



STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025 - 2026

Algoma Venture Academy
Student Handbook



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Introductory Information

As an instrumentality of the Algoma School District, all AVA students are also students of the Algoma School District. Therefore, everything set forth in our handbook is under the authority of the Algoma School District Board of Education and approved by the Algoma Venture Academy Governance Board. The Governance Board reserves the right to establish different procedures and policies as necessary to achieve the mission and vision of the charter school. These admissions are included in this handbook.

Venture Academy abides by and promotes the established goals of the Algoma School District Board of Education:

Board Goal #1: HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We will provide learning pathways that will give our students access to relevant instruction, experiences, and workforce skills using innovative practices and technology so that they have the opportunity to attain the knowledge, skills, and mental strategies needed in order to reach their highest potential.

Board Goal #2: THRIVING WORKFORCE

We will attract, hire, develop, empower, and retain individuals who embrace our district goals and actively participate in a work culture using innovative thinking, collaboration, and contributions of talent.

Board Goal #3: OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

We value every student in our district, recognizing that each student is unique. We will offer a safe, supportive learning environment that rewards individual effort, creativity, and critical thinking and is focused on achievement for all learners.

Board Goal #4: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

We will manage our resources to maximize the success of the district goals and provide value to our community. We will actively seek out partnerships and outside opportunities to supplement our funds and will work to maintain a stable mill rate for our taxpayers.

Board Goal #5: COMMUNITY & WORLD CONNECTIONS

We will create an environment that embraces character building and cultural awareness through authentic experiences, learning with and from one another, to meet the changing needs of our community and world.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Algoma School District Board of Education and the Algoma Venture Academy Governance Board are committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District. Both governing boards do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities. [School Board Policy 2260.](#)

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex (including sexual orientation or gender identity), in its education programs or activities, and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and its implementing regulations, not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The Board is

committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment.

The Board prohibits sexual harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. When the District has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating sexual harassment and will take appropriate action when an individual is determined responsible for violating this policy. Members of the School District community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy. Third Parties who engage in sexual harassment are also subject to the disciplinary sanctions listed in this policy. The Board will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment ongoing supportive measures as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs and activities.

Notice of the Board's policy on nondiscrimination and the identity of the District's Compliance Officer(s) (see below) will be published on the District's website, posted throughout the District, and included in the District's recruitment statements or general information publications.

The Board of the Algoma School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to admission and employment. The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) is/are:

Marie Ott

Director of Pupil Services and Special Education

(920) 487-7001

1715 Division Street, Algoma, WI 54201

mott@algomaschools.org

Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Board has adopted a grievance process that provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process is included in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities, which is available at: www.algomawolves.org. The grievance process specifically addresses how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond.

APPLICATION WINDOW & PROCESS

The application window for the fall semester will coincide with the open enrollment period for Wisconsin public schools – the first Monday of February through the last Friday in April. Families living beyond Algoma School District lines will need to open enroll in the district prior to applying. If your student is a resident of the Algoma School District but is not currently enrolled, you will need to register in the Algoma School District prior to applying. Once your application has been submitted, a follow-up meeting will take place to ensure your student's success in this learning pathway, to answer any questions, and to finalize enrollment in AVA.

All students that apply are eligible to secure a spot in our school unless submissions exceed the spots available for the school year. If submissions exceed spots available, we will admit students based on a public lottery after the application window closes. All new applicants will make up a lottery pool and a random selection process will take place by computer application. Families will be notified of their child's enrollment status within one week of the application window closing. A waiting list will be maintained for students who are not selected in the random lottery. Returning students and/or siblings of current enrolled students at Algoma Venture Academy will have first priority of enrollment.

Students may enroll and attend AVA by the first day of the fall and spring semester so long as space permits in accordance with the AVA lottery procedures and waitlist guidelines. Students who do not secure a spot at Algoma Venture Academy are still eligible to attend their district-determined public school, or open-enroll into an alternate school of choice when the proper procedure is followed as determined by each district.

