

Lewis & Clark Middle School

2020-2021
the student handbook



Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavior (MTSS-B) is being implemented in all Omaha Public Schools and Programs.

We believe...

We cannot “make” students learn or behave.

But we CAN create environments to increase the likelihood that students learn and behave.

We CAN create environments to increase the likelihood of positive behaviors occurring.

These environments are guided by a set of standardized practices implemented with consistency and fidelity.

MTSS-B is a problem-solving framework for teaching desired behaviors in each school. MTSS-B utilizes consistent practices that have tiers of increasingly intensive supports to increase the likelihood students are academically, emotionally, behaviorally and socially successful.

With consistent implementation, Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavior

- Improves the school climate
- Reduces aggressive behaviors
- Reduces major disciplinary infractions such as suspensions
- Improves concentration, positive social behavior, and emotional regulation
- Improves academic achievement.

If you would like more information about how MTSS-B is implemented in your school, contact the building principal.



Lewis & Clark Middle School

6901 Burt Street / Omaha, Nebraska 681432-2694

531-299-2400 / Fax 531-299-2418 / lewisandclark.ops.org

Twitter: twitter.com/ops_LewisClark / Facebook: facebook.com/pages/category/Middle-School/Omaha-Public-Schools-Lewis-Clark-Middle

The Lewis & Clark Middle School International Baccalaureate Community is dedicated to creating inquisitive and compassionate global citizens by:

- Establishing life-long learners who are productive citizens
- Developing intercultural understanding and respect
- Providing rigorous, multidisciplinary instruction contributing to the larger community



Mission Statement

Omaha Public Schools prepares all students
to excel in college, career, and life.

Vision Statement

Every student. Every day. Prepared for success.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

2020-2021 Lewis & Clark Middle School Student Handbook

Lewis & Clark Middle School Student Handbook

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Welcome To Lewis & Clark

Dear Students and Parents,

Lewis & Clark Middle School is an authorized International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP) World School! Lewis & Clark provides numerous opportunities for students to explore interdisciplinary content and to participate in activities which help develop individual talents and interests. We hope that you take advantage of what Lewis & Clark has to offer you.

The staff at Lewis & Clark has earned a reputation of sincere dedication to the academic achievement and personal growth of young people which makes the Tradition of Excellence come alive. Staff members are willing to listen, encourage, guide, and help when needed. Please consult with your teachers, counselors, and administrators whenever you have a question, concern, or problem.

We encourage parents to get involved in their child's continuing educational development through positive encouragement and reinforcement at home. We love to see parents at scheduled school activities as well as visits as your schedule allows. Open communication and collaboration between parents, students, and school staff is important to us and will promote success for your child.

We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Administrators and Counselors

Principal	Dr. Tyree Sejkora
Assistant Principal – Scheduling and Professional Development.....	Mrs. Lisa Tingelhoff
Assistant Principal – Activities Director	Mr. Tom Robertson
Dean of Students	Dr. Matasha Jordan
Instructional Facilitator/ MYP Coordinator	Mr. Burke Behne
Counselor	Mrs. Jessica Mukherjee
Counselor	Mrs. Jenna Vail
Counselor	Ms. Erika Mardock

Attendance Phone Number: 531-299-8978

School History

In 1804 President Thomas Jefferson sent an expedition led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to begin exploration of the vast territory west of the Mississippi River. As they travelled up the Missouri River, they charted what was later to become Nebraska's eastern boundary.

Lewis & Clark Middle School, named after this courageous pair, opened its doors in 1960. Students selected the name "Trailblazers" and the colors blue and white. On May 6, 1975, much of the building was destroyed by a tornado. Almost a year later, classes resumed in a remodeled, improved facility. Today approximately 900 sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students attend Lewis & Clark, a school known for its academic excellence.

Lewis & Clark, in collaboration with Central High School, earned the title of an **International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP)** Candidate School in 2010 and earned IB authorization status in 2012. In the MYP, the subject groups provide a broad and balanced foundation of knowledge in traditional subject disciplines.

Lewis & Clark students excel academically and in athletics/activities. Trailblazer students and teams have received school, district, state, and national honors in writing, problem solving, historical research, speech, instrumental and vocal music, art, mathematics, debate, International language, science, current events, and athletics. In addition, several Lewis & Clark teachers have been awarded the coveted Crystal Apple Award and Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award for excellence in teaching. We know you will contribute to this "Tradition of Excellence."

Sample Schedule

The sample schedule presented below is similar to that of many seventh grade students. A key to the schedule follows.

2020-21 Lewis & Clark Middle School 6901 Burt St., Omaha, NE 68132-2694 Page 1 of 1	Student Schedule for: Joe Sample Grade: 7 Student Number: 123456 Courses Enrolled: 10 Mailing Address: 6901 Burt St., Omaha, NE 68132-2694
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Term T3 (01/07/20 - 03/06/20)	
HR	X00491-203 ADVISORY MS NG 1 Mitchell, Amy E Rm: 203 Team: PIONEERS
1	010272-3 (Day Mon A, Wed A) IB LANG A HON ENGLISH 8 2 Shrago, Melissa A Rm: 107
2	071161-9 (Day Mon A, Thurs A) IB PHYSICAL HEALTH 8B John, Breanne R Rm: 215
3	190742-1 (Day Mon A, Thurs A) ADV STRING ORCH MS short, Sarah Rm: 122
4	162212-3 (Day Mon A, Thurs A) IB-LANGUAGE B-FRENCH 2B McCormick, Anne Medley Rm: 117
5	040282-2 (Day Mon A, Wed A) H ALGEBRA 2 LaFleur, Philip Rm: 202 Team: PIONEERS
6	038011-4 (Day Mon A, Thurs A) IB-STUDENT REPORTING LABS 8 Rahn, Sadie J Rm: 105
7	030272-1 (Day Mon A, Wed A) IB-HUMANITIES 8 2 Powers, Richard Rm: 201 Team: PIONEERS
8	060272-5 (Day Mon A, Thurs A) SCIENCE 8 2 Mihai, George Rm.: 204 Team: PIONEERS
9	X00492-203 ADVISORY MS NG 2 Mitchell, Amy E Rm: 203 Team: PIONEERS
MISC	X01041-1 TEAM PIONEERS La Fleur, Philip Rm: 202

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays students will attend all eight classes and home base. Classes are 90 minute blocks on Wednesdays and Thursdays. On Wednesdays, students will attend periods 1, 3, 5, and 7. On Thursdays, students will attend periods 2, 4, 6, and 8. This allows for longer periods of time to complete labs, interdisciplinary units, and other activities to meet the needs of students.

Breakfast is served at 7:15 a.m. and the first class begins at 7:40 a.m. The last period of the day is complete at 3:05 p.m. and the building closes to students at 5:15 p.m.

We are proud to collaborate with Collective For Youth for enrichments at Lewis & Clark. The after school program is run by Civic Nebraska and operates five days a week until 5:30 p.m. All students are welcome to attend immediately after school or following school sponsored activities. Applications are available in the front office.

T1 = Course meets 1st quarter
 T2 = Course meets 2nd quarter
 T3 = Course meets 3rd quarter
 T4 = Course meets 4th quarter

Cafeteria Procedures

Breakfast is served from 7:10 to 7:33 a.m. daily. Students wishing to eat breakfast may enter the building through the east entrance by room 105 or the northwest entrance by the gym. Students not eating breakfast should not enter the cafeteria. All students report to the cafeteria during their lunch period. A federally subsidized hot lunch is available. Students may bring a sack lunch and purchase milk if they do not wish to buy a hot lunch.

Clubs and Activities

There are many clubs and activities at Lewis & Clark. New clubs may be started when there is sufficient student interest. Students should see their counselor to discuss ideas for new clubs. Clubs and activities are announced through daily bulletin

Drop Off and Pick Up

Parents are reminded that there is a four-way stop at 69th and Burt St. It is dangerous to allow students to enter or exit cars at the four-way stop. We prefer you drop off students and pick up students in the parking lot on the west side of the school. Students going to breakfast may enter the building at the northwest stair entrance and entrance on the east side of the building.

Expectations of Students

All students have the right to pursue an education in an environment conducive to learning. Therefore, you have the responsibility to act in a way that does not interfere with another student's right to learn. The following rules of conduct have been established to help maintain a safe, secure and responsible building.

I. CONDUCT

- A. Students are to cooperate with and demonstrate proper respect for all staff members, other students, and visitors to the school.
- B. Students are to behave in a manner conducive to learning.
- C. Students are to conduct themselves in a safe manner. Rowdy behavior such as running, pushing, wrestling, play fighting, birthday licks, going "body", shouting, tripping, and book checking are not acceptable.
- D. Students may not eat food or candy or consume beverages in the halls or classrooms during school hours without permission. This includes gum, chips, sunflower seeds.
- E. Combs, brushes and picks are not to be worn or carried openly. Hats, gloves and caps are to be placed in lockers upon arrival at school and are not to be worn or carried during school hours. Bandanas, Bonnets, and Doo rags are not to be worn or carried.
- F. The hood of a sweatshirt or shirt must be down while in the building. Students are not to wear outer during the school day. They are to be placed in lockers upon arrival at school and are not to be worn or carried during school hours.
- G. Students are expected to pass quickly and quietly from one class to another and not loiter in the hall. Students are expected to be in their seats with all necessary materials when the bell rings.
- H. Students will not be allowed in the halls during class periods unless they have a hall pass, an office call, or a nurse referral. Any staff member may ask to see the pass. Students must show it to staff members and identify themselves. Passes will not be given the first and last ten minutes of a class period.
- I. Students must dress appropriately for school.
- J. All electronic devices are to be powered off and put away when the bell rings for school at 7:33 a.m. until the bell rings for dismissal at 3:05 p.m. If such articles are seen or heard, they may be confiscated by any staff member and given to the appropriate administrator. Items must be claimed by a parent or guardian on the second offense and each offense these after.
- K. Students may not hit anyone else for any reason. This includes horseplay and things such as birthday "licks."
- L. Students may not engage in reckless behavior that potentially endangers others.

Library

“Lewis & Clark’s library provides a wide variety of books (physical, ebooks, and audiobooks) selected to meet both the educational needs of our students as well as titles students can enjoy for personal reading. The library actively works with classroom teachers to provide and support engaging lessons that help students develop critical thinking and research skills. The Lewis & Clark library offers clubs and other opportunities for students to explore their personal interests. All are encouraged and welcome to use the library.”

Lunch Detentions

Students may receive lunch detention for violations during lunch or other Code of Conduct violations. Lunch detention is served in the SSC room. Students who fail to serve their lunch detentions will be assigned a more severe consequence.

Making Up Work Due to Absences

You are required to make up all school work missed because of absence. It is your responsibility to check with teachers and devise a plan to get the make-up work completed. Students who are truant or suspended are required to make up their work.

Parent Portal

Students and families have access to attendance, grades, and missing work through the Student Portal and Parent Portal. Families can complete the Parent Portal application in the front office. Students will complete the Student Portal at school.

School Counseling Services

Each student is assigned to work with a team of teachers and a counselor. You should become acquainted with your counselor and take advantage of the guidance and counseling services offered. Our counselors are trained to listen to and help solve student concerns, whether they be personal, social, career, or school-oriented. Counselors are available to help anytime during the school day – before, during, or after school.

The counselors’ offices are in the back office area. You must obtain a pass from a staff member, complete an orange “Request to See Counselor” card, or leave your name in the back office if you would like to see your counselor. Students who need a schedule change, have a personal problem they need to discuss, need help with school, need career information, or other issues, should see their counselor.

Staying After School

All students are to leave the building by 3:15 p.m. unless under the direct supervision of a staff member or involved as a participant or spectator in a school activity.

Teachers are usually available from 3:05 until 3:20 p.m. unless they have other after school obligations, and by appointment. They will be happy to give extra help if you request it. You should check with the teacher IN ADVANCE to make arrangements to stay after school for help. Some teams also provides a study room for students on that team. Each team will establish the days and times for its study room and communicate that information to the students and parents. Students staying after school must make arrangements for transportation home. They are to leave immediately after they have completed their work with the teacher or after their activity has been completed.

Student Discipline Policy

The Board of Education has adopted a Student Code of Conduct. THIS CODE WILL BE FOLLOWED AT Lewis & Clark. Please refer to the buff pages of this handbook. Disciplinary actions will be taken at Lewis & Clark for additional offenses. Consequences may be altered if, in the judgment of school administrators, another consequence is more appropriate for a particular situation.

All electronic devices and non-school related items need to be powered off and put away between the hours of 7:33 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.

