect from your child, and therefore promote a better learning atmosphere.
 3. Parent-teacher conferences are beneficial to the education of your child. Please attend when scheduled. If you wish a special conference please contact the teacher. We are always at your service.
 4. Parents are urged to provide a nourishing breakfast to begin the day.
 5. Please prepare your child's lunch to conform with the health standards of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We would prefer that you prepare vegetarian lunches, but we will allow Biblically clean meat, fish, or fowl such as beef, chicken, turkey, and clean fish. Unclean meats such as pork (pepperoni, ham, bacon, etc.), shrimp and shellfish (clams, lobster, crabs, etc.) are inappropriate as are caffeine drinks. Please also see Appendix B for the Biblical reasons for clean and unclean meats.
 6. Please limit sweets at all times, including holidays.
- 7
7. Provide suitable time, space, and atmosphere to encourage your child to complete homework promptly.
 8. Meet your financial obligations to the school promptly. If a problem arises, talk to the treasurer to make arrangements immediately.

9. During a school year, if any damages to the school are done by a child, such costs will be added to the student's account. (See *Finance*, last paragraph, page 14.)
10. A child whose illness is in a contagious stage, who is suspected of having a communicable disease, or who has head lice must be kept at home.
11. Please know and understand your student's responsibilities as expressed in the next two sections.
12. **Parent Involvement:** We strongly encourage each parent to become involved in his/her child's educational experience at WAS. There are many opportunities for parent involvement including programs, home and school meetings and volunteer tasks.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

"Students, cooperate with your teacher. As you do this, you give them hope and courage, and at the same time you are helping yourselves to advance....They will appreciate every effort made by you to cooperate with their work."⁴

Keep in mind that the ultimate objective of Christian education is the development of sound character. A beautiful character is of value in the sight of God. Such beauty will attract, not mislead.

The regulations of the school are based upon Christian principles of conduct as taught and practiced by the Seventh-day Adventist Church; supported by a program that promotes self-control, self-discipline, honesty, and modesty.

8

Students are expected to become familiar with the purposes, requirements, and regulations of the school before admission. The cooperation of the students is expected. All regulations adopted by the faculty or school board and announced to the students have the same force as those published in this bulletin.

The school board has designated that the principal and teachers are responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of school regulations.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Written field trip permission must be turned in by students by the day of trip or participation will not be allowed.
2. Any student wishing to bring a guest to school should obtain permission from the teacher at least one day in advance.
3. The school telephone may be used by students only with permission of teacher.
4. Medications of any type will not be permitted without specific authorization by the student's parent or guardian or by the student's personal physician. A form provided by the school must accompany over-the-counter medication brought to school. This form is available on our website under "Application Forms." Prescription medication must be in its original pharmacy container and must be accompanied by a doctor's note.
5. Students, whose influence is found to be detrimental, undermining the fundamental principles or arousing antagonism to the spirit and methods of the institution, will come under discipline.
6. The following actions are not acceptable on campus or at school activities and will result in school discipline:

Level I:

- a. Discussing movies/TV programs, arcade/video games, non-Christian music, etc.
 - b. Violating school dress standards.
 - c. Disorderly behavior.
 - d. Possessing magazines, books or items (such as fantasy cards) deemed unfit for a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school
- 9
- e. Non-compliance with classroom rules and policies.
 - f. Chewing gum on campus.
 - g. Throwing objects inside or outside the building (except during organized activities when allowed)
 - h. Possessing handheld electronic games, compact discs, mp3 players, radios etc. (Cell phones must be given to

the teacher at the beginning of the day and will be returned at the end of the day.)

Level II:

- a. Undermining the religious ideals of the school.
- b. Showing attitudes of insubordination.
- c. Showing disrespect to teachers.
- d. Showing disrespect for school property or the property of others by damage, destruction, etc.
- e. Using profane language.
- f. Gambling or possessing gambling devices.
- g. Dishonesty, lying, cheating, or stealing.
- h. Leaving the classroom without permission.
- i. Using classroom technology inappropriately.
- j. Being within 20 feet of the river (except during organized activities when allowed)

Level III:

- a. Injuring, degrading, bullying or hazing others. See Appendix C.
- b. Engaging in intimate social relationships.
- c. Possessing or using matches, lighters, explosives (firecrackers, caps, etc.) or potentially harmful instruments or weapons of any kind (knives, guns, etc.) See Appendix D.
- d. Using or possessing alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, or other illegal substances.
- e. Illegally entering school grounds or building.
- f. Leaving campus without teacher/parent permission.
- g. Engaging in unwanted touch or physical force (pushing, pulling, hitting, tripping, etc.)
- h. Tampering with fire alarms, extinguishers and other safety equipment.
- i. Intentional damage or destruction of school property or the property of others.