STUDENTS: PROCESS FOR VOICING CONCERN

1. Take your concern to the person closest to the problem. If you need help with the conversation, please ask your: **Advisor**
2. If your needs are still not met, take the concern back to your: **Advisor**
3. If your needs are still not met, take the concern to: **Lead Teacher of Algoma Venture Academy**
4. If your needs are still not met, take the concern to: **Algoma Venture Academy Principal**
5. If your needs are still not met, take the concern to: **Algoma Venture Academy Governance Board**
6. If your needs are still not met, take the concern to: **Algoma School District Superintendent**
7. If your needs are still not met, request a meeting with **Algoma School District Board of Education**

DAILY SCHEDULE

Algoma Venture Academy students follow the same start and end times as the Algoma High School. Algoma Venture Academy does not have designated class periods; please consult with your student and/or an AVA educator to get more detailed information on your student's personalized daily schedule. The District-provided lunch will be offered at the following times, unless otherwise determined:

District Lunch (if not Band/Chorus)	11:40 - 12:10
District Band/Chorus Lunch	12:35 - 1:05

If your student is enrolled in a class(es) at the Algoma Middle/High School, please see the District's Student Handbook to find a schedule of the designated class periods.

Academic Information

REQUIREMENTS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

(Board Policy)

Normally four (4) full years of attendance will be required; however, under special circumstances, the Algoma Venture Academy principal may adjust this requirement when it is in the best interest of the student. Students may apply during their 1st semester of their senior year for early graduation. See Algoma Venture Academy's principal for information and forms.

Credits will be obtained with the successful completion of learning targets throughout the school year. The following graduation requirements have been established by the Governance Board of Venture Academy, and have also been approved by the Algoma School District Board of Education:

English	4.0 credits
Social Studies	3.5 credits
Science	3.0 credits
Math	3.0 credits
Health and Wellness Education <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health• Wellness Offerings (Physical Education)	0.5 credits 1.5 credits
College & Career Exploration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internship• Certification• Personal Finance• CTE Career Exploration Elective	0.5 credits 0.25 credits 0.25 credits 1.5 credits
Electives	6.5 credits
Total credits for graduation	24.5 credits

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Credit for transfer students will be evaluated by the school administrator and treated in the following manner:

- A. Transfer students from within the State of Wisconsin shall meet graduation requirements established by the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Board of Education of the School District of Algoma.
- B. Transfer students from outside of the State or private school shall not be denied the opportunity to graduate from high school in the normal four year period because of noncompliance with the

above, provided they have successfully completed their course work to the date of transfer and were on schedule (credit-wise) to graduate in their previously attended high school and continue to maintain satisfactory performance while enrolled in Algoma Venture Academy. The Algoma Venture Academy principal will evaluate their record and make allowances according to their year in school at the time of transfer to Algoma Venture Academy. Where possible, attempts will be made to complete deficiencies.

- C. Transfer students from a home-based private educational program shall meet graduation requirements established by the State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Board of Education of the School District of Algoma.
- D. For students transferring out of Algoma Venture Academy and into another school, the AVA principal will work with the school district's principal to determine acquired credits.

GRADUATE EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA

Students unable to earn a competency diploma will be encouraged to pursue their GED through Northeast Wisconsin Technical College.

GRADING/ASSESSMENT

Algoma Venture Academy does not use traditional letter grades to determine the academic success of a student. Instead, students are assessed based on their completion of grade-level learning targets throughout the academic year. The scale utilized for assessment of learning targets is as follows:

Incomplete	The student has not attempted the assigned learning target.
Developing	The student is continuing to build their knowledge in the learning target. Additional learning needs to occur before moving into proficiency.
Proficient	The student has demonstrated a sufficient understanding of the learning target.
Advanced	The student has demonstrated an exemplary understanding and broader application of the learning target.
Expert	The student has taught the content of the learning target to an authentic audience in a real-world context.

Students' progress is monitored through the Headrush project-based learning platform.

In the event that a student transfers in or out of Algoma Venture Academy and requires letter grades, a request to transfer learning target completions to grades shall be made to Algoma Venture Academy's Lead Teacher.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with exceptional educational needs (EEN) as authorized by Section 118.33 Wisconsin Statutes shall be provided accommodations as determined by the Board and approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

A diploma may be granted if the following requirements are met: (a) the student is enrolled in an alternative education program approved by the board; and (b) the school has determined that the student had demonstrated a level of proficiency in English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education, Health and 9 elective credits equivalent to the proficiency which a student would have attained if he/she had completed graduation requirements.

STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Algoma Venture Academy students are advocates for their own education. All students must sign the AVA Student Contract which is developed and amended throughout the course of the academic year. In the event that a project or class is not fulfilling their needs, the student should facilitate a conversation with Algoma Venture Academy's Lead Educator and develop a shared action to remediate the conflict.