Fighting

If a fight occurs in the school building or on school grounds, students need to move away from the students who have chosen to fight. Consequences will follow if a student:

1. Demonstrates support, encourages, or helps a student in a fight
2. Does not leave the scene of a fight when asked or told by school personnel
3. Takes video or photos of a fight. Additional consequences may apply if a student posts them on social media or forwards them to others via text message or other manner.

Other Inappropriate Behaviors/Other Offenses

Behaviors not covered in the Board of Education's Code of Conduct will be handled on an individual basis with disciplinary action determined by the appropriate administrator based on the offense and disruption to the learning environment.

All rules and regulations are enforced at all school-related or school-sponsored activities regardless of where the activities are held. They are also in effect on all school buses and vans and in the area surrounding the campus. This will ensure the rights of all students to have a wholesome learning environment.

Late School & Student Success Center

Late School is an alternative to suspension from school. Students who receive a late school are assigned from 3:10 to 5:00 p.m. Students are given the opportunity to complete work in late school without the distractions of socialization. Failure to serve, arriving late or removal for misbehavior will result in a more severe consequence. A bus will be available to take eligible students to take eligible students to designated elementary schools and/or late bus stops after detention and late school.

The Student Success Center (SSC) is an alternative to suspension from school as well. Students are assigned SSC by an administrator following a violation to the Code of Conduct. A student may be assigned for one period or a full day to learn appropriate actions for the classroom and hallway. Students will also be expected to complete their schoolwork while in SSC. Students who are removed from the SSC room for disciplinary reasons will be assigned a more severe consequence.

Student Honors

Perfect Attendance: The names of students with no absences or tardies to school are posted each quarter. Various certificates are provided for attendance milestones.

Honor Roll: Names of students whose grades indicate a high level of scholarship are posted each quarter. A G.P.A. of 3.0 or above with no grade below a three qualifies a student. Certificates are awarded to students who are on the honor roll all year. Parents receive a bumper sticker.

National Junior Honor Society: Eighth graders with a high academic average (3.75 G.P.A.), outstanding citizenship and character, proven leadership and community service, are inducted into the National Junior Honor Society each fall. Members are selected by the NJHS faculty council. Qualities looked at are: relationships with peers, dependability, honesty, attendance, punctuality, effort, attitude, accepting criticism, friendliness, respect for others, obeying school rules, and courtesy.

Optimist Student of the Month: Two students are selected monthly and are recognized monthly at a luncheon sponsored by the Optimist Club of Omaha. Students are selected based on their citizenship, academic performance, and service to others.

Trailblazer of the Month: A boy and a girl from each grade are chosen by faculty vote to be honored each month. This honor is based on good citizenship, diligence in studies, participation in activities, and leadership.

Rotary Honor Roll: Each spring eighth grade students are selected for this honor based on leadership, character, scholarship, and presence. Students and their parents are invited to a luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club.

Team Specific Honors: Academic teams may choose to honor students for a variety of reasons other than honors mentioned above.

Tardiness to Classes

You are expected to be in every class on time. Teachers will work with students and parents to prevent tardiness from becoming excessive. Teachers are encouraged to use conferences and detentions as a consequence. On the fifth tardy to a class in a semester, the student may be assigned a late school. Should tardiness continue to be a problem, the student may be referred to Student Success Center (SSC), or to our School Support Liaison for intervention. Students repeatedly tardy to more than one class will be disciplined accordingly.

Telephones/Telephone Messages

Permission must be obtained from building staff to use the office phone during school hours. A two minute limit is placed on all calls. Since dismissal time for school activities is always pre-determine, you should make arrangements for transportation in advance so phone calls are not required.

Office telephones are for school business. Personal messages can only be given to students when it is an emergency. Only messages from parents/legal guardians will be taken. Please do not call or text your child on their phone during school hours.

Valuables/Personal Items

Lost and Found articles are kept in front of the office. You may claim lost articles before and after school. If you find a lost item please bring it to the office at once.

Please label tennis shoes, coats, jackets, gym clothing, and other personal belongings with permanent markers. Such markings help us identify lost or stolen items and discourage theft.

You should not bring valuables or large amounts of money to school. Valuables and money may be checked in for safekeeping in the back office if it is absolutely necessary that they be brought to school. The school and/or district cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen items, including cellular phones.

Textbooks are returned to the teacher who issued them. They are not kept with the lost and found articles in the back office.

Students who ride bicycles to school should secure them with a lock to the bike racks located on the north side of the school by the front office. The school cannot be held responsible for the safe keeping of bicycles.

During PE classes, students must lock up personal items in their PE locker. Do not leave items on the benches or table. Lewis & Clark is not responsible for the theft of items left out in the open in locker room.

Lewis & Clark MTSSB

	All Areas	Classroom	Hallway	Café	Office Areas
Be Safe	Always walk	Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself. Walk into the classroom and take your assigned seat before the bell rings. Do your part to make classroom transitions quiet, quick and orderly.	Always walk. Stay to the right when walking down the hall and stairways. Keep moving to your destination.	When lining up to be served, walk to the serving line. Stay at your assigned table until dismissed by an adult. Push in chairs as you leave your spot.	Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself. Wait your turn to enter or exit the office.
Be Respectful	When addressed, acknowledge adult appropriately.	Raise your hand if you have a comment, question, or need help. Follow the classroom procedures Be respectful of yourself by working toward and achieving your highest potential. Respond appropriately to all teacher directions. Be respectful to fellow students.	When addressed, acknowledge adult appropriately. Be polite and considerate of those around you. Walk quietly when classes are in session. Show respect to all adults.	When in the lunch line, politely wait your turn. Remember to say "please" and "thank you" to the servers. Use quiet voices and talk to others at your assigned table.	Politely wait to be addressed by an adult. Use a quiet voice when making your request. Remember to say "please" and "thank you" to those who are helping you. Accept redirection.
Be Responsible	Keep hands, feet, and other objects to self. Use a quiet voice and school appropriate language.	Bring all needed class materials. Complete all homework to the best of your ability and on time.	Keep hands, feet, and other objects to self. Use a quiet voice and school appropriate language. Have a signed pass if you arrive after the bell.	Sit quietly at your assigned table and wait for your class's turn to be served or dismissed. When in line and at your table, keep your hands, feet, and food to yourself. Clean up after yourself by throwing your trash away. Leave food in the cafeteria.	Arrive with a pass. Make sure you sign in. Sit quietly while waiting for help. Keep laptops closed unless instructed otherwise.

Omaha Public Schools 2020-2021 Calendar

Family 3/2 Plan for Attendance

Last Name begins with A-K – Always attends Monday & Tuesday

Week 1 of school A-K will attend on Wednesday

Last Name begins with L-Z – Always attends Thursday & Friday

Week 2 of school L-Z will attend on Wednesday

These two groups will alternate Wednesdays for the duration of 1st Semester.

Programs/building listed below are at school every day - exempt from 3/2 Plan.

- Early Childhood Special Education
- K-12 Alternate Curriculum Program (ACP)
- K-12 Behavioral Skills Program (BSP)
- K-12 Hearing Impaired Classrooms
- Transition Program
- All classrooms at JP Lord School

First Semester Parent/Teacher Conferences

Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of October 26	Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of October 19	Senior High Parent/Teacher Conferences Week of November 9
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- New Teacher Days** ----- July 28-31
 - Professional Development/Teacher Planning Days/ Curriculum Days** ----- August 4-10
 - Schools Open – First Student Day** ----- August 11
OPS schools at the secondary level (i.e., Middle School and High School) use the first day of school to assist students transitioning to this level in entry grades. Please check with your school or program to determine which students attend on this day.
 - Early Childhood Classes Start** ----- August 17
 - Labor Day** ----- September 7
 - Curriculum Day** ----- October 16
No school for all students
 - Elementary Teacher Planning Day** ----- October 19
No school for elementary students
 - Middle School Conferences** ----- October 22
No school for middle school students
 - Middle School Teacher Planning Day** ----- October 23
No school for middle school students
 - First Quarter Ends** ----- October 23
 - Second Quarter Begins** ----- October 26
 - Elementary Teacher Planning Day/Conferences** ----- October 29
No school for elementary students
 - Elementary Teacher Planning Day** ----- October 30
No school for elementary students
 - Election Day/Professional Development Day** ----- November 3
No school for all students
 - Senior High Conferences** ----- November 12
No school for high school students
 - Senior High Teacher Planning Day** ----- November 13
No school for high school students
 - Thanksgiving Recess** ----- November 25-27
 - Winter Recess** ----- December 14-January 1
 - Second Semester Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Elementary Parent/Teacher Conferences
Week of March 15 | Middle School Parent/Teacher Conferences
Week of March 22 | Senior High Parent/Teacher Conferences
Week of April 5 |
|--|---|--|
- Teacher Planning/Professional Development Day** ----- January 4
No school for all students
 - Second Quarter Ends** ----- January 15
 - Martin Luther King Day** ----- January 18
 - Third Quarter Begins** ----- January 19
 - Presidents' Day** ----- February 15
 - Spring Recess** ----- March 8-12
 - Elementary Teacher Planning Day/Conferences** ----- March 18
No school for elementary students
 - Elementary Teacher Planning Day** ----- March 19
No school for elementary students
 - Middle School Conferences** ----- March 25
No school for middle school students
 - Middle School Teacher Planning Day** ----- March 26
No school for middle school students
 - Third Quarter Ends** ----- March 26
 - Fourth Quarter Begins** ----- March 29
 - Professional Development** ----- April 2
No school for all students
 - Senior High Conferences** ----- April 8
No school for high school students
 - Senior High Teacher Planning Day** ----- April 9
No school for high school students
 - Fourth Quarter Ends - Last student day** ----- May 26
 - Professional Development/Teacher Planning Days** ----- May 27-28
 - Memorial Day** ----- May 31
 - Summer School** ----- June 2-30

Omaha Public Schools
Board of Education



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July 2020							January 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4						1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	31		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
							31							
August 2020							February 2021							
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
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30	31													
September 2020							March 2021							
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
27	28	29	30				28	29	30	31				
October 2020							April 2021							
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30		
November 2020							May 2021							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7							1	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
29	30						23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
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December 2020							June 2021							
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
27	28	29	30	31			27	28	29	30				
Summer School June 2-30														
Elementary			8:50 a.m. to 4:05 p.m.			At Kennedy, Lewis & Clark, Wakonda and Wilson — check with the school regarding start & end times.								
Middle School			7:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.											
High School			7:40 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.											

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

Parent
Voice
Feedback
Survey



Updated 6/29/2020

Omaha Public Schools District Student Handbook

Middle School · 2020-2021

*Every student.
Every day.
Prepared for
success.*



PANDEMIC STATEMENT

As we continue to respond to the global Coronavirus Pandemic, the Omaha Public Schools will cooperate with county and state health department officials and medical experts in developing procedures for mitigating the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our schools.

All students and staff in the Omaha Public Schools are required to adhere to rules, procedures and behavior expectations set forth in this District Student Handbook. Should additional guidelines be developed, modifications will be communicated to all stakeholders.

BEHAVIOR RULES FOR STUDENTS IN REMOTE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

In addition to in-person classroom lessons, students enrolled in the Omaha Public Schools may also receive instruction at home through remote teaching and learning experiences. Guidelines and expectations of the **Student Code of Conduct** remain in effect for students in remote learning environments.

Additionally, students receiving digital curriculum and instruction online should be aware of appropriate use of computers, digital devices, and the network. Any activity, which violates local, state, or federal laws, is considered a violation of the **Student Code of Conduct**, will result in disciplinary action, and may be referred to law enforcement.

It is expected that students adhere to the following **Behavior Guidelines for Remote Learning:**

- Wear appropriate clothing for the learning environment
- Use appropriate language for the learning environment
- Student emails should only be sent for class/course purposes
- Never post or repost sensitive information or inappropriate images
- Do not cut, copy, or plagiarize Internet content or the work of others
- Students should never create or knowingly send computer viruses
- Use care with food and drinks while using a district device
- Handle district devices with care

It is required that students adhere to Online Safety Practices for Remote Learning:

- Passwords are private information and should only be shared with parent/guardian
- Report device or content concerns to school staff immediately
- Students should never use other's passwords
- Students should never communicate with others they do not know
- Students should never post personal information (address, email, phone number, etc)
- Students should not share pictures of themselves for any reason other than a learning assignment
- Should a password become compromised, report it to a school staff member immediately
- Seek support from school staff if having trouble with a district device, network, or online program



Academics, Curriculum, & Instruction

Academic Integrity Position Statement

Academic integrity is a fundamental component of teaching and learning. Maintaining high standards of academic integrity ensures the sustainability of the OPS educational process. Therefore, students are expected to commit to and be responsible for demonstrating the five fundamental components, even in the face of adversity:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 · Honesty | 4 · Respect |
| 2 · Trust | 5 · Responsibility |
| 3 · Fairness | |

The following activities show a lack of academic integrity: cheating, collusion, falsifying records, lying, plagiarism

(including electronic), alteration of materials, forgery, or providing or using external assistance relating to an examination, test, quiz, or daily assignment, without the expressed permission of the teacher, including looking at another student's work, sharing answers, or copying another student's work or any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. As an institution of high academic integrity and as believers of supporting students to reach high academic success, every opportunity should be taken to give students the chance to demonstrate mastery of the content.

