**INTERROGATIONS, INTERVIEWS AND SEARCHES**

**Section 1. Searches by School Personnel**

**Section 1.1** School lockers, desks and other Hawthorn property are provided for the convenience of students and, as such, are subject to periodic inspection without notice.

**Section 1.2** Student property may be searched based on reasonable suspicion of a violation of Hawthorn rules, policy or law. Reasonable suspicion must be based on facts known to the administration, credible information or reasonable inference drawn from such facts or information. Searches of student property shall be limited in scope based on the original justification of the search. The privacy and dignity of students shall be respected. Searches shall be carried out in the presence of adult witnesses and not in front of other students, unless exigent circumstances exist.

**Section 1.3** It is a privilege, not a right, to park on school grounds. The school retains the authority to conduct routine patrols of any vehicle parked on school grounds. The interior of a student's automobile on school premises may be searched if the school authority has reasonable suspicion to believe that such a search will produce evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or Hawthorn policy.

**Section 1.4** The administration will contact law enforcement officials to perform a search if the administration reasonably suspects that a student is concealing controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, weapons, stolen goods or evidence of a crime beneath his or her clothing and the student refuses to surrender such items. Law enforcement officials may be contacted for assistance in performing a search in any case in which a student refuses to allow a search or in which the search cannot safely be conducted.

**Section 1.5** School employees and volunteers, other than commissioned law enforcement officers, shall not strip search students, as defined in state law, except in situations where an employee reasonably believes that the student possesses a weapon, explosive or substance that poses an imminent threat of physical harm to the student or others and a commissioned law enforcement officer is not immediately available. If a student is strip searched, as defined in state law, by a school employee or a commissioned law enforcement officer, Hawthorn will attempt to notify the student's parents/guardians as soon as possible.

**Section 1.6** During an examination, and if reasonable under the circumstances, school employees may require students to empty pockets or remove jackets, coats, shoes and other articles of exterior clothing that when removed do not expose underwear. Employees may also remove student clothing to investigate the potential abuse or neglect of a student, give medical attention to a student, provide health services to a student or screen a student for medical conditions.

**Section 2. Use of Drug-Detecting Dogs in Cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies**

**Section 2.1** The Board has directed the school administration to cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies in their efforts to decrease community drug problems, and to take the necessary and lawful steps to prevent any person from coming on to school property in possession of or under the influence of illegal drugs or controlled substances.

**Section 2.2** In light of these policies, and in order to further safety and promote discipline in the school, the Board authorizes the use of trained drug-detection dogs in cooperation with law enforcement authorities. Hawthorn authorizes the use of trained drug-detecting dogs recognizing that such use is legally sound and does not violate students' Constitutional rights.

**Section 2.3** The Board's policy authorizing the use of drug-detecting dogs in cooperation with law enforcement authorities shall be noted in the locker, desk and student parking provisions of the student handbook. The Board designates, to coordinate with law enforcement agencies, the use of dogs trained in the detection of drugs, and to ensure that Board policy is complied with in all respects during any search arising out of the use of the drug-detecting dogs.

**Section 3. Interview with Police or Juvenile Officers/Other Law Enforcement Officials**

**Section 3.1** Law enforcement officials may wish to interview students regarding their knowledge of suspected criminal activity and may wish to interrogate students who are themselves suspected of engaging in criminal activity. Such interviews and interrogations are discouraged during class time, except when law enforcement officials have a warrant or other court order or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist. It is the responsibility of the Head of School or designee to take reasonable steps to prevent disruption of school operations while at the same time cooperating with law enforcement efforts.

**Section 3.2** When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or during periods of extracurricular activities, the Head of School or designee will be present and the interview will be conducted in private. The Head of School will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and request an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school. The Head of School ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parents/guardians unless the interviewer raises a valid objection to the notification.

**Section 4. Removal of Students from School by Law Enforcement Officials**

Before a student at school is arrested or taken into custody by a law enforcement official or other legally authorized person, the Head of School will verify the official's identity. To the best of his or her ability, the Head of School will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student. The Head of School will attempt to notify the student's parents/guardians that the student is being removed from school.

**Section 5. Interview with the Children's Division**

Representatives of the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services may meet with students on campus. Hawthorn will work with CD to arrange such meetings so they are minimally disruptive to the student's schedule. If the student is an alleged victim of abuse or neglect, CD may not meet with the student at Hawthorn if that is where the suspected abuse of the student allegedly occurred. The Head of School will verify and record the identity of any CD representatives who request to meet with or take custody of a student.

**Section 6. Contacts by Guardian Ad Litem and Court-Appointed Special Advocate**

When a court-appointed guardian ad litem or special advocate finds it necessary to interview a student during the school day or during periods of extracurricular activities, Head of School or designee must be notified. The Head of School will verify and record the identity of the individual through the court order that appoints him or her. The interview must be conducted in a private setting and with the least disruption to the student's schedule.