COURSES WHICH REQUIRE ADDITIONAL COST

If your child should choose to enroll in a class offered by the Algoma Middle/High School, any classes requiring additional fees will be identified in the Course Description Handbook. Students will be notified if additional fees are required in any other classes or projects offered by Algoma Venture Academy.

Students enrolled in Venture Academy may only enroll in up to two Algoma Middle/High School classes to maintain flexibility in schedules needed for project/community-based learning and field excursions.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Students' progress can be monitored through the Headrush learning management platform which parents can access through their parent portal. Questions regarding a student's progress should be directed to their designated advisor. Students send weekly status reports home to parents every Friday to inform parents of current progress on projects and in classes.

SURVEYS

No student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, their parents, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- A. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or their parents;
- B. mental or psychological problems of the student or their family;
- C. sex behavior or attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- F. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;

- G. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parents; or
- H. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program).

Parents have the right to inspect, upon request, any instrument used in the collection of personal information before the instrument is administered or distributed to the student. The parent will have access to the instrument within a reasonable period of time after the request is received by the building principal.

Attendance Information

Algoma Venture Academy abides by all school board policies found within the 5000 policy series so long as regulations do not prohibit the goals of the school.

ATTENDANCE

For the attendance policy, reference [School Board Policy 5200](#). Access policies through the Algoma School District website under School Board -- Policies -- Enter Public Site.

It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians of the absent student to telephone the Middle/High School Office at (920) 487-7001 ext 2302 on the day of the absence to inform school officials of the absence and the reason for it.

HABITUAL TRUANCY

A student will be considered truant if s/he is absent part or all of one (1) or more days from school during which the School Attendance Officer, principal, or a teacher has not been notified of the legal cause of such absence by the parent of the absent student.

A student will be considered a habitual truant if s/he is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of five (5) or more days on which school is held during a school semester. [School Board Policy 5200](#).

Student Conduct Information

STUDENT WAYS OF BEING

Respect for the rights of others, consideration of their privileges, lived experiences, histories, identities, cultures, beliefs, race, and cooperative citizenship shall be expected of all members of the school community.

Respect for real and personal property, pride in one's work, achievement within the range of one's ability, and personal commitments to kindness and honesty should be maintained in Algoma Venture Academy.

The District Administrator shall establish procedures to carry out Board policy and philosophy, and shall hold all school personnel, students, and parents responsible for the conduct of students in schools, on school vehicles, and at school-related events. [School Board Policy 5500.](#)

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

The Board of Education recognizes the right of each student to attend school for the purpose of receiving an education. The disruption of the educational program of the schools by disorder or any other purposeful activity will not be tolerated.

For purposes of this policy, disorder shall be any deliberate activity by an individual or a group, whether peaceful or violent, which is reasonably likely to disrupt the normal operation of the school. [School Board Policy 5520.](#)

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Algoma School District Board of Education and Algoma Venture Academy Governance Board shall require each student of this District to adhere to the Code of Conduct promulgated by the administration and to submit to such disciplinary measures as are appropriately assigned for infraction of those rules. Such rules shall require that students:

- uphold the "Student Ways of Being" (*outlined in the above section*)
- allow yourself and others to have the opportunity to be engaged in learning;
- listen to, respect, and build empathy towards those around you including students, teachers, principals, community members - *as outlined in* [School Board Policy 5600.](#)

DRUG PREVENTION

The Algoma Venture Academy Governance Board and the Algoma School District Board of Education recognize that the misuse of drugs is a serious problem with legal, physical, and social implications for the entire school community.

For purposes of this policy, "drugs" shall mean:

- all dangerous controlled substances as so designated and prohibited by Wisconsin statute;
- all chemicals which release toxic vapors;
- all alcoholic beverages;

- any prescription or patent drug, except those for which permission to use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy;
- "look-alikes";
- anabolic steroids;
- any other illegal substance so designated and prohibited by law.

The Algoma School District Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of any drug and any drug-paraphernalia at any time on District property or at any District-related event. [School Board Policy 5530.](#)

WEAPONS

The Algoma School District Board of Education prohibits students from possessing, storing, making, or using a weapon in any setting that is under the control and supervision of the District for the purpose of school activities approved and authorized by the District including, but not limited to, property leased, owned, or contracted for by the District, a school-sponsored event, or in a District vehicle, to the extent permitted by law.