Grading Overview

Grades for students enrolled in the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) are based on achievement of district-wide/ State content standards, which specify what students should know and be able to do. Standards are the same across schools and classrooms for the same courses in

the Omaha Public Schools. These grading practices are intended to ensure students have the knowledge and skills necessary for the next level of a course, the next grade or readiness for college or the workforce.

Grading Purpose and Intended Use

Common grading practices provide specific, clear learning goals for students, parent(s)/guardian(s), teachers and administrators regarding what a student must know and be able to do to master the content of a course. They allow teachers to be consistent with common best

practices from grading based on educational research. Most importantly, standard grading practices provide tremendous clarity for students and families as to what the grading criteria and expectations are between and amongst teachers, courses, and schools in OPS.

Grading Scale

Omaha Public Schools Grading Scale	A	B	C	D	F
	3.26 - 4.00	2.51 - 3.25	1.76 - 2.50	1.01 - 1.75	0.00 - 1.00

Coursework Types

Coursework may be expected to be completed during class time or outside of school.

- **Practice** (0%) assignments are brief. They are done to learn a new skill or to gain initial content knowledge, (e.g., student responses on white boards, a valid sampling of math problems, keyboarding exercises, diagramming sentences, checking and recording resting heart rate). Practice assignments are not generally graded for accuracy (descriptive feedback will be provided in class) and are not a part of the grade. Practice work is at the student's instructional level.
- **Formative** (35%) assessments/assignments are done for learning. They are minor assignments, (e.g., a three paragraph essay, written responses to guiding questions over an assigned reading, completion of a comparison/contrast matrix). Formative assignments are graded for accuracy and descriptive feedback is provided. Descriptive feedback provides the student with the necessary information to improve their learning. Formative work is at the student's instructional level. It is suggested to have three to five formative assessments for every one summative assessment. Formative assessments may be assigned to be completed at home or at school.
- **Summative** (65%) assessments/assignments are major end of learning unit tests or projects, (e.g., a research paper, an oral report with a power point, science fair project). Summative assignments are graded for accuracy. Summative assignments assess the student's progress on grade level standards. Summative assessments may be assigned to be completed at home or at school.

Progress Reports

Student progress reports are distributed at the middle of each grading period. Progress reports are designed to let parent(s)/guardian(s) know how their child is performing academically. These grades (marks) are not final and do not appear on student transcripts. As always, parent(s)/

guardian(s) can make an appointment with teachers or school counselors in the event that additional supports are needed to improve the student's progress.

Report Cards

Student report cards are distributed at the end of each grading period. Report Cards are designed to inform parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student's level of proficiency in each course. For quarter-long courses, grades (marks)

issued at the conclusion of the quarter will appear on the student's transcript. For semester-long courses grades issued at the conclusion of the semester will appear on the student's transcript.

Grade Reporting Timeline

September – First Quarter Progress Report
 October – First Quarter Grade Report
 (some courses may post to transcript)
 November – Second Quarter Progress Report
 December – Second Quarter Grade Report
 (posted to transcripts)

February – Third Quarter Progress Report
 March – Third Quarter Grade Report
 (some courses may post to transcript)
 April – Fourth Quarter Progress Report
 May – Fourth Quarter Grade Report
 (posted to transcripts)

Grade Point Average

Grade Point Average (GPA) is computed by dividing total grade points earned by credits attempted. GPA takes into account the grade earned, amount of credit earned, and

the weight (based upon credit) of the course. All graded courses are included in this computation. Grade points are assigned as follows.

Academic Courses		Honors & A.P. Courses	
Letter Grade	Grade Points	Letter Grade	Grade Points
A	4.0	A	5.0
B	3.0	B	4.0
C	2.0	C	3.0
D	1.0	D	2.0
F	0	F	0

Note: One-half credit courses receive half the number of grade points.

Accident Insurance

At the beginning of each school year, all students are given the opportunity to purchase group accident insurance through a private company. The fee is small for the coverage provided. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may choose the 24-hour plan or a more limited school plan that only covers students during school attendance, school activities, school sponsored events and all athletic

participation with the exception of football. Football insurance coverage will need to be purchased in addition to the above coverage if the student is in need of insurance for football participation. Schools do not carry insurance on students, their vehicles, or their personal property. For more information please contact Michelle Haynes in Student Information Services at 531-299-9724.

Accreditation

Accreditation is a required process by which schools examine all systems and educational functions to certify competency and authority in the operation of Nebraska public schools. In conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Education and an outside accreditation agency like Cognia, every five years OPS is externally

reviewed. This ensures that all people, processes, departments and operations of each school meet all accreditation standards. All of the Omaha Public High Schools are accredited through 2025 by Cognia and the State Department of Education.

Advertising and Promotion in the Schools – Policy No. 1060

Neither the facilities, the staff, nor the children of the school district shall be used in any manner for advertising or otherwise promoting the interests of any commercial, political, or other non-school agency, individual, or organization, except that:

1. District staff may cooperate in furthering the work of any non-profit, community-wide social service agency, provided that such cooperation does not restrict or impair the educational program of the schools or diminish the amount of time devoted thereto.

2. The schools may use films or other educational materials bearing mention of the producing firm or sponsor, providing such materials can be justified on the basis of their actual educational value.
3. Any person or organization seeking to distribute flyers of announcements concerning non-school events to a class or school must receive approval from the Office of District Communications. All flyers are to be distributed through the online Community Opportunities. A single flyer may be posted in the building common place, at the discretion of the building leadership.

4. The administration may, at its discretion, announce, or authorize to be announced, any lecture, community activity, or film which it feels has educational merit.
 5. School representatives may, upon approval of the board of education, cooperate with any agency in promoting activities in the general public interest, and which promotes education that is in the best interest of the students.
 6. Elementary and middle schools may produce school newsletters and/or newspapers, but may not sell advertising for these publications. However, because of some secondary specialized curriculum areas (e.g., journalism, theatre, performing arts, etc.) advertising space for publications such as student newspapers, sports rosters, theatre productions, and yearbooks is permitted. The middle/high school principal will have the final approval of all advertising in all school publications.
 7. With the exception of district-approved Adopt-A-School partners, Office of District Communications initiatives or sports advertising agreements entered into with the Omaha Schools Foundation and approved by the Superintendent or his or her designee, no school district property, equipment, facility, or space may be utilized for advertising purposes.
- For more information please contact District Communication at 531-299-0221.

Attendance Best Practices

The single most important factor contributing to student achievement is school attendance. Students are expected to be in school regularly, on time and remain present the entire day. The Omaha Public Schools strongly believes that daily attendance is critical to academic achievement. All OPS schools will follow the Attendance Policy found in the Buff pages of the **Student Code of Conduct**.

If a student is going to be absent –

Please contact the school before the morning start time of the day your student will be absent from school. Voicemail will be available to leave a message as to the reason for your student's absence. If the school is not informed of the absence that morning, the school will contact the parent/guardian's home and/or work to notify

If a student is going to be late to school –

Students must check in per their building's practices before reporting to class. A note or school contact from the parent/guardian needs to be made to report the reason for the late arrival. Minutes late to school will accumulate

Request to leave school early –

Whenever possible, doctor, dentist, and other appointments should be made outside of school hours. However, if it is necessary to be excused during the school day, the student is asked to bring a note from a parent/guardian stating the exact time for leaving and the reason. This is for the safety of all students. If you plan to remove

School Closing and Early Dismissal

The Omaha Public Schools recognizes the right and responsibility of parents/guardians to make a choice in the matter of school attendance in bad weather. If weather is questionable, please listen to the radio, watch your local weather channel or check OPS social media for word of school closing. The district will also communicate with families via voice and text messages and information will

and will be added to the total number of days missed. District procedures will be followed regarding late arrivals to school.

- Attend regularly
- Arrive on time
- Attend the entire day
- Miss less than 9 days throughout the school year

of the student's absence. This is to ensure that every student is accounted for and for his/her safety. If the school is not notified of the student's absence in advance or the day of, the parent/guardian must provide a note of explanation as to the reason for the absence upon the student's return to school.

your child from school during the day, we ask that you pick the child up in the office. No student will be dismissed as a result of a phone call. All students must be checked out at the office by a parent/guardian/emergency contact, and identification must be verified.

be posted on the district website and social media sites. If school closes during the day, the school will follow the instructions on your student's emergency card. If this information ever changes, please notify the office immediately.

Athletics and Co-Curricular Activities Requirements

It is the practice of the Omaha Public Schools that any student who wishes to participate in athletics and co-curricular competition must have athletic insurance coverage, a current school physical, activities card, and must meet the academic requirements of the Omaha Public Schools. For the purposes of this practice, co-curricular activities are those which involve competition with other schools and generally meet outside of the school day.

It is the position of the Omaha Public Schools that it is important to support the total student. Expectations for our student athletes in co-curricular activities include not only behavior at school or at school functions and events, but go beyond the school day and into the community.

Coaches have the responsibility, pursuant to the OPS **Student Code of Conduct** to impose participation restrictions or eligibility restrictions for participation in co-curricular activities on students for inappropriate behavior. It is the policy of the Omaha Public Schools that any student participant in co-curricular activities and

athletics who engages in a brawl, melee, fight or similar inappropriate behavior that arises while the student is participating in, or attending, a game or event may be suspended from participation in co-curricular and/or athletics competition for up to 90 activity days. All coaches, activity sponsors or staff responsible for co-curricular and athletic activities should be notified of this participation restriction, and should notify students and parent(s)/guardian(s) immediately of this participation restriction.

If such behavior occurs, it is the responsibility of coaches, activity sponsors or staff responsible for co-curricular and athletic activities to (a) investigate the alleged misbehavior; (b) give the student written or oral notice of the charge against him/her; (c) explain the evidence against the student; (d) give the student a chance to tell his/her version of what happened; and (e) decide whether, in fact, the student violated this participation rule.

The student has the right to appeal the individual coach's, activity sponsor's or responsible staff's decision to the principal.

Athletic Insurance Coverage

All members of athletic squads will need to have accident injury insurance coverage. The purpose of such insurance coverage is to provide coverage in the event of accidental injury. Your school, acting for members of the athletic squad, makes available an Athletic Injury Benefit Plan

approved by the Omaha Board of Education. The total premium is paid by the student or parent(s)/guardian(s). If you have your own insurance coverage you must name the insurance company and provide the policy number.

Child Abuse and Neglect

OPS Child Abuse Reporting Policy (Policy 5402) is based on Nebraska State Law (28-711). Every person who is employed by Omaha Public Schools is considered a mandatory reporter. In any situation that would cause a concern to the health or well-being of a child, the staff member who became aware of or witnessed the incident is to contact Child Protective Services (CPS) or Law Enforcement. In addition to calling CPS, the employee needs to speak with his/her building principal or their immediate supervisor. The building principal or immediate supervisor will contact Human Resources if the incident is regarding a staff member causing harm to a student.

When any physician, medical institution, nurse, school employee, social worker, or other person has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect or observes such child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would

result in abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department on the toll-free number 1-800-652-1999.

Any person who willfully fails to make any report of child abuse or neglect required by section 28-711 shall be guilty of a Class III misdemeanor. This is a maximum of three months' imprisonment or five hundred dollars fine or both.

Schools are obligated by law to allow CPS and/or Law enforcement under Nebraska State Law (43-250) and Nebraska Administrative Code (390) to speak to your child without prior parental consent when there is an open case involving suspected abuse and or neglect. It is then the responsibility of CPS or Law enforcement to contact you and discuss the contact with your child. School staff are instructed not to notify parents by these officials.

Child Find

Child Find requires all school districts to identify, locate and evaluate all children with disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. This obligation to identify all children who may need special education services exists even if the school is not providing special education services to the child. Children with disabilities from birth to age 21 are covered. This includes children who are being homeschooled, attending private school, highly mobile

children, migrant children, homeless children, children who are wards of the state as well as children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade. For more information, please contact: OPS Director of Special Education, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131-2024, 531-299-9461.

Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

The Omaha Public Schools may contract with publishers or other third-party website operators to provide online curriculum that aligns with district standards or other services that support the teaching and learning processes of the district. These websites are offered for the benefit of the students and for the school system, e.g., homework help lines, web-based testing services, and supplemental

curriculum. Website operators provide the Omaha Public Schools with full notice of their collection, use and disclosure practices. The use of the website and the collection of any information from students are solely for the use and benefit of the school, and for no commercial purpose.

Dating Violence Prevention – Policy No. 5420

Omaha Public Schools strives to provide physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors are encouraged in the educational program and are required of all students and staff. Dating violence will not be tolerated.

For purposes of this policy “dating violence” means a pattern of behavior where one person uses or threatens to use, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. “Dating partner” means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long term.

Incidents of dating violence involving students at school will be addressed as the administration determines appropriate, within the scope and subject to the limits of the District’s authority.

Staff training on dating violence shall be provided as

deemed appropriate by the administration. The dating violence training shall include, but need not be limited to, basic awareness of dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, and the District’s dating violence policy.

Dating violence education that is age-appropriate shall be incorporated into the school program. Dating violence education shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.

The administration will be responsible for ensuring that this dating violence policy is published in the school district’s student-parent handbook or an equivalent such publication. Parent(s)/legal guardian(s) shall be informed of the dating violence policy by such other means as the administration determines appropriate. If requested, parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall be provided a copy of the dating violence policy and relevant information.

Directory Information

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does permit the School District to disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent unless a parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student advises the School District to the contrary in accordance with School District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School District to include this type of information from a student’s education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing a student’s role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity programs showing weight and height of athletic team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student’s prior written consent.

The School District has designated the following types of information as directory information:

1. Name
2. Grade level
3. Date and place of birth
4. Dates of attendance

5. The current and the most recent educational agency or institution attended
6. Major field of study
7. Degrees, honors, and awards received
8. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
9. Weight and height of members of athletic teams
10. Photograph

The School District no longer lists address, phone number and parent name as directory information, in an effort to protect students and parents from disclosure of this information for non-school purposes. However, there are many school-related purposes for disclosing addresses, phone numbers, and parent names: for example, scholarship organizations, news articles on student achievement, class ring manufacturers, yearbook publishers, college recruiters, and senior picture photographers. Therefore, the School District annually requests written consent from parents to release addresses, phone numbers, and parent names for these types of limited purposes, which are detailed on the release. The release is distributed at the beginning of the school year and can also be obtained at any time by contacting Student Information Services, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131-2024 or at sis@ops.org. We encourage parents to sign the limited release.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and eligible students who do NOT want directory information made available may indicate their preferences on the release distributed at

the beginning of the school year or may notify in writing the Student Information Services office at 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131-2024 or at sis@ops.org.

In addition to disclosure of directory information, federal law also requires school districts to release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, secondary school students' names, addresses and telephone listings, unless parents and/or secondary students request that this information NOT be released to these institutions without their prior written consent.

Parent(s)/guardian(s), eligible students or secondary students who do NOT want their name, address, and

telephone listing to be released to military recruiters or institutions of higher education may indicate their preferences on the release distributed at the beginning of the school year or may notify in writing the Student Information Services office at 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131-2024 or at sis@ops.org.

Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) have the right to obtain a copy of the policy of the School District on student records. Copies of the policy are available from in the Student Information Services office, School District of Omaha, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131-2024 or upon request at sis@ops.org.

Emergency Protocols

In August of 2018, the Omaha Public Schools aligned their emergency protocols to adhere to the Nebraska Department of Education's Safety and Security Standards. The school system will follow standard practice policies using protocols recommended by the iloveyouguys.org Standard Response Protocol (SPR).

Standard Response Protocol procedures are established in the event of a crisis during school hours or sponsored activities. All school staff and students are trained in specific methods to handle crisis situations. All schools are required to practice safety and prepare for severe weather drills throughout the school year.

Evacuation

In the event of certain building emergencies, students will be relocated to an assembly site. Students will be released only to parent(s)/guardian(s)/emergency contact who present photo ID to proper staff personnel. This procedure is necessary to account for the location of all students. Specific locations of evacuation sites will be communicated through OPS District Communications when an evacuation has occurred.

Fire Drills

In conformity with the regulations of the Nebraska State Fire Marshal, each school is required to hold fire drills. Upon the sounding of the fire drill signal, all students are dismissed immediately and are to follow, under the leadership of staff, the exit instructions that have been issued. The classroom door should be closed upon vacating the room. Remain alert, calm, and quiet as it may be necessary for a change in exit instructions to be given over the P.A. system. Avoid crowding, pushing, or shoving.

Under the guidance and leadership of staff, students should remain in the assigned area until notification from staff.

Lockdown

A lockdown takes place if an internal threat is identified at the school. All school doors are locked, and students are confined to classrooms or secured location. No entry or exit to the school will be allowed until an "all-clear" announcement is made.

Lockout

A lockout takes place if an external threat is identified near school grounds. All external doors are to remain locked. No entry or exit to the school will be allowed until an "all-clear" announcement is made.

Severe Weather

The Omaha Public School policy recognizes the right and the responsibility of parents in the matter of school attendance when inclement weather exists. In case of extreme winter weather conditions, announcements of school closings will be made from the department of District Communications at or before 5:30 a.m. Any changes in dismissal time will also be announced. If the school is alerted to an approaching tornado, immediate directions will be announced within the school building. All students, staff, and visitors will move to sheltered areas until the emergency has passed. In cases of emergencies or of impending disaster, staff is responsible for giving specific instructions for student safety.

IN AN EMERGENCY WHEN YOU HEAR IT. DO IT.

LOCKOUT! GET INSIDE. LOCK OUTSIDE DOORS.

STUDENTS

Return inside
Business as usual

TEACHER

Bring everyone indoors
Lock perimeter doors
Increase situational awareness
Business as usual
Take attendance



LOCKDOWN! LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

TEACHER

Lock interior doors
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Do not open the door
Maintain silence
Take attendance



EVACUATE! TO ANNOUNCED LOCATION.

STUDENTS

Bring your phone
Leave your stuff behind
Follow instructions

TEACHER

Lead evacuation to location
Take attendance
Notify if missing, extra or injured students



SHELTER! HAZARD AND SAFETY STRATEGY.

STUDENTS

Hazard	Safety Strategy
Tornado	Evacuate to shelter area
Hazmat	Seal the room
Earthquake	Drop, cover and hold
Tsunami	Get to high ground

TEACHER

Lead safety strategy
Take attendance



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Equal Access

As required by federal law, Omaha Public Schools provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Please contact the building

principal or the Executive Director for District Operational Services at 531-299-2201 for inquiries regarding this policy.

Health Services

The activities of the health program are implemented at the building level by a registered nurse who is part of the educational team and who is involved with identification, evaluation and care for the individual health needs of all students.

An ill or injured student may not leave the school until permission from the parent(s)/guardian(s), or the person designated by the parent(s)/guardian(s), has been received by the nurse or designee.

A health record is on file for each student in the health office and student health information is entered electronically in Infinite Campus. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are asked to update their child's health information by reporting to the nurse any booster immunizations, new eyeglasses, change in health status or other pertinent information necessary to keep students safe, healthy and ready to learn at school.

Accident Report

When an accident occurs where an injury is involved, and the student misses a half day of school or needs to

be evaluated by a health care provider, an accident report will be completed.

Action Plans and Rescue Medication

Asthma, anaphylaxis, seizures and diabetes are illnesses which have the potential to cause life-threatening symptoms. A current Action Plan is to be provided to the school at the start of each school year, and if the plan changes during the school year. This plan, signed by the health care provider and the parent(s)/guardian(s)

authorizes the required rescue medication be provided to the student at school with the health care provider's description of the signs and symptoms of an emergency, recommended emergency response and the rescue medication prescribed when these symptoms are present.

Community Counseling Program

The Community Counseling Program has been a collaborative effort of the Methodist Hospital Foundation, Omaha Public Schools and participating churches since 1996. The Community Counseling Program's mission is to provide crisis interventions, professional consultations,

individual, marriage and family counseling and educational presentations and programs to the communities it serves. The Program provides professional counseling services to the youth of the Omaha community, their families and others with the greatest need for mental health services.

Minimum Annual Health Screenings

School health screening is mandated by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services which applies to every public-school district in Nebraska and every student under their jurisdiction. These regulations became operative July 1, 2017.

The purpose of screening is to identify those students needing further evaluation or assistance in the areas screened. A health screening or health inspection is not diagnostic. The role of the school in these regulations is to make available the required health screening services and carry out compliance activities as described. It is not the role of the school to be a medical provider. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are to be notified of the screening result if the student is found to need further evaluation, as determined by the qualified screener. The cost of the evaluation, by a health care provider, is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student. A schedule for screenings is based on current medical and public health practice.

A child is not required to participate to school health screening if the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) provides school authorities with a statement signed by a physician,

physician assistant or an advanced practice registered nurse. The provider will state that the child has undergone such required screening within the last six months preceding the school's scheduled screening. A child must submit to any required screening at school for which such a statement is not received.

Students in Nebraska schools must be screened periodically for vision, hearing and dental health. In addition, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services prescribes height and weight measurement, with calculations of body mass index (BMI), for the purpose of monitoring weight/height status at intervals for all students.

As of July 2017, a child's parent(s)/guardian(s) may object for the child to be screened for height and/or weight. This objection must be in writing, signed, dated and received by the school before the height and weight screening is done. An updated written, dated objection must be received by the school for each year the child is in a grade level that will be screened for height and weight.

Nebraska School Immunization Law

- **Students are required to be immunized prior to enrollment and any student not in compliance will not be permitted to continue in school. The minimum immunizations required for enrollment are:**

Students 2-5 years of age:

- 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine
- 4 doses DtaP, DTP, or DT vaccine
- 3 doses of Polio vaccine
- 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age
- 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age
- 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, or written documentation from parent(s)/guardian(s) or health care provider of the month and year of varicella disease
- 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose given on or after 15 months of age

All students from Kindergarten through 12th grade:

- 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age
- 3 doses DtaP, DTP, DT or Td vaccine, one given on or after the fourth birthday
- 3 doses of Polio vaccine
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month, or written documentation from parent(s)/guardian(s) or health care provider of the month and year of

varicella disease

Additionally for 7th grade students (or students enrolling for the first time in OPS in grades 8-12) only:

- Students enrolling in 7th grade and those transferring in from out of state in grades 8 thru 12 must provide evidence of having 1 booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine, given on, or after 7 years of age. 1 dose Tdap (must contain pertussis booster) – the dose can be received any time after 10-11 years of age depending on which brand of vaccine is used.
- Exemptions will be granted for: (1) health reasons substantiated by a written health care provider statement; (2) religious conflict substantiated by a notarized affidavit from the parent(s)/guardian(s).
- Proof of at least one immunization for each required series of immunizations is necessary, to be provisionally enrolled.
- If a student does not have proof of receiving all State required immunizations, provisional enrollment may be allowed when a parent(s)/guardian(s) provides an immunization appointment date to their child's school nurse. Written verification from the health care provider is necessary when the student returns to school, after receiving the immunization. Provisional enrollment will continue, provided the immunizations are given as soon as it is medically possible.
- Special provisions are available for children of officers or enlisted persons on active duty in the military. Please contact your child's school for further information.

Immunization Requirement

Students who do not meet the state immunization requirement for immunization compliance may be subject to emergency exclusion until the school reviews the official

immunization record which indicates the student meets minimum requirements and or receiving the required immunizations as quickly as medically permitted.

Physical Examination Requirements

Students initially enrolling in school, entering the seventh grade or transferring from out-of-state are required (by Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services) to have a physical examination by a licensed health care

provider within six months prior to entrance and provide proof of such an examination. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may opt out of this requirement through a written waiver obtained at the school.

Visual Evaluation Requirement

A vision evaluation by a health care provider or an optometrist is required within six months prior to entrance into kindergarten or transfer from out-of-state. The evaluation will examine for amblyopia, strabismus and

internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity. Parent/guardian may opt out of this requirement through a written waiver obtained at the school.

Procedures for Medications

1. OPS policy requires written authorization from a health care provider, or dentist, and written parent(s)/guardian(s) permission for any prescription or over-the-counter medication administered to any student.

No unauthorized medication (aspirin, Tylenol and cough drops included) will be administered by the school nurse or other school personnel. No OPS personnel will prescribe medication at any time.