DISCIPLINE

The classroom teacher is responsible for the discipline in each room and during any activity that they are supervising. All teachers are responsible for student behavior on campus. Students must recognize the authority of any teacher to maintain discipline and be willing to submit to their advice

and counsel.

Consequences for unacceptable behavior may include, but not be limited to, the following:

Level I:

1. Confiscation of contraband as appropriate.
2. Pull a card.

Level II:

1. Confiscation of contraband as appropriate.
2. Pull at least one card.
3. Possible fines or work relative to the offense.
(See *Finance*, last paragraph, page 14.)
4. Possible suspension.
5. Possible failure of assignment/test for cheating.
6. Conference with teacher and parent.

Level III:

1. Confiscation of contraband as appropriate.
2. Notification of law enforcement as appropriate.
3. Possible suspension/expulsion from school.
4. Possible meeting with School Discipline Committee.

Choices Chart: Each student is assigned four cards at the beginning of each day: green, yellow, red, and black. For each level one or level two infraction, a card will be pulled moving the student to the next level of discipline.

Green means no infractions. Every student begins every day “on green.”

Yellow means there has been an infraction and you have received warning that self-control needs to be reinstated. There are no consequences at this level with the exception of confiscation of contraband as appropriate.

Red means a student has not chosen self-control so has come under school discipline. The consequences may include:

1. Head down on desk for 15 minutes.
2. Loss of certain privileges such as missing play/recess times.
3. Suspension from class.
4. Conference with the principal.

11

Black means a student has chosen not to comply with school policies at least four times during the same day so has lost the privilege of being in the classroom. Consequences may include:

1. A phone call to the parents describing the situation.
2. Suspension from school for the rest of the day (possibly longer)

When counsel, advice and warning are not effective, teachers may use

reasonable negative consequences to effect behavior changes. Parents will be notified by the teacher concerning chronic classroom or playground misdemeanors. It is expected that the parent will cooperate with and support the teacher.

When in the judgment of the school board a pupil is not receiving benefit from the school, or when his conduct is detrimental to other students, or when he willfully and persistently refuses to cooperate, he will no longer be retained.

GRIEVANCES

From time to time questions arise from misunderstanding of classroom practices, conflicts in opinions, lack of information on procedure and genuine concerns about school processes. The questions, if not handled in a responsible manner, could undermine the effectiveness of the school, compromise Christian principles and foster personal animosities. In the interest of preserving unity among the members of the school family and promoting an effective teaching/learning environment for the students, the following policy based on the principles found in Matthew 18:15 has been adopted for WAS.

When questions concerning school arise, the following procedure needs to be followed:

1. Privately consult the teacher, school employee, or board member directly involved. In most cases the problem can be resolved quickly and easily at this stage. Enter the process with a genuine desire to solve the problem in a manner that will serve the best interests of the individual and the total school program.
2. If no satisfaction can be obtained by talking to the individual, the matter needs to be discussed by the teacher or school employee, the concerned party, and the principal or school board chair. If the concern involves only a member of the board, this step will not be necessary. Go directly to step three.
3. Should a solution still not materialize, the matter needs to be taken to the school board. The school board will honor a request for a hearing when the chairperson receives a letter to that effect, submitted at least one week prior to the regularly-scheduled board meeting, and is provided evidence that the above steps have been adequately pursued. A special board meeting will be called only at the discretion of the chairperson of the school board. The board will address grievance issues in executive session with only

the parties immediately involved in the situation present. The party presenting the grievance may choose to bring along or be represented by one responsible member of the constituency when meeting with the board.

Discussing the issue with those not directly involved, at any stage of these proceedings, can only exacerbate the situation and make finding a solution that much more difficult. The ethics of such a practice is also questionable. Should it become necessary at any stage to write letters to any of the parties concerned, a copy of that letter needs to be sent to the chairman of the board and the principal.

Problems can be solved, concerns can be addressed, and difficult hurdles can be overcome when all parties enter the process without compromising the Christian principles of mutual love and respect.

Persons, who, after consultation with the teacher and the school board, still find themselves in disagreement with the methods used, should withdraw their child from school.

APPEARANCE

Students should dress in a modest, healthful manner. "No education can be complete that does not teach right principles in regard to dress....A person's character is judged by his style of dress. A refined taste, a cultivated mind, will be revealed in the choice of simple and appropriate attire."⁵

Simplicity, neatness, cleanliness, appropriateness, and modesty are the standards of good taste in dress. Indecent and improper clothing will not be permitted in our school. The school reserves the right to determine what is considered improper.