The term "weapon" means any object which, in the manner in which it is used, is intended to be used, or is represented, is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or property damage, as well as endangering the health and safety of persons. Weapons include, but are not limited to, firearms (including, but not limited to, firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)), guns of any type whatsoever, including air and gas-powered guns (whether loaded or unloaded), knives, (subject to the exceptions below) razors, with unguarded blades, clubs, electric weapons, metallic knuckles, martial arts weapons, ammunition, and explosives. [School Board Policy 5772.](#)

TOBACCO

The Algoma School District Board of Education is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a tobacco and smoke-free environment. The negative health effects of tobacco and nicotine use for both users and non-users, particularly in connection with secondhand smoke, are well-established. In addition, students less than eighteen (18) years of age are generally prohibited by law from purchasing or possessing cigarettes and other tobacco products.

For purposes of this policy, "use of tobacco" means to chew or maintain any substance containing tobacco, including smokeless tobacco, in the mouth to derive the effects of tobacco, as well as all uses of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, any other matter or substances that contain tobacco, in addition to papers used to roll cigarettes and/or the smoking of electronic, "vapor," or other substitute or simulated forms of cigarettes, clove cigarettes and any other lighted smoking devices for burning tobacco or any other substance. This policy also prohibits the use of other products containing nicotine, including but not limited to nicotine patches and nicotine gum. Accordingly, the Algoma School District Board of Education prohibits students from using or possessing tobacco or nicotine in any form on District premises, in District vehicles, within any indoor facility owned or while leased or contracted for by the District and used to provide education or library services to children, and at all District-sponsored events. [School Board Policy 5512.](#)

CHEATING AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

1. plagiarism (of ideas, work, research, speech, art, music, etc.);
2. forgery of another's work;
3. presenting the results that are the product of an artificial intelligence (AI) platform as one's own where the use of AI was not specifically allowed by the teacher as part of the assignment (See Policy 7540.08 - Artificial Intelligence (AI));
4. downloading or copying information from other sources and presenting it as one's own;
5. using language translation work of someone else or using technology when the expectation is doing one's own translation;
6. copying another person's work;
7. allowing another person to copy one's own work;
8. stealing another person's work;
9. doing another person's work for them;
10. distributing copies of one's work for use by others;
11. distributing copies of someone else's work for use by others for academic gain or advantage;
12. intentionally accessing another's work for the purpose of presenting it as one's own for academic gain or advantage;
13. distributing or receiving answers to assignments, quizzes, tests, assessments, etc.
14. distributing or receiving questions from quizzes, tests, assessments, etc.

In order to ensure the integrity of the educational process and to promote fair and equal opportunities for all students, except as outlined below, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Natural Language Processing (NLP) tools (collectively, "AI/NLP tools") is strictly prohibited for the completion of school work. The use of AI/NLP tools, without the express permission/consent of a teacher, undermines the learning and problem-solving skills that are essential to academic success and that the staff is tasked to develop in each student. Students are encouraged to develop their own knowledge, skills, and understanding of course material rather than relying solely on AI/NLP tools and they should ask their teachers when they have questions and/or need assistance. Unauthorized use of AI/NLP tools is considered a form of plagiarism and any student found using these tools without permission or in a prohibited manner will be disciplined in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. (See Policy 7540.08 - Artificial Intelligence (AI))

Any student found doing any of the above will not receive credit for the work and will need to submit authentic work in order to achieve the learning targets needed for credit.

STUDENT HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Algoma School District Board of Education and the Governance Board of Algoma Venture Academy to maintain an educational environment that is free from all forms of harassment, including sexual harassment. This commitment applies to all District operations, programs, and activities. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of harassment. This policy applies to conduct occurring in any manner or setting over which the Algoma School District Board of Education can exercise control, including on school property, or at another location if such conduct occurs during an activity sponsored by the Algoma School District Board of Education.

The Algoma School District Board of Education will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate actions to eliminate it, including suspension or expulsion of students and disciplinary action against any other individual in the Algoma School District community. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our students.