When a student must take medication during school hours, adherence to the following procedures is strictly followed:

- a. The school must have written permission from the parent(s)/guardian(s) and a written health care provider statement which provides instruction in providing the correct dosage at the correct time(s). This authorization must be submitted at the start of each school year and with any change in the medication or change in dosage. Authorization from the parent(s)/guardian(s) and health care provider is necessary for all over-the-counter medication also.
 - b. The medication must be brought to school by the parent(s)/guardian(s) or an adult authorized by the parent(s)/guardian(s). Secondary students are allowed to bring medication to school if parent(s)/guardian(s) permission and physician authorization and instructions are available in the health office. **No secondary or elementary students are allowed to bring or carry home any controlled medication (methylphenidate, Adderall, etc.) to school. A parent(s)/guardian(s) or parent(s)/guardian(s)-designated adult is to bring controlled medication directly to school personnel.**
 - c. Pharmacies will provide a prescription medication bottle dedicated to school with each refill. The label on the medication is to include the student's name, health care provider's name, date and directions to be followed.
 - d. Expired or outdated medication will not be accepted or administered to students at any time.
 - e. Non-emergency medication (routine, as needed and over-the-counter medication) is stored in a locked area in the health office until they are turned into OPS environmental services for disposal.
 - f. Emergency medication (e.g. EpiPens, inhalers, glucagon and diastat) is stored in a secure but unlocked area in the health office to provide immediate access.
 - g. Parent(s) or guardian(s) of a student who will not be returning for OPS summer session are responsible to pick up their students' prescription or over the counter medication on or before the final day of school. Medication that is not picked up will be sent to the district's environmental services for disposal.
 - h. Parent(s) or guardian(s) of a student who will be attending summer session in OPS are responsible to pick up their students' prescription or over the counter medication on or before the final day of summer school. Medication that is not picked up will be sent to the district's environmental services for disposal.
2. A student may self-medicate if:
 - a. The student's health care provider has authorized self-medication or to self-carry, when it is to be taken, the dosage and frequency of administration.
 - b. The parent/guardian provides written permission.
 - c. If a student uses his/her own medication other than as prescribed, or endangers himself/herself or others, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the school and may be prohibited from carrying their medication at school.
 3. A student may self-monitor a diabetic condition if:
 - a. There is a written management plan developed by the school, health care provider and parent(s)/guardian(s) designating the specifics of self-monitoring.
 - b. The parent(s)/guardian(s) has completed a designated liability statement.
 - c. If a student uses his/her own medical supplies other than as prescribed, or endangers himself/herself or others, the student may be subject to disciplinary action by the school and may be prohibited from self-monitoring the diabetic condition.

School Based Health Centers

To ensure students are healthy and ready to learn, the Omaha Public Schools partners with OneWorld Community Health Center and Charles Drew Health Center to provide quality health care within eight School Based Health Centers (SBHC) in buildings throughout the district. The SBHCs are staffed by licensed advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants that can diagnose, treat and prescribe medications for many illnesses that keep children out of the classroom, in addition to providing school physicals, physicals to participate in athletics and administering immunizations which are required to attend school. With parent(s)/

guardian(s) consent, any OPS student and their minor siblings may use the services provided in the SBHC. The relationship with a student's medical home is not disrupted if the SBHC is utilized by the student. The SBHC accepts Medicaid, Kids Connection, commercial insurance, or they can provide a low-cost sliding fee schedule for uninsured children based on family income and size. To enroll, the "School Based Health Center Enrollment and Consent Form" must be completed by a parent(s)/guardian(s) and returned to school. For enrollment forms and more complete information about hours, services and cost, please visit or call your school nurse for assistance.

<p>Kellom Elementary 311 N. 24 Street 402-505-5451</p>	<p>King Science & Technology Magnet 3720 Florence Blvd. 402-502-5644</p>	<p>Belvedere Elementary 3775 Curtis Ave. 402-932-1232</p>	<p>Northwest High Magnet 8204 Crown Point Ave. 402-916-5964</p>
<p>Indian Hill Elementary 3121 U Street 402-933-4968</p>	<p>Liberty Elementary 2021 St. Mary's Ave. 402-505-8180</p>	<p>Spring Lake Magnet 4215 S 20 Street 402-932-7014</p>	<p>Bryan High 4700 Giles Road 402-557-3100</p>

Special Health Needs

It is imperative for parent(s)/guardian(s) to notify the school of any health needs/concerns their child may have, such as asthma, seizure disorders, severe allergy, diabetes, blood disorders, etc.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) must provide all of their student's medications and medical supplies for special health

care procedures, including blood glucose monitors, inhalers, tubing for nebulizers, catheterization supplies, etc. Medication and certain medical procedures require authorization from the parent(s)/guardian(s) and health care provider (physician [O.D., M.D.], advanced practice registered nurse [A.P.R.N.], physician assistant [P.A.]).

Special Emergency Procedures

In case of cardiac arrest, an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) may be administered by designated trained staff in CPR/AED to students as a life-saving measure. If a student sustains a life-threatening asthma attack or a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis),

epinephrine and nebulized albuterol may be administered by trained staff. Emergency Medical Services will be activated in life-threatening emergencies. AED and emergency medications, for asthma and anaphylaxis emergencies, are not to be taken off school grounds.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Behavior

In the Omaha Public Schools, we believe we can affect student behavior by creating environments where students are likely to learn and behave. These environments are guided by a set of standardized practices to increase the likelihood of positive behavior occurring. With consistent implementation, MTSS-B

- Improves school climate
- Reduces aggressive behavior
- Reduces major disciplinary infractions

- Supports social-emotional learning and self-regulation
- Improves academic achievement and student attendance

School administrators use this framework to support students' needs when making decisions regarding the OPS Code of Conduct. Each school and program in Omaha Public Schools has an MTSS-B Team to ensure effective practices are in place.

Nebraska State Activities Association (NSAA)

NSAA Eligibility

The Nebraska State Activities Association (NSAA) sets rules and regulations for all high schools in Nebraska. The following is a summary of the major rules.

1. Student must be an undergraduate.
2. Student must have passed at least four credits the previous semester. Student must be enrolled in at least four credits per week and regular in attendance, in accordance with the school's attendance policy at the school he/she wishes to represent in interscholastic competition.
3. Student must be enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh day of the current school year.
4. Student is ineligible if nineteen years of age before August 1 of current school year. (Student may participate on a high school team if he/she was 15 years of age prior to August 1 of the current school year.)
5. After a student's initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she may be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership.
6. Student must not have changed schools without a change of residence. Exception – open enrollment by May 1. Student must have been enrolled in school the immediate preceding semester.
7. Student must have earned four credits the immediate preceding semester.
8. Once the season of sport begins, a student shall compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport which are scheduled by his/her school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for a portion of, or all of, the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules. The fall sports season begins August 10, 2020, and ends with the state meets in the fall sports. The winter sports season begins November 16, 2020 and ends with the state meets in the winter sports. The spring sports season begins March 1, 2021 and ends with the state meets in the spring sports.
9. Student shall not participate in sports camps or clinics during the season of a sport in which he/she is involved, either as an individual or as a member of a team.

10. Student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
11. A student entering grade nine for the first time after being promoted from grade eight is eligible. After a student makes an initial choice of high school, any subsequent transfer, unless there has been a change of domicile by his/her parents, shall render the student ineligible for ninety school days. If a student has participated on a high school team on any level as a seventh, eighth or ninth grade student, he/she has established eligibility at the high school where he/she participated. If the student elects to attend another high school upon entering ninth or tenth grade, he/she shall be ineligible for ninety school days.
12. Student eligibility related to domicile can be attained in the following manners: (a) If the parents of a student change their domicile from one school district that has a high school to another school district that has a high school, the student shall be eligible immediately in the school district where the parents established their domicile; (b) If the change in domicile by the parents occurs during the school year, the student may remain at the school he/she is attending and be eligible until the end of the school year or transfer to a high school located in the school district where the parents established their domicile and be eligible; (c) If a student has been attending the same high school since initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she may remain in that high school and retain eligibility, or he/she is eligible at a high school located in the school district where his/her parents established their domicile; (d) If the parents moved during the summer months and the student is in grade twelve, the student may remain at the high school he/she has been attending and retain eligibility.
13. Guardianship does not fulfill the definition of a parent. If a guardian has been appointed for a student, the student is eligible in the school district where his/her natural parent(s) have their domicile. Individual situations involving guardianship may be submitted to the Executive Director for his review and ruling.
14. Student shall not participate in a contest under an assumed name.
15. Student must maintain his/her amateur status.

OPS Academic Eligibility for High School Students Who Participate In Any Sanctioned Activities Sponsored by the NSAA - Policy No. 5102

I. PURPOSE

To delineate system-wide academic eligibility guidelines for students who participate in Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) sanctioned activities.

II. BACKGROUND

This policy will outline academic eligibility procedures to be used by high school students who choose to participate in any NSAA extracurricular activity. The sanctioned NSAA activities are as follows: cross country, football, golf, softball, tennis, volleyball, basketball, swimming, wrestling, bowling, unified bowling, baseball, soccer, track & field, unified track & field, debate, journalism, music, play production and speech.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Extracurricular Activities Requiring Academic Eligibility is defined as sanctioned NSAA activities (see above listing).

Non-NSAA activities, whose sponsor receives a qualifying intramural unit of salary, listed as nonathletic and athletic in the Negotiated Agreement between the Omaha Education Association and the Omaha Public Schools Board of Education does not require academic eligibility.

B. Eligibility Period is defined as the one quarter prior to the season in which the student is participating.

C. An Audit course is taken for no credit and is not a part of a student's grade point average (GPA).

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Eligibility

1. No pass, no play. All middle and high school

students participating in, or who plan to participate in sanctioned NSAA activities, must maintain a passing grade in every class for the eligibility period.

2. Grades reported as incomplete (INC) as a result of district excused absences shall be considered passing grades until changed. Incomplete grades that are not changed to a passing grade within ten school days after report cards are issued will be considered failing grades for eligibility purposes until they are changed.

3. Student Withdraw from Courses

a. A student may withdraw from a course within 15 school days from the beginning of the course or less without penalty.

b. A student must be enrolled in a minimum of six courses per semester. Seniors must have their schedules meet the approval of their guidance counselor, and should be enrolled in a minimum of four courses per semester.

c. When a student withdraws from a course after 15 school days after the start of the course, the student will be given a drop grade at the time of the withdrawal from the course, and that grade will be factored into the grading period average.

4. When a student transfers into an OPS high school, the grades from the previous high school will be used to determine academic eligibility.

5. Each activity sponsor, athletic director, or coach will verify student's academic eligibility

for sanctioned NSAA activities every two weeks. Grade reports will be generated every two weeks.

6. Students enrolled in less than a full day schedule must pass each course and be eligible.
7. High school students who do not maintain a Term (quarter) GPA of 2.0 must attend academic coaching a minimum of one hour a week for nine weeks until he/she demonstrates a Term, (quarter) GPA of 2.0. All students have the opportunity to retake any course that they earn a "D" or "F" to replace this grade with a higher grade. All students, who have a "D" or "F", will continue to attend Academic Coaching sessions until the student is passing all courses. The minimum number of academic coaching sessions per week is a one-hour session; however, some students who are failing may need to attend more than the minimum one-hour academic tutoring session.
8. Any student who has maintained a GPA above a 2.0 or no grade lower than a "C" in all coursework is also welcome to attend an academic coaching session at any time, but it is not required.

B. Exceptions

1. This policy does not govern activities related to course objectives or extension of a graded course or of a high school credit course e.g., concert or drama presentation, that would adversely affect the student's grade.
2. An unsatisfactory evaluation in an audit course is not considered failing for student eligibility.
3. Students who have an Individual Education

Plan (IEP) will be exempt from the Term GPA 2.0 (quarter) and no pass, no play requirements. Students with an IEP must continue to meet the NSAA requirement of passing four classes during the prior (quarter) term.

4. In cases where there are extenuating circumstances, students who do not meet the Term (quarter) GPA 2.0 requirement and/or are failing courses and who wish to participate have the option to use a waiver available to them one time during their high school years. A student can only use the waiver option if he or she is participating in intervention and/or support programs. The waiver may be used as long as all other NSAA requirements are met. The waiver is approved or denied by the building principal or the principal's designee.

C. Local School Responsibilities

1. Schools (middle and high school) shall communicate in writing to students and parents a list of opportunities for all students to participate in extracurricular activities and a copy of the OPS academic eligibility requirements for NSAA sanctioned activities. In addition, parent(s)/guardian(s) shall also receive a copy of the OPS Academic Coaching Program brochure.
2. Schools must have the OPS Academic Coaching Program in place to help students retain or regain academic eligibility for all NSAA sanctioned activities.
3. Schools shall evaluate the effectiveness of their OPS Academic Coaching Program annually.