The student dress code is as follows:

1. Pants must be solid fabric. This is not referring to a print in the fabric. It means no cutouts or lacing down the side or anywhere else. No snaps down the sides. Jeans will be allowed, but no low cut or tight fitting jeans/pants. They must be worn at the waist. No baggy pants or jeans that will show underclothing. Elastic waist pants will be allowed, but no sweatpants. No large logos on the pants or jeans (other than on the back of the waist such as the Wrangler logo where the belt would be). Pants should be in good repair (no holes, patches or thread bare spots).

2. Knee length shorts and skirts that are properly fitting (following the same guidelines as the pants) will be allowed.
3. Tops that are allowed include polo style shirts, color turtlenecks and mock turtlenecks, and color button-up dress shirts or blouses. Shirts hems should remain below the waistline at all times. All clothing should be free of characters, pictures, and words. T-shirts and sweatshirts with a special school logo can be worn. No hoodies or other clothing with hoods will be allowed in the classroom.
4. Skirts and jumpers will be allowed. They need to be knee length or longer, and they may not have slits above the knee.
5. Extremely tight clothing is immodest and will not be allowed.
6. Low-necked, sheer, or immodest apparel is not to be worn.
7. Clothing must be neat, clean and in good repair.
8. Backpacks, lunch boxes and other items should not have things on them that promote the supernatural, magic, or the occult; alcohol; tobacco; movies, television, or video games; sexually suggestive words or pictures; or anything that is not in keeping with the standards of the Seventh-day Adventist church. The teachers will use their discretion in these areas.
9. For recess and climbing playground equipment, girls should wear slacks/shorts under their dresses.
10. Jewelry such as rings, bracelets, earrings and necklaces, even if attached to the clothing, are not to be worn. Ponytail holders may not be worn except to hold back hair.

11. Obvious make-up and colored finger-nail polish are not to be worn.
12. Marking the skin or body is not allowed.
13. Extreme and distracting hair styles are not allowed.

“Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is any thing praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” Philippians 4:8

FINANCE

See Addendum *Finance Sheet* for tuition rates and registration fees for the current year.

Waterford Adventist School operates on a tuition payment plan divided into 10 equal payments. Tuition is due and payable by the first of every month each month August through May. The August tuition charge is due and payable at the time of registration along with the registration fee.

A 5% discount will be allowed if the full year's tuition is paid by the time of registration. A 2% discount will be allowed if the full semester's tuition is paid by August 1 and/or January 1.

Each family will be charged a registration fee per student to cover expenses of books, insurance, library fund and educational supplies needed to carry on a successful program.

Tuition is due by the 10th of each month unless arrangements have been made and approved by the School Board. Students whose accounts become two months in arrears may be asked to withdraw from the school until the account is paid in full, or appropriate arrangements have been made and approved by the board.

APPENDIX A

References

1. Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1903), 13.
2. Ellen G. White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education* (Nashville: Southern Publishing Association, 1923), 69-70.
3. Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1903), 283.
4. Ellen G. White, *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1943), 553.
5. Ellen G. White, *Education* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1903), 246.

APPENDIX B

Biblical Explanation of Clean and Unclean Meats

The following explanation is taken from *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, 2nd ed. (Boise, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2005) 318-319.

“2. Clean and unclean flesh foods. Only after the Flood did God introduce flesh as food. With all vegetation destroyed, God gave Noah and his family permission to eat flesh foods, stipulating that they were not to eat the blood in the meat (Gen. 9:3-5).

“Another stipulation Scripture implies that God gave Noah was that he and his family were to eat only what God identified as clean animals. It was because Noah and his family needed the clean animals for food as well as for sacrifices (Gen. 8:20) that God instructed Noah to take seven pairs of each kind of clean animal, in contrast to only one pair of each kind of unclean, with him into the ark (Gen. 7:2, 3). Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14 provide extensive expositions on clean and unclean food.¹

“By nature, unclean animals do not constitute the best food. Many are either scavengers or predators – from the lion and swine to the vulture and the bottom-dwelling, sucker-type fish. Because of their habits, they are more apt to be carriers of disease.

“Studies have revealed that ‘in addition to the moderate amounts of cholesterol found in both pork and shellfish, both foods contain a number of toxins and contaminants which are associated with human poisoning.’²

“By abstaining from unclean foods, God’s people demonstrated their gratefulness for their redemption from the corrupt, unclean world around them (Lev. 20)24-26; Deut. 14:2). To introduce anything unclean into the body temple where God’s Spirit dwells is less than God’s ideal.