The Algoma School District Board of Education will vigorously enforce its prohibition against harassment based on the traits of sex (including transgender status, change of sex, or gender identity), race, color, national origin, religion, creed, ancestry, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state civil rights laws (hereinafter referred to as "Protected Characteristics"), and encourages those within the Algoma School District community as well as third parties, who feel aggrieved to seek assistance to rectify such problems. Additionally, the Algoma School District Board of Education prohibits harassing behavior directed at students for any reason, even if not based on one of the Protected Characteristics, through its policies on bullying. [School Board Policy 5517 & 5517.01.](#)

VALUES AND BELIEFS

The Algoma School District shall also provide for the reasonable accommodation of a student's sincerely held religious beliefs with regard to examinations and other academic requirements. Requests for accommodations shall be made in writing and approved by the building principal. Accommodations may include, but not necessarily be limited to, exclusion from participation in an activity, alternative assignments, time away from school to participate in religious activities, and opportunities to make up work missed due to religious observances. Any accommodations granted under this policy shall be provided to students without prejudicial effect.

CONDUCT ON TRIPS

The Algoma School District Board of Education must approve all out-of-state/country trips at least **two (2) months** in advance of the trip. Behavior and attendance policies on any school-affiliated trips or activity are consistent with daily standards set forth by school board policy.

SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

The District Administrator, the principal, or a teacher designated by the District Administrator may suspend a student for up to five (5) school days or, if a notice of expulsion hearing has been sent, for up to fifteen (15) consecutive school days, or ten (10) consecutive school days for each incident if the student is eligible for special education services under Chapter 115, Wis. Stats. [School Board Policy 5610.](#)

IN SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

In-school discipline will only be offered at the discretion of the AVA principal for offenses found in the Student Code of Conduct. [School Board Policy 5610.02.](#)

Student Activities Information

POLICIES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

The below policies and procedures that concern all students have been adopted for the school year based upon the recommendation of a student-parent-faculty sounding committee.

A. Class Dues

1. The dues charged for the normal operation of the class and for the class project shall be limited to a maximum of \$10.00 per year for Freshmen and Sophomores. \$15.00 per year for Juniors and Seniors
2. Students who are financially unable to pay their dues may contact an advisor to their class indicating this inability and a faculty-student committee may designate an alternate method of meeting this obligation.
3. Only those who have met their class dues obligations may vote on class projects and be eligible for selection to the Homecoming Court, Prom Court, or other activities of that type.
4. Each class is required to keep accurate records of all transactions of each student within the class. Students who have not participated in the class activities may "buy in" at any time and be a part of the project goal selected by the class, based upon the per-student cost at the time they wish to rejoin or belong to the class so as to gain the benefits of the class.

B. Prom Court

1. Shall not exceed eight junior couples, plus crown bearers and the past year's king and queen.
2. The procedure of selecting the junior couples shall be determined by the class.
3. In order to be eligible for selection to the Prom court, students must have paid all of their class dues to date of selection.
4. Students must be passing all classes and have no unexcused absences.

C. Homecoming Court

1. In most cases, students should have participated in four semesters of fall sports.
2. Where numbers are an issue, a class may vote to change requirement #1.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Selection for membership is by the faculty council and is based on outstanding scholarship, character, leadership and service. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities. Since the NHS is an honor and a privilege, students who choose not to live up to the standards of the National Honor Society may be removed from the NHS.

1. Students who have a current GPA of 3.50 or higher and are of sophomore standing or older will be eligible for membership.
2. Eligible candidates will be required to pick up, complete, and return a Student Activity Information Form. These forms will be available from the chapter advisor. Parents/guardians of eligible candidates will be notified of their candidacy and the requirement regarding this Student Activity Information Form.
3. Eligible candidates will be notified of their eligibility and the availability of the forms. Any forms not picked up will be destroyed, and those candidates will not be considered for membership.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The Algoma Venture Academy Student Government is responsible for representing the AVA student body in matters of school policy directly affecting students. If you have suggestions or complaints, contact the AVA Student Government to voice your concerns.

If a student has an innovative idea for a project and identifies the need for start-up funds, they can fill out a student innovation funding request. Once submitted to the Governance Board, students will have the opportunity to present, pitch their idea, and seek approval to receive the requested funds. Student innovation funding requests must be submitted to the AVA Governance Board at least one week prior to the meeting at which the student wishes to present their funding request.

STUDENT CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students are encouraged to participate in the many extracurricular activities offered. The following opportunities are available:

CLUB OR ORGANIZATION

Math Team
One Act
F.F.A.
Musical
National Honor Society
Ski Club
Student Council
Yearbook
FBLA
Destination Imagination
Chess Club
Dungeons and Dragons
Fishing
Bowling
Hope Squad

SPORTS

FALL

Cross Country (Coed)
Football (Boys)
Volleyball (Girls)
Soccer (Coed)

WINTER

Basketball (Boys)
Basketball (Girls)

SPRING

Baseball (Boys)
Softball (Girls)

ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR PRACTICE TIMES

Athletics/Co-curriculars may not begin before 3:30pm. Students are not allowed to suit up until school is out. Academics take priority over athletics/co-curriculars; therefore, a teacher can deem it necessary for a student to miss part or all of practice in order to work with them to remain in good academic standing.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS AT ATHLETIC CONTESTS

Interscholastic athletics exist for their educational value, and spectators are guests at this experience. Spectators and fans must uphold the ideals of good manners and sportsmanship.