Nutrition Services

The Omaha Public Schools District recognizes students need access to nutritious meals during the school day to stay focused in the classroom. Breakfast is provided at no charge to all students and lunch is provided at reasonable prices. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to pay for

their student's meals. The information below describes the standard practice the district will follow to maintain the financial integrity of the nonprofit school meals program while minimizing any undue focus on children who do not have funds.

Meal Applications

At the beginning of each school year, free and reduced meal applications are distributed to OPS families. They are available online, at all schools, and in the Nutrition Services Office. A student's meal status from the prior year is carried over for thirty student days into the next school year. To continue meal benefits, a completed and approved application must be on file. Families may complete an application online for the upcoming school

year any time after July 23 (may vary year-to-year). Families may also submit applications any time throughout the school year if they believe they may qualify or if their circumstances have changed (e.g., if the household size goes up, income goes down or if anyone in the household starts receiving SNAP, TANF, or other benefits). **Links for the online meal application and online payment are located at district.ops.org.**

Meal Balances

Parent(s) and/or guardian(s) are encouraged to monitor their child's meal balance online and keep an adequate amount of funds in the child's account to pay for their

meals. Prepayment is encouraged. Payment may be made online, or at the school with cash or check. District staff will notify parent(s)/guardian(s) of low account or negative

balances by using various communication channels (e.g., sending reminders home with the child, making phone calls, sending letters home and through email messages). For information on accessing your child's online account visit: www.schoolcafe.com (you will need your student's ID).

Elementary Schools:

- A complimentary breakfast is provided to all students.
- Money remaining in a student's account at the end of the year will be carried forward to the next school year unless contacted by the parent/guardian for a refund or the child leaves the district. If a student changes buildings within OPS their meal balance will follow them.
- Nutrition Services staff will notify the parent or guardian when the account has funds remaining for three meals in the account (approximately \$4 full price meals or \$1.20 for reduced price meals).
- Students must have money in their account or cash to purchase extra milk or a la carte items.
- Students will be provided a 'Two Meal Safety Net' when the account reaches zero. This allows parents and guardians to provide the funds to pay the balance owed and for future meals.
- Students who have used the 'Two Meal Safety Net' and do not have the funds to pay for the current meal will receive a meal which consists of the required meal components. The meal will be charged to the account. The student will have their choice of the following:
 - Cold sandwich (peanut butter and jelly, sunbutter, or cheese)
 - Assorted fruits and vegetables
 - Milk, various flavors
- Any student who has a negative balance will be able to pay for a current meal when it is received.
- If payment is not submitted, contact will be made to the parent or guardian requesting payment. A meal application may also be sent home
- Communication, by the Nutrition Services Staff and the School Administration, will continue until the account balance is paid in full.
- All negative balances must be paid off by the end of the school year.

Negative Account Balances

The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when the account balance is low. Additionally, reasonable efforts will be made to collect unpaid meal

Online Meal Accounts

To learn more about how to log in to your child's meal account online, visit www.schoolcafe.com. You will need your child's student ID to register.

Smart Snacks

All food sold to students during the school day (from 12:00 a.m. through 30 minutes after the school day) must meet the Smart Snack guidelines; e.g. the nutrition

Middle and High Schools:

- A complimentary breakfast is provided to all students.
- Money remaining in a student's account at the end of the year will be carried forward to the next school year unless contacted by the parent/guardian for a refund or a child leaves the district. If a student changes buildings within OPS their meal balance will follow them.
- Students will be given a verbal reminder at the cash register when their account falls below \$5.00.
- Students will be provided a 'Two Meal Safety Net' when the account reaches zero. This allows parents and guardians to provide the funds to pay the balance owed and for future meals.
- Students who have used the 'Two Meal Safety Net' and do not have the funds to pay for the current meal will receive a meal which consists of the required meal components. The meal will be charged to the account. The student will have their choice of the following:
 - Cold sandwich (peanut butter and jelly, sunbutter, or cheese)
 - Assorted fruits and vegetables
 - Milk, various flavors
- Students must have money in their account or cash to purchase extra milk or a la carte items.
- Any student who has a negative balance will be able to pay for a current meal when it is received.
- If payment is not submitted, contact will be made to the parent or guardian requesting payment. A meal application may also be sent home.
- Communication, by the Nutrition Services Staff and the School Administration, will continue until the account balance is paid in full.
- All negative balances must be paid off by the end of the school year.

Adults:

- Adults must have money in their account or cash to make a purchase.
- Adults will not be allowed to charge meals or a la carte items.
- Adults may check their account balance as they go through the line or contact the cafeteria manager.

charges classified as delinquent debt. Communication will be coordinated to contact families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges.

If you have questions regarding your child's meal account please contact your child's school or the OPS Nutrition Services Department at 531-299-0230.

standards. The regulation applies to foods sold a la carte during breakfast and lunch, in the school store, vending machines, school offices, and fundraisers which sell

foods that can be eaten by students during the school day.

Additionally, Nebraska's Competitive Food Rule states no food items can be sold in competition with the school

Student ID Numbers

Student ID numbers are confidential and must not be shared with anyone. Unauthorized use of an ID number will result in your account being charged for the food. As soon

Student Meals

Druid Hill, Franklin, Kennedy, King Elementary, and Lothrop are enrolled in the Community Eligibility Program and students attending only those schools will not need to complete a meal application.

The federal government requires the school district to verify the information on a designated number of meal applications each year. Families will be contacted if their meal application has been selected.

- **Breakfast:**

Breakfast is available at no charge to all students.

Student Payment Procedures

Weekly, monthly, or semester payment amounts are encouraged. Payment by check is accepted and online payment is encouraged. At the end of every year, a student returning to Omaha Public Schools will have the remaining balance in his/her school lunch account carried over into the next year. If the student is graduating or leaving the district, upon request, the money in a school lunch account may be transferred to other accounts or, if the balance is one dollar or more, the money will automatically be refunded at the end of the school year. Please contact your school's cafeteria manager or the Nutrition Services Office (531-299-0230) for details.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large

meals program from thirty minutes before until thirty minutes after meal service (breakfast and lunch).

as you become aware someone is using your ID number, please notify Nutrition Services immediately.

A variety of healthful items are available, of which, each student must choose a minimum of three items. Students must select a fruit as part of the meal.

- **Lunch:**

A variety of menu items are available at lunch. A student, who participates in the lunch program, must choose a minimum of three components to a maximum of five. All students must take a fruit or vegetable as part of the meal. Additional items are available at a la carte prices.

print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- [1] Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- [2] Fax: 202-690-7442; or
- [3] Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Communication & Access to the Schools

Access to the Schools

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to visit their children's schools, classrooms, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities. The district will encourage home and school cooperation by promoting clear, two-way communication with parent(s)/guardian(s) about the instructional program, and the child's participation and progress. Special notice is routinely given to parent(s)/guardian(s) regarding open houses, parent-teacher conferences, award and recognition ceremonies, school activities, certain assemblies, student programs, and other special events.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are also encouraged to visit their children's classrooms and daily learning environments. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and other visitors to the schools are expected to arrange such visits in advance. All visitors need to report to the main office or designated area to sign-in and receive visitor's badge.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) and other patrons of the district are welcome and encouraged to visit the schools. All visitors are expected to report to the main office or designated area to notify staff they are in the building or on school grounds. Visitors to the schools must respect the

learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum. Disruption of the orderly process of the school is prohibited. The principal or his/her designee is authorized to deny access, ban or bar future access, remove or request the removal of any visitor whose behavior is

disruptive to the educational/working environment of the school. Any visitor to the schools who has been denied access or who has been asked to leave may appeal to the Office of the Superintendent.

Communication

Establishing good communication with students is a major goal of Omaha Public Schools, one which the school considers an important factor in a student's educational success. Teachers, counselors, and principals strive to answer questions and correct misinformation by maintaining an "open door" policy with students. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to ask questions. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are invited to seek the counsel of any of these school staff to help solve your problems. Contact your main office to be directed to the appropriate staff member.

One goal of a student's success in school is correcting problem situations early. The way to do this is to encourage parent(s)/guardian(s) to talk with the teacher involved or to seek the advice of a counselor. Students often wait when they have difficulty in a class, thinking they will be able to help themselves without assistance. Often, however, the

problem gets worse, and the student can see no answer. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to show concern and need for help early. The teacher is there to help students succeed.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) will have the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and discuss progress at Parent-Teacher Conferences scheduled during the school year. Also report cards will be distributed to parent(s)/guardian(s) at these conferences.

Newsletters mailed to parent(s)/guardian(s), electronic communication, and school websites are among the other means of communication with the home. The school newspaper and FM-radio station, KIOS, circulate school news. KIOS, which is 91.5 on the radio dial, is located at the Telecommunications Center, 3230 Burt Street.

Campus Parent Portal

The Omaha Public School District offers parent(s)/guardian(s) the opportunity to view their student's grades, homework, attendance and fines/fees online. The app, Campus Parent provides anytime access via the internet

from the Omaha Public Schools homepage (district.ops.org) or from the direct Campus Portal link (<https://campus.ops.org/campus/portal/ops.jsp>). Contact your school's main office to gain access.

Personal Contact Changes

Address Change

If you are moving, whether it is still in the school's attendance area or not, please report to the school's main office to inform the school and to provide proof of address such as lease agreement or utility bill. If moving from the district, advance notice should be given to the teacher so necessary paperwork can be completed for the transfer. A couple days' notice is required.

Email/Telephone Change

If there is a change of email and telephone contact information for parent(s)/guardian(s) or emergency contact, please notify the main office or submit the information through the Campus Parent app. This information is used to communicate with families about pertinent information.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA)

PPRA affords parent(s)/guardian(s) certain rights regarding our conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas ("protected information survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education (ED) –

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent(s)/guardian(s);
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;

5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parent(s)/guardian(s); or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of –

1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding;
2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, height

and weight, oral assessment, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and

3. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use –

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing sales or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parent(s)/guardian(s) to the student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

The Omaha Public Schools (OPS) has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parent(s)/guardian(s), regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. OPS will directly notify parent(s)/guardian(s) of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. OPS

will also directly notify, such as through U.S. mail or e-mail, parent(s)/guardian(s) of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted below and will provide an opportunity for the parent(s)/guardian(s) to opt their own child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. OPS will make this notification to parent(s)/guardian(s) at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities schedules after the school year starts, parent(s)/guardian(s) will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. Following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales or other distribution;
- Administration of any protected information survey not funded in whole or in part by ED; and
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with: Student Privacy Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5920 or at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/>.

School Counseling

The OPS School Counseling division provides a comprehensive, strengths-based program aligned with the American School Counselor Association National Model and the Nebraska Department of Education School Counseling Model. The role of the school counselor is to address all students' academic, career and social/emotional development by delivering a comprehensive program including classroom lessons, individual student planning and responsive services to all students from Kindergarten through 12th grade. School counselors prepare students to excel in college, career and life by instilling hope, increasing school connectedness and

empowering students to achieve academic success.

Omaha Public Schools SAFE Schools Hotline –

The Omaha Public Schools offers students and families the OPS SAFE Schools Hotline for help dealing with depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, bullying, relationship issues, violence, or to report a school concern. The Hotline number is **531-299-SAFE** (7233) and is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, staffed by trained counselors. Spanish-speaking counselors and translation services representing more than 140 languages are available.

Sexual Harassment

No individual may be discriminated against on the basis of sex in any education program or activity. Sexual harassment of students is a form of prohibited sex discrimination under the circumstances described in the Guidance. Prohibited acts of sexual harassment can take a variety of forms ranging from subtle pressure for sexual activity to physical assault. The following conduct is sexual harassment:

Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment –

Sexually harassing conduct (which can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature) by an employee, by another student, or by a third party that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity, or to create a hostile or abusive educational environment.

Quid Pro Quo Harassment – A school employee explicitly or implicitly conditions a student's participation in an education program or activity or bases an educational decision on the student's submission to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Quid pro quo harassment is equally unlawful whether the student resists and suffers the threatened harm or submits and thus avoids the threatened harm.

Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, or Stalking – Any of the following may also constitute "Sexual Harassment." Please contact the Title IX Coordinator for more information (Office of Equity and Diversity, 531-299-0307, equityanddiversity@ops.org)

- The term "sexual assault" means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the

uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

- The term “dating violence” means violence committed by a person...
 - who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
 - where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - The length of the relationship.
 - The type of relationship.
 - The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- The term “domestic violence” includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a

current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

- The term “stalking” means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—
 - fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
 - suffer substantial emotional distress

Social Media Practices

The use of social media, text messaging, and gaming unless for teacher-instructed, educational use are not allowed during class time. Cell phone use is limited to passing periods and lunch time, exclusively.