“The New Testament did not abolish the distinction between the clean and unclean flesh foods. Some believe that because these dietary laws are mentioned in Leviticus, they are merely ceremonial or ritualistic, so are no longer valid for Christians. Yet the distinction between clean and unclean animals dates back to Noah’s day – long before Israel existed. As principles of health, these dietary laws carry with them an ongoing obligation.”³

1. See Shea, “Clean and Unclean Meat.” (unpublished manuscript, Biblical Research Institute, General Conference of SDA).

2. Winston J. Craig, “Pork and Shellfish – How Safe Are They?” *Health and Healing* 12, No. 1, (1988): 10-12.
3. The New Testament concern for holiness is consistent with that of the Old Testament. There is a spiritual as well as a physical interest in people’s well-being (Matt. 4:23; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Peter 1:15,16).

Mark’s statement that Jesus “declared all foods clean” (Mark 7:19, RSV) does not mean that He abolished the distinction between clean and unclean foods. The discussion between Jesus and the Pharisees and scribes had nothing to do with the *kind* of food, but with the *manner* in which the disciples ate. The issue was whether or not the ritual washing of hands before meals was necessary (Mark 7:2-5). In effect, Jesus said what defiles a person is not the food eaten with unwashed hands but the wicked things from the heart (Mark 7:20-23), because the food “does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated.” Thus Jesus declared that all foods eaten with unwashed hands are “clean” (Mark 7:19). The Greek word for “food” (*bromata*) used here is the general term for food that refers to all kinds of foods for human consumption; it does not designate just flesh foods.

Peter’s vision of the animals, recorded in Acts 10, did not teach that unclean animals had become fit for food; instead, it taught that Gentiles were not unclean and that he could associate with them without being contaminated. Peter himself understood the vision in this way, explaining, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man uncommon or unclean” (Acts 10:28).

In his letters to the Romans and Corinthians (Rom. 14; 1 Cor. 8:4-13; 10:25-28) Paul addressed the implications for Christians of the widespread practice in the Gentile world of offering flesh foods to idols. The issue among the early Christians was whether the eating of food offered to idols was an act of worship. Those strong in their faith did not believe it was, and thus they would eat all edible things offered to idols. Those who did not have such strong faith used only vegetables, which were not offered to idols. Paul urged that no one should despise those who eat vegetables, or judge those who “eat all things” suitable for food (Rom. 14:2).

Paul warned against future heresies that would forbid believers to partake of two things God gave humanity at Creation – marriage and food. The foods involved are all food God had created for human consumption. Paul’s words here should not be taken to mean that unclean foods were “created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth” (1 Tim. 4:3).

APPENDIX C

Harassment Policy for Waterford Adventist School

Harassment – Bullying

Bullying is defined as the repeated intimidation of others by real or threatened of infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or the attach on the property of another. It many include actions such as verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs related to an individual’s race, religion, national origin, age, gender, appearance, or physical challenges.

Students who engage in any act of bullying while at school or at any school function will be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions.

Harassment – Hazing

Hazing is a form of harassment, abuse, and victimization. Hazing is about the abuse of power and violation of human dignity. Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation intentionally created, any method of initiation, any pastime or amusement in connection with an activity or organization which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical, psychological, or emotional harm.

Soliciting, encouraging, aiding, or engaging in hazing at school or during school-sponsored activities, whether or not it occurs on school premises is strictly prohibited.

APPENDIX D

Weapons at School

Weapons

Protection of our children and young people must be of the highest priority.

While recent reports indicate that schools, by and large, are safe and orderly places of learning, we also recognize that we live in a violent society and as such our schools are not immune to the possibility of violence. For this reason, the following policy shall apply to all schools within the Michigan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Students are prohibited from bringing any firearm or weapon to school or to a school-sponsored activity. A student who possesses, carries, exhibits, or displays any weapon or any object which can be mistaken as a weapon, or any item apparently capable of producing bodily harm in a manner which, under the circumstances, manifests an intent to intimidate another or warrants alarm for the safety of others shall be subject to immediate discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion. Parents and the appropriate law enforcement agencies shall be notified. Appropriate counseling is required before the student returns to school.

Threats of violence made by students to other students or to school employees involving firearms or weapons are to be taken seriously and must also be dealt with in a determined manner. Parents are to be notified and there may be a need for possible police involvement. Appropriate discipline might include suspension or expulsion, depending on the nature and severity of the threats.

Exceptions for Historical Artifacts

This policy is not intended to preclude the occasional special display or use of historical artifacts or other appropriate props for valid educational purpose even if the artifact or prop in questions falls within the definition of a weapon, provided advance written approval for the display or use is obtained. Such approval is required from the school principal or head teacher.