Prohibited activities at co-curricular activities include but are not limited to the following: alcohol consumption, name calling, taunting, ridicule, official harassment, body passing, object passing, etc.

Any person violating these prohibitions or displaying unacceptable conduct will be subject to, but not limited to, the following:

1. Expulsion from the contest or event
 2. Forfeiture of future attendance or participation privileges
 3. Citation
 4. Fine
- A. General regulations at athletic contests
1. Conference regulations prohibit the following at athletic contests:
 - a. Stomping and heel kicking of bleachers.
 - b. Throwing of confetti
 - c. Use of noisemakers unless used in conjunction with a bonafide school cheer and/or as a part of a school's pep song being led by cheerleaders.
2. Visiting schools shall conform to any host school policies and regulations not listed above.
- B. A conference sportsmanship trophy is awarded to the conference school displaying the best sportsmanship throughout the school year. This award is voted upon by the principals of the conference based upon the input from each school's sportsmanship committee consisting of students, coaches, and spectators.

ATHLETIC/CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

In order to participate in **ALL** Co-Curricular activities, which includes Prom and Homecoming Courts, students must meet the below standards:

1. Students are required to maintain a passing grade in all classes and must have earned no "F's" at the end of the most recent grading period prior to the start of a particular athletic or activity

season. During the season, grades will be checked consistently by the Athletic Director and coaches/advisors as outlined in the Co-Curricular Code of Conduct. If any student is found not passing his or her classes, the probationary process will be followed according to the Code.

2. The parent/guardian of a student who wishes to participate in the above must attend a pre-season meeting conducted by the coach/s of the activity before the student will be permitted to participate.
3. All fees must be paid, along with any other fee, **before participation**.

Students who represent the Algoma School District in athletic and co-curricular activities are held to a higher standard and may receive discipline above and beyond students not involved in such activities.

Miscellaneous Information

CLOSED CAMPUS – LUNCH

The Algoma School District has a closed campus lunch hour. Federal regulations prohibit any competition with the lunch program; therefore, lunches such as pizza, sub sandwiches, etc. cannot be delivered to the school from establishments. Students are not to share food. Glass bottles will not be permitted in the lunchroom. At all times, students must check in/out at the office and have parental permission to leave the campus. Students leaving campus without permission will be considered truant.

LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Information regarding the food service program is updated annually on our district website.

All lunches must be paid for in advance. Payments can be made at the school office, mailed to 1715 Division Street, Algoma, WI 54201, or paid online:

1. Go to Algoma School District's web page: www.algomawolves.org
2. Click on Student Support, Food Services
3. Click on eFunds for Schools
4. Click on Fund Lunch
5. Login as a guest, or create an account. (If you need to know your Lunch ID, please contact the school).

Effective January 5, 2015 the Algoma School District will only refund lunch/breakfast money to students if their balance is over \$5.00 when they leave the district or graduate. Amounts \$5.00 and under will not be refunded unless a written request is made to transfer lunch/breakfast money to a sibling's account.

WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the event severe weather conditions require school to be called off before starting or through early dismissal, this information can be obtained by School Messenger, listening to radio stations WDOR, WBDK, or television channels 2, 5, 11, and 26.

HOMELESSNESS

Many circumstances facing families can fit the definition of homelessness. Free lunch and other accommodations can be offered to families in this situation. Call the Homeless Liaison, District Superintendent, at 920-487-7001 extension 2303 for information.

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Algoma School District Board of Education recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style, culture, identity expression, and individual preference. The Algoma School District Board of Education will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, except when their choices interfere with the educational program of the schools. [School Board Policy 5511](#).