Most social media platforms require children to be at least 13 years old to use. Social media use should be monitored by a parent/guardian as it is discouraged for educators

and students to connect through these platforms with the exception of school-sanctioned accounts. It is important to remember that any events that occur off school property, or outside of school hours, but captured through use of social media can have school-based consequences if their implications disrupt the learning environment.

Stranger Danger

The present or potential danger to children that is presented when an unknown individual make physical, verbal, etc. contact or attempted contact with children/students. Whether there is danger or perceived danger, all efforts are taken by staff to ensure safe procedures and

and students to connect through these platforms with the exception of school-sanctioned accounts. It is important to remember that any events that occur off school property, or outside of school hours, but captured through use of social media can have school-based consequences if their implications disrupt the learning environment.

Student Fines & Fees

PART ONE: Permissible Fees

No fees shall be charged to students, nor shall materials be required from students, for their participation in any school-related course or activity, whether curricular, co-curricular or extracurricular, except as expressly permitted below.

a. Extracurricular activities:

The District shall annually set a single fee for high schools, and a single fee for middle schools which may be required for participation in any extra-curricular activity, and which shall also be the fee for purchase of an activity card.

1. Extra-curricular activities are those activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District.
2. The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the

student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouthpieces and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant. Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire. For musical extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized

equipment, such as musical instruments or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

3. Any student who participates in an extra-curricular activity will receive an activity card. All extra-curricular participation fees shall be deposited into the Student Fee Fund as described in PART TWO of this policy, and as further described in the accounting practices of the District.
4. The extra-curricular participation fee shall be waived for students who qualify for a fee waiver pursuant to PART THREE of this policy.
5. Students who do not participate in extra-curricular activities but wish to purchase an activity card to obtain admission as a spectator to those extra-curricular activities open to spectators may do so on a voluntary basis.
6. The fee for the purchase of an activity card shall be waived for students who qualify for a fee waiver pursuant to PART THREE of this policy. Fees collected from the purchase of activity cards shall be deposited into the Student Fee Fund as described in PART TWO of this policy, and as further described in the accounting practices of the District.
7. Fieldtrip fees may only be charged if participation by the student is voluntary, if the fieldtrip is not part of the curriculum or an extension of the curriculum, and if the fieldtrip occurs after school hours and/or does not count toward school attendance. All extra-curricular fieldtrip fees shall be deposited into the Student Fee Fund as described in PART TWO of this policy, and as further described in the accounting practices of the District.
8. Students may be required to furnish minor personal or minor consumable items necessary for participation in extracurricular activities.
9. Schools may continue to seek and accept donations, and participate in fundraisers according to District policy in order to fund school day and/or curriculum-related fieldtrips.
10. Clubs, teams and organizations for which there may be a fee required for participation may also, as a club, team, or organization, decide to make purchases, and may fundraise and/or seek donations according to District policy to assist in the funding of their organizations and such purchases, which may include, but are not limited to, apparel and trips. Fundraising by an organization for the activities of that organization is not a fee charged by the District.
11. Money raised through fundraising and donations is not deposited in the Student Fee Fund.

b. Spectator events:

Spectators may be charged admission fees and transportation charges, if transportation is provided,

to attend extracurricular activities, as defined by this policy.

c. Minor personal or minor consumable items for classes or courses:

The District may request students to furnish minor personal consumable items, including but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks, for courses and activities which count for graduation or advancement between grades, or in which participation is otherwise required by the District. The request for such items shall be made in such a way that it is clear the furnishing of same is voluntary. If a student is unable to provide the minor personal consumable item required, the school will supply the item to the student.

d. Clothing:

In addition to school guidelines about general appropriateness of attire, schools may require students to furnish and wear nonspecialized clothing meeting general written guidelines for specified courses and activities, if the written guidelines are reasonably related to the course or activity.

e. Musical instruments:

Students who take elective (optional) music courses such as band and orchestra shall be permitted to supply their own instrument, and music stand, or shall be provided without charge by the District an instrument and stand, if a stand is necessary. The District shall not be required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student. The District shall supply music for such courses.

1. Personal supplies related to musical instruments, including but not limited to, such as reeds, cork lubricant, pipe cleaners, cleaning cloths and other cleaning supplies are considered minor personal or minor consumable items, and shall be the responsibility of the student. If a student is unable to provide the minor personal or minor consumable item required, the school may, as appropriate, supply the item to the student.
2. For music courses that are extracurricular activities, schools may require fees or require students to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire consistent with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

f. Lost or damaged school district property:

Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of school property. Students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) may be held responsible for damages to school property where such damage is caused or aided by the student and may be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student. A school may require a student to reimburse the school district or educational service unit for school district or educational service

unit property lost or damaged by the student, and pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-737.

g. Parking:

Students may be charged a fee to park their cars on school property. Each school shall publish its parking fee, if any, in the student handbook.

h. Yearbooks, class rings and other optional purchases:

Students may be charged for the purchase of items such as yearbooks, class rings, class sweatshirts and other such voluntary purchases.

i. Graduation items:

Students may be required to pay the necessary fee to cover the cost of graduation robes, caps, tassels and other items required to participate in graduation ceremonies.

j. Food:

Students may be charged a fee for the purchase of breakfast or lunch. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store", a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

k. Summer school:

The District may annually set fees for student participation in non-remedial classes offered during the summer. There shall be no fee charged for courses offered by the District in summer school for remediation which is provided as defined in Nebraska Statute for students between ages 6-15

for which participation is recommended by the District. Fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into, and expended from, the Student Fee Fund as described in PART TWO below and as further described in the accounting practices of the District.

l. Night school/Adult education:

The District may annually set fees for student participation in classes offered to students taking classes through the District's night school/adult education program or summer school for students age 16 or beyond. Any and all fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into, and expended from, the Student Fee Fund as described in PART TWO below and as further described in the accounting practices of the District.

m. Post-secondary education costs:

For a course in which students receive high school credit and for which they may also choose to apply for postsecondary education credit, a student may be charged the tuition and other fees only associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution. Any and all fees collected pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited into, and expended from, the Student Fee Fund as described in PART TWO below and as further described in the accounting practices of the District.

n. Student files and records:

Fees may be charged for copies of student files or records pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-2, 104.

o. Transportation:

Students may be assessed a fee for transportation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-241, 79-605, and 79-611.

PART TWO: Procedures for the collection and expenditure of student fees

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate School District fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which

it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from or on behalf of students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs and (3) summer school or night school.

PART THREE: Waiver of student fees

Required fees that are charged to students pursuant to PART ONE, subsections **a** and **b**, shall be waived for students who qualify for participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs. Students shall be provided forms prior to, or at the beginning of each school year, or upon initial enrollment in the District, which shall permit the District to use information the student has provided for qualification in the free or reduced-price lunch program to determine eligibility for fee waiver, and/or which shall provide the information necessary to determine whether a student qualifies for fee waiver because he or she meets the criteria for participation in the free or reduced-price lunch

program. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities and (2) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students or their parent(s)/guardian(s) may request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to the purchase of the materials, and the fee waiver must be submitted prior to the time the fee is due or the time the specialized equipment or attire is needed.

Student Unpaid Obligations

Students are required to assume the financial responsibility for their actions. This may include, but not necessarily be limited to obligations for: (a) the loss or damage to school owned supplies and/or equipment; (b) fines resulting from the late return of library books; and (c) any other fines/fees as permitted under state statutes. A fee will be assessed for returned checks (\$20.00) and refund requests (\$5.00.)

Those students who fail to meet their obligations outlined above or others as indicated in the student handbook will be subject to the following restrictions until such time as the financial obligations are met:

1. The student, nor his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) shall receive an official transcript. An official transcript will only be issued to a school to which the student

transfers. The student and his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may review the student's permanent record by following the established practices and procedures.

2. The student's name may not appear on the school's honor roll and the student may not receive any other academic recognition provided through the school.
3. The student may be ineligible to participate in any activity or on any team that represents the school.
4. The student may be ineligible to receive any awards.
5. The student, upon becoming eligible for graduation, will not receive a diploma.

Upon payment of all outstanding debts, the student will be eligible to receive any or all of the above at a time and in a manner designated by the school officials.

Student Records

Any person other than the student, his/her parent(s), guardian(s), teachers, counselors, or school officials, may gain access to the student's records by presenting the original copy of a release of information statement signed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) (or student if over 18) stating specific items to be released and to whom the information is to be given. Records are also released to other educational institutions as provided for in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) without prior parental or student consent.

FERPA affords parent(s)/guardian(s) and students 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School District receives a request for access. (By action of the School Board the number of days for the school to act has been shortened to 10.) Parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will arrange for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal or the Student Information Services Office (3215 Cuming St. Omaha, NE 68131-2024) or at sis@ops.org, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student, the School District will notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding

the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member; a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the School District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district or school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Upon request, the School District also discloses education records of former students, without consent to officials of another school district or school in which the former student is then enrolled.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Student Private Policy Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Students Responsibilities and Rights

A student's basic responsibility in school is to act in a manner that enhances their own and other's opportunity to learn. A student does not have a right to engage in

conduct or actions that would materially and substantially interfere with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of a school.

Textbooks/Library Books

Textbooks are supplied by the Omaha Public Schools. Books must be returned in good condition when checked

in to the teacher. It is the responsibility of the family to pay for any loss and/or damaged books.

Volunteers

If there is interest assisting school personnel in the operations of the school; i.e. library work, aiding classroom teachers, tutors, reading to students, cafeteria, etc., contact the main office at the school. The principal will then follow the Volunteer Process through Human Resources.

District volunteer forms (which include a background check component) are utilized at all schools for any individual (parent(s)/guardian(s), relative, or otherwise) wishing to volunteer or provide any type of support that would bring them in contact with students.

Withdrawal from School

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-202, a person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least sixteen years of age but less than eighteen years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements of section 79-202 79-201 if an exit interview is conducted and the withdrawal form is signed and filed with the Commissioner of Education.

To begin the withdrawal process, the person with legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least sixteen years of age but less than eighteen years of age submits a request to the school where the student is enrolled.

The principal or his/her designee (School Support Liaison, Administrator and/or School Counselor), will schedule the exit interview which shall be personally attended by: (a) the child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable; (b) the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview; (c) the child's principal or the principal's designee (School Counselor) if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; (d) the superintendent designee (School Support Liaison) and (e) any other person requested by any of the required parties.

During the exit interview, the person making the written request shall present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either (i) financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child or (ii) an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

During the exit interview, the School Counselor will identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings

for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may either sign the withdrawal form provided by the school district or may rescind the written request for the withdrawal. The principal or his/her designee will complete the Nebraska Withdrawal From Mandatory Attendance Form found at:

<https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/NebraskaWithdrawalFromMandatoryAttendanceForm10-005.pdf>

All information must first be inputted into the form and then printed off to be signed. The withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request is valid only if (i) the child signs the form unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable and (ii) the Principal or the Principal's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of Principal or the Principal's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child and the child is experiencing either financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child or an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable. The signed withdrawal form is forwarded to the Student Information Services office to be entered into the data management system and reported to the Department of Education.

Students who have withdrawn may re-enter school the following semester by contacting the last school attended, or the Student Placement office at 531-299-0302. Contact should be made prior to the start of the semester.



Omaha Public Schools Points of Pride

Over the past four years, more than **13,038** OPS students have earned more than **52,180** college credits while in high school.


OPS offers more Advanced Placement (AP) courses than any other district in the state.



10 OPS schools offer dual language programs.
Students can participate K-12th grade.



Students at the Career Center earned **838** industry recognized certifications in 2018-19.*

OPS serves the largest number of Nebraska's student population:



53,552

Nearly one out of every six students in the state.

109 
AP Scholar Awards in 2019



Total amount of scholarships OPS graduates earned in 2020: **\$60.6 million** appx.

