

Cell Phones: Studies show cell phones negatively impact student mental health and academic performance. Many teachers have used cell phone caddies to reduce the distraction and negative impact of cell phones in the classroom. Starting this year, all teachers will use this system. Students will place their phones in the caddie upon entering each class. Additionally, wifi will not be accessible on student cell phones.

Advisory Period: We are excited to be introducing an advisory period to meet student needs in a new way. The period will occur every Wednesday. A committee of teachers from both Chippewa and Dakota worked all of last year and throughout the summer to develop plans for this. Please see an [informational presentation](#) and [check out the website](#).

Attendance: In recent years chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of school days) has been an area of concern for educators at CVHS, and nationally. Due to our concerns with this issue, we will continue to reinforce the importance of regular attendance and also continue to create an environment that supports students wanting to be here. Another effort to improve attendance is an adjustment to our attendance policy. For the upcoming school year, we will be allowing no more than 15 absences, excused or unexcused, in any class. Students with more than 15 absences will be subject to Attendance Probation and then the loss of credit for the class.

Securely Online Hall Pass System: We are instituting a new online hall pass system to help with our new advisory period and with attendance. With this system, teachers and/or students will be able to request appointments during advisory time. Also, for regular hall pass purposes, the system will allow us to keep track of passes, times, and locations, and to set limits as needed.

AI: AI has begun to, and will continue to, impact many aspects of our lives, including education. Our district has been working on policies and resources for teachers, parents, and students to address this. This year you will see a new Acceptable Use Policy as well as different classroom policies. Each teacher will clarify if, when, and how AI tools can be used in their classroom. With AI comes questions about cheating, including deciding what is cheating. We must also critically evaluate the information that AI provides because it may include bias or "hallucinations." We must be active, not passive, users. AI will cause us to look for ways to preserve traditional types of assignments and also give us an opportunity to try new approaches. We encourage you to stay informed and up-to-date with developments in AI. (See attached AI Parent Guide).

Raising the Bar: We all know that Covid was a huge disruptor of education. During those Covid years, we extended a lot of grace when it came to our expectations and our grading practices. This was important due to the nature of our situation. And even now, as we move beyond that time, we will continue to provide grace and understanding, as life will continue to involve challenges. But at the same time, it is time to "raise the bar." It's time to push ourselves to be the best that we can be.

Having Each Other's Back: Forty-five percent of CVHS seniors surveyed at the end of last year disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement: Students treat each other with respect at my school. That is disappointing. It means that we have some work to do as we strive to create an environment for success. One of our mantra's for the year is going to be to "have each other's back." We need to care for, and about, each other, not just our best friends, but our whole school community. Regardless of any differences in how we look, or what we believe, we need to be kind and supportive.