Accordingly, the District Administrator shall establish such guidelines that are necessary to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes. Such guidelines shall prohibit student dress or grooming practices that:

- present a hazard to the health or safety of the student himself/herself or to others in the school;
- interfere with school work, create disorder, or disrupt the educational program;
- cause excessive wear or damage to school property;
- prevent the student from achieving their own educational objectives because of blocked vision or restricted movement;
- have drug/alcohol references.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Each student driving a motor vehicle to school must register the vehicle in the High School Office by Friday of the 1st week of school. Students who acquire their driver's license during the school year and begin driving to school must register their vehicle at that time. Motor vehicles must be registered regardless of how often they are driven. Only motorized vehicles licensed for highway travel are permitted on school grounds.

Vehicles parked inappropriately may be ticketed or towed at the owner's expense. Vehicles parked on school property are subject to searches where reasonable suspicion of violation is present. **Vehicle traffic is not allowed to use the South exit after school due to bus safety issues.**

Parking in the school lot is a privilege and may be lost due to violations of school expectations.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

"Personal Communication Devices(PCDs): Policy 5136". This policy has been adopted by the Algoma Middle/High Schools and the Algoma Venture Academy. The main points of the policy are as follows:

Students may use PCDs before and after school, during their lunch break, in between classes as long as they do not create a distraction, disruption or otherwise interfere with the educational environment, during after school activities (e.g., extra-curricular activities), or at school-related functions. Use of PCDs, except those approved by a teacher or administrator, at any other time is prohibited and they must be powered completely off (i.e., not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.

INTERNET AND COMPUTERS

Any student who wishes to use the internet and/or computers must agree to all terms of the Algoma School District's Media Acceptable Usage Policy and have a password.

LOCKERS

Lockers are the property of the school, which are loaned to the students for the school year and may be inspected at any time. It is for the convenience of the student to be used solely and exclusively for the storage of outer garments, footwear, and school related material and students are not to use them for any other purpose. **Changes for any reason must be cleared through the office.** Objectionable pictures are not allowed in lockers. A fee will be assessed to students for damage to their assigned lockers. Students will be held responsible for the cleanliness of the locker both inside and outside. **Do not give your combination to anyone.** Penalties in terms of fines may be given for lockers found unclear or defaced in any manner. In order to maintain a Drug Free School environment, police canine units may be used to inspect student lockers at any time.

BUILDING CLEANLINESS/SAFETY

All students share responsibility for keeping the building clean and safe.

1. Throw trash in proper containers.
2. Pick up any paper on the floors.
3. Do not tamper with fire extinguishers
4. Obtain lead educator and/or principal authorization before posting any information throughout the school.

USE OF THE LIBRARY

The library has been established and designed to help students attain their education. Conduct in the library is held to the same standards as in the classroom.

VISITOR INFORMATION PROCESS

All visitors must report to the High School main office during school hours in order to receive authorization to visit elsewhere in the building. Any person other than a student or staff employee is regarded as a

visitor and must report to the building office to check-in and pick up a visitor's ID badge. Visitors should check out in the main office when departing.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Name	Position	Email	Ext.
Tyler Matthews	Technology Education	tmatthews@algomaschools.org	2116
Marie Baumann	Business Education	mbaumann@algomaschools.org	2211
Erin Ballone	Family & Consumer Economics	eballone@algomaschools.org	2108
Tom Plagenz	Mathematics	tplagenz@algomaschools.org	2101
Jesse Brinkmann	Superintendent	jbrinkmann@algomaschools.org	2303
Jacob DeLaurelle	MS/HS Spanish	jdelaurelle@algomaschools.org	2206
Alexis Gauger	Special Education/Pathfinder	agauger@algomaschools.org	1400
Logan Rankin	Special Education	lrankin@algomaschools.org	
Courtney Schmidt	Guidance Counselor	cschmidt@algomaschools.org	2306
Katie Horn	AVA Principal	khorn@algomaschools.org	2120
Haleigh Pavlat	Social Studies	hpavlat@algomaschools.org	2102
Nanette Kulm	Special Education	nkulm@algomaschools.org	2109
Penny Lemberger	AVA Science Educator	plemberger@algomaschools.org	2207
Debra Mohrbacher	MS English/MS HS Art	dmohrbacher@algomaschools.org	2216
Jennifer Massey	Instrumental Music District Wide	jmassey@algomaschools.org	2121
Eric Nelson	Science	enelson@algomaschools.org	2209
Eric Rasmussen	MS/HS Science	erasmussen@algomaschools.org	
Erin Olson	School Secretary Assistant	eolson@algomaschools.org	2301
Brenda Pairolero	MS HS English & BETA Facilitator	bpairolero@algomaschools.org	2202
Angela Weber	MS HS English	aweber@algomaschools.org	
Jeff DeMeuse	MS HS Social Studies	jdemeuse@algomaschools.org	2215
David Robertson	MS/HS Principal	drobertson@algomaschools.org	2111
Abigail Robinson	AVA Lead/English Educator	arobinson2@algomaschools.org	1600
Elisabeth Klumpyan	AVA Social Studies Educator	eklumpyan@alomaschools.org	
Christopher Robinson	Chemistry/Physics	crobinson@algomaschools.org	2203
Steven Schmiling	English	sschmiling@algomaschools.org	2201
Tori Schmidt	School Nurse	tschmidt@algomaschools.org	1110
Wade Vandervest	Mathematics	wvandervest@algomaschools.org	2103
Shannon Cole	MS HS Mathematics	scole@algomaschools.org	2212

Alex VanLanen	Social Studies	avanlanen@algotaschools.org	2104
Hayley Vaske	School Psychologist	hvaske@algotaschools.org	1228
Susan Salzsieder	School Secretary	ssalzsieder@algotaschools.org	2302
Andy Krautkramer	Health and Wellness Education	akrautkramer@algotaschools.org	2215
Stephanie Robertson	ELL Coordinator	srobertson@algotaschools.org	

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Students who violate bus regulations will be subject to disciplinary action, the least of which may be the suspension of their privilege of riding the bus for a period of time. Parents will be notified of rule infractions and the disciplinary action that is taken. Conduct on buses for a special trip is expected to be the same as on daily trips to and from school.

The school also provides transportation for students to attend school-sponsored events or field trips held away from the school. Students who participate are required to ride the bus to the event and to return by bus from the event. Special permission may be granted if special arrangements are made in advance between the parent, the teacher in charge of the event, and the principal.

BUS RIDER REGULATIONS

1. ALWAYS walk to the side of the road facing the traffic when approaching the bus stop.
2. DO NOT play on the road while waiting for the bus.
3. BE ON TIME! The bus has a definite schedule and cannot wait.
4. Wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before attempting to board.
5. On entering the bus, avoid crowding and disturbing others.
6. Do not tamper with the bus or any of its equipment. Damage done to seats or equipment must be paid for by the rider.
7. When the bus is in motion, DO NOT stand, extend your arms out of the window, move about or change seats.
8. Remember that loud talking, laughing and unnecessary confusion diverts the driver's attention and makes the task of providing safe transportation extremely difficult.
9. While on the bus, you are in the bus driver's charge and must obey him/her. Failure to comply may prohibit you from riding the bus.
10. The bus driver will assign pupils to certain seats or all pupils to specific seats when he/she deems it advisable.
11. Always treat your fellow pupils with courtesy.
12. Help keep the bus clean. Dropping paper, apple cores, lunch bags, etc. on the floor of the bus is prohibited. There are wastebaskets provided for this material.
13. Throwing of objects such as caps, pens, rulers, paper airplanes, etc. is strictly prohibited.
14. DO NOT throw anything out of the bus windows.
15. Water guns and water balloons are strictly taboo.
16. Keep books, packages, coats, band instruments, and all other objects out of the aisles.
17. Smoking, scuffling, fighting, drinking and obscene language will not be tolerated.

18. Under no circumstances will the emergency door be opened, except as directed by the driver in case of emergency. Keep absolutely quiet when approaching a railroad crossing.

19. Remain on the bus in case of a road emergency unless directed to do otherwise by the bus driver.

20. Eating or drinking on the bus is prohibited unless special permission has been granted by the driver and only on special occasions.

21. The bus driver will not discharge riders at places other than the regular bus stop, at home, or at school, unless by proper written authorization from a parent or school officials.

22. If it is necessary to cross the road when leaving a bus, cross at least ten feet in front of the bus.

23. If you live on a dead-end road, etc. notify the driver directly or through friends at times when you do not plan to ride the bus.

24. If your student is going to be bringing friends home, check with the driver first to see if there is room. A permission slip stating the day or days and the name of the student riding home is also needed.

25. No animals are allowed on the bus.

26. At the loading zone **BACK PARKING LOT** stand behind the yellow line until the bus comes to a complete stop. **Buses leave the H.S. at 3:05 PM.**

Algoma Venture Academy

2025-2026 Student Handbook Agreement

We have read the Algoma Venture Academy
2025-2026 Student Handbook and understand the
information contained herein.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date