OPS is the most diverse school district in the state, serving students who speak **108** Languages



State Championships

(LAST 10 YEARS)

Football

- Burke 2018
- North 2017, 2014, 2013

Girls Basketball

- Benson 2014
- Central 2012

Boys Basketball

- Central 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010
- South 2019, 2016

Wrestling

- North 2014

Boys Soccer

- South 2019, 2016, 2013

Boys Track

- Central 2011, 2010

Girls Track

- North 2011, 2010

Connect With Us:  OmahaPublicSchools  @OmahaPubSchool  OmahaPubSchool  OmahaPublicSchools ops.org



More Diverse Education Opportunities

Career Academy Programs

- Air and Space Technology
- Business
- Design
- Engineering
- Finance
- Health Sciences
- Information Technology
- Law
- Manufacturing
- Public Safety and Security
- Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
- Urban Agriculture and Natural Sciences

OPS Career Center

- Auto Collision Repair
- Automotive Technology
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Commercial Design
- Construction
- Digital Video Production
- Electrical Systems Tech
- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Photography
- UNMC Health High School Alliance
- Welding
- Zoology

Magnet Schools

- College Readiness
- Communication Skills and Electronic Media
- Dual Language Program
- Global Studies
- Information Technology
- Law, Government and International Diplomacy
- STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)
- University Partnership
- Visual/ Performing Arts

Learning Community Focus Programs

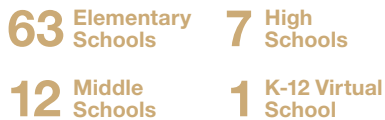
- Burke High School
- Lewis & Clark Middle School
- Wilson Focus School

International Baccalaureate

- Central High School
- Lewis & Clark Middle School

2020 Alice Buffett Award Winners

Melissa Bauldwin Burke High	Diane Eubanks Buffett Middle	Amy Hiddleston Accelerere	Thomas Miller Buffett Middle	Nick Wennstedt Bryan High
Mary Ann Colasacco Dundee Elementary	Justine Garman Benson High	Kristy Lee Marrs Middle	Rod Mullen Central High	Craig Wiles Crestridge Elementary
Ranae Duncan Bryan High	LaJoy Green North High	Deborah Merrill Adams Elementary	Anthony Razor Burke High	Lindsey Wilson Morton Middle



10 Green Ribbon Awards

Environmental excellence recognition awards earned by nine schools and one district award.



LEED Certification Awards

Davis Middle School Silver 2013	North High Magnet Haddix Center Silver 2010
Gateway Elementary Silver 2013	Educare at Indian Hill Silver 2009

Average Cost Per Pupil Educated

OPS Average

\$11,618

State Average

\$13,183.54



OPS Student to Teacher Ratio

12.96 Elementary (K-6)

15.84 Middle School

19.63 High School



Profile of OPS Teaching Staff

62.89% Total Master's Level or Above
41 Average Age
10 Average Years of Experience

Degree Status	Bachelors	Bachelors ⁺¹⁸ HRS	Masters	Masters ⁺³⁰ HRS	Doctorate
	28.65%	8.46%	47.20%	14.96%	0.73%



*Some data was not compiled during the 2019-20 school year due to health conditions. Therefore, the most recent available data is shared.

Omaha Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy), marital status, sexual orientation, disability, age, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, citizenship status, veteran status, political affiliation or economic status in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individual has been designated to accept allegations regarding non-discrimination policies: Superintendent of Schools, 3215 Cuming Street, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-9822). The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity and Diversity, 3215 Cuming St, Omaha, NE 68131 (531-299-0307).

Omaha Public Schools

Student Code of Conduct

*Every student.
Every day.
Prepared for
SUCCESS.*



Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students

We ask that you take time to sit down together and read through these rules.

Please note the behaviors that will result in expulsion for the remainder of the semester, the next semester, and one calendar year.

*The Student Code of Conduct was last amended
and readopted by the Board of Education on May 20, 2019*

Expectations for Stakeholders

The Student Is Expected to:

1. Behave in a Respectful, Responsible, and Safe manner;
2. Abide by expectations, guidelines, rules and regulations established by the School and District;
3. Attend school daily on time; and
4. Hold him or herself to a high standard of academic effort and achievement.

The Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Are Expected to:

1. Set an example of respecting the worth of other persons;
2. Review school expectations, guidelines, rules and regulations with student and family members;
3. Collaborate with school officials;
4. Seek help from school and community agencies when necessary to support a student's achievement;
5. Inform school officials of concerns relative to student needs; and
6. Make sure the student attends school daily on time.

The Teacher is Expected to:

1. Treat each child with dignity and respect;
2. Teach and positively reinforce the **Student Code of Conduct**;
3. Review the school expectations, procedures, and routines with students;
4. Establish and maintain an atmosphere of high achievement and appropriate behavior in the classroom;
5. Communicate with students and parent(s)/guardian(s) regularly about student behavior and academic progress; and
6. Report frequent student misbehavior promptly to appropriate school personnel, and report immediately any misbehavior that will or may result in expulsion or suspension.

The Principal Is Expected to:

1. Establish school expectations, procedures, and routines in conjunction with staff, school and district policy and procedures.
2. Communicate school expectations, procedures, and routines as well as the **Student Code of Conduct** to parent(s)/guardian(s), staff, and students;
3. Consistently enforce school expectations and the **Student Code of Conduct**; and
4. Collaborate with parent(s)/guardian(s), in conjunction with the teacher, regarding student behavior problems.

The Board of Education and Central Office Administration are Expected to:

1. Establish school district policy relative to student behavior and discipline; and
2. Train and support school administrators in appropriate application of the **Student Code of Conduct**.

The Community Is Expected to:

1. Maintain a standard of conduct for adults, youth, and children that fosters appropriate behavior;
2. Cooperate with and support the Board of Education and school personnel in the enforcement of the **Student Code of Conduct** and school expectations, procedures, and routines; and
3. Provide educational and recreational opportunities to allow for the development of appropriate student behavior.

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Omaha Public Schools

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board of Education believes school is an appropriate setting for all children and youth. The **Student Code of Conduct** is designed to support this concept by developing, through reasonable and consistent practices, appropriate student behavior patterns. Those behaviors and disciplinary actions set forth in the **Code** are designed to serve as learning experiences for students.

The **Student Code of Conduct** includes those behaviors having disciplinary actions and/or intervention strategies that shall be carried out by the school building administrators. The **Code** applies to conduct on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased or contracted by a school or the district being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

Compliance with the **Student Code of Conduct** is expected of all students. This **Student Code of Conduct** applies to all students attending the Omaha Public Schools. School administrators will consider student age and grade level among other factors when assigning disciplinary actions.



Early Childhood Education Interventions & Responses

This list of Interventions is not intended to be exhaustive. School staff will seek to implement the intervention(s) that seem to most effectively support positive behavior for the specific student under the specific circumstances.

Early Childhood Practices

One of the purposes of early childhood education is to assist students in developing appropriate social-emotional skills. For many students, this may be their first experience in a structured setting and they may need greater support in meeting social-emotional expectations. What may be perceived as inappropriate behavioral choices may be a deficit in executive functioning and self-regulation or could be due to toxic stress or an unmet need (ex. hunger, sleep, feelings of safety and security). Young children need to practice, be taught and then practice self-regulation to develop memory, attention and self-control in environments where adults scaffold the child's practice of these skills. Social skill development must be embedded throughout the daily routine and throughout the entire school year to ensure generalization. The focus is on developing appropriate skills rather than punishing for inappropriate behaviors.

Early Childhood student interventions aim to teach alternative behavior, so students can learn and demonstrate safe, respectful and responsible behavior. Staff members are encouraged to try a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies which may include, but are not limited to:

- Collaborate with the student's family to discuss student strengths and strategies that are successful in the home environment and develop a communication system between home and school.
- Create and maintain stable relationships among students and staff.
- Develop social connections through play.
- Establish routines and predictability using visual schedules.
- Consistently use visual supports and modeling to teach social skills.
- Teach students how to cope with stress and self-regulate when they are overwhelmed.
- Teach students the appropriate language to meet their needs.
- Use positive language in a calm tone when redirecting students so they know what is expected (ex. "please walk" rather than "don't run").
- Consistently reinforce the positive behaviors of the student, which will reduce the negative behaviors displayed.
- Consider sensory needs and strategies (ex. fidget toys, alternative seating, options for quiet areas in the classroom, etc.).
- Implement reinforcement systems for individual students or for the entire class.
- Collaborate with early childhood support staff, including Special Education, regarding strategies.
- Consult the building school psychologist for additional support.
- Schedule a SAT/IEP meeting to address concerns and strategies.
- Contact Kid Squad for classroom support and/or family support.
- Consider the MANDT Crisis Cycle for additional student support.
- Develop a behavior plan.

LEVEL 1 Interventions & Responses

This list of Interventions is not intended to be exhaustive, nor will every OPS school have access to each intervention listed. School staff will seek to implement the intervention(s) that seem to most effectively support positive behavior for the specific student under the specific circumstances.

Level 1 interventions aim to teach alternative behavior so students can learn and demonstrate safe, respectful and responsible behavior. Staff members are encouraged to try a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies which may include, but are not limited to:

- Parent(s)/guardian(s) conference or contact made
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) accompany student to school
- Implementation of classroom Multi-Tiered Systems Support for Behavior (MTSSB):
 - Expectations established and taught
 - Positive rapport/relationship
 - Re-teaching, prompting, feedback
 - Effective classroom supervision
- Verbal correction
- Collaborative Problem Solving
- Written reflection or apology
- Seat change
- Behavior card
- Functional Behavior Assessment (FBA)
- In-class time-out
- Establish Buddy Teacher/Classroom system
- Positive referral
- Loss of classroom privileges
- Teacher or student conference
- Detention/Late School/Suspension After School (SAS)
- Classroom contribution/service
- Skills Teaching/Social Emotional Learning
- Student Success Center (SSC)/ Positive Action Center (PAC)

1

Leveled Interventions and Responses

<p>Level 1 interventions aim to teach alternative behavior so students can learn and demonstrate safe, respectful and responsible behavior. Staff are encouraged to try a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies.</p>	<p>Level 2 interventions often involve support staff, both school-based and within the community, and/or the administrator. These interventions aim to increase the student's skills, positive view of schooling, and positive experience at school so that misbehavior is less likely to continue or escalate.</p>
<p>Level 3 violations may involve the short-term removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. The duration of the short-term suspension, if issued, is to be limited as much as possible while adequately addressing the behavior. In the case of repeated need for short-term suspension, an assistance plan (Behavior Intervention Plan, Student Assistance Plan) should be developed.</p>	<p>Level 4 violations have the potential to significantly impact the safety of the school environment. These violations may result in the removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. Such violations may involve the reassignment of a student to another school or to an alternative program that will provide additional structure to teach appropriate behavior.</p>

Level 1 Violations	Level				Mandatory Response
	1	2	3	4	
Cheating or Plagiarizing Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, copying the work of others on school assignments or tests, and using the ideas of writings of another person	•	•			
Classroom Disruption/Other Behavior Disruptive to the School Environment	•	•			
Disrespectful to Adults/Others Using words or actions that are impolite or indicate a lack of respect or courtesy	•	•			
Engaging in Verbal Conflict Disrupting the school environment by engaging in a loud argument that includes disparaging comments or discussion of potential physical conflict	•	•			
Excessive Tardies/Hall Sweep Arriving late to class excessively, as determined by individual school procedures or is caught in the hallway by school staff after the tardy bell has rang	•	•			There will be no out of school suspension for attendance infractions; OPS attendance policy will be followed
Failure to Serve Detention Student does not serve an assigned detention, whether it is scheduled during the school day or after school hours	•	•			
Misuse of Pass/Out of Area Student is out of his or her assigned area during the school day, uses a hall pass in a way not intended by the issuer	•	•			
Inappropriate Clothing Clothing which is construed to be distracting to the learning environment, per district and/or school guidelines	•				
Inappropriate Language Using inappropriate words or topics of conversation in school	•				
Insubordination/Non-Compliance with Behavioral Expectations Failure to comply with the instructions of school staff when current behavior prevents success of the student or impacts learning	•	•	•		
Parking, Unauthorized Parking in an unauthorized area on school property	•				
Truancy Neither the family nor school officials know the student's whereabouts or the student is refusing to attend school or class	•	•			There will be no out of school suspension for attendance infractions; OPS attendance policy will be followed

For more information on Repeated Violations and a note regarding level of response, see page 13.
Full definitions for all violations can be found in the Glossary, beginning on page 14.

LEVEL 2 Interventions & Responses

This list of Interventions is not intended to be exhaustive, nor will every OPS school have access to each intervention listed. School staff will seek to implement the intervention(s) that seem to most effectively support positive behavior for the specific student under the specific circumstances.

Level 2 interventions often involve the family, support staff, both school-based and within the community, and/or the administrator. These interventions aim to increase the student's skills, positive view of schooling, and positive experiences at school so that misbehavior is less likely to continue or escalate.

Short-term suspension may be applied due to the severity or chronic nature of an individual behavior. In cases of multiple suspensions, an assistance plan such as a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) or a Student Assistance Team (SAT) should be developed.

Interventions for Level 2 Violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Level 1 Interventions
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) collaboration [a parent(s)/guardian(s) meeting is a mandatory element of response to chronic Level 2 misbehavior]
- School or Community Counselor support
- Change in schedule or class
- House Call
- Behavior Interventionist support
- Consultation with School Psychologist
- Gang Interventionist
- Social Worker
- Mentoring
- Peer mediation
- Referral to School-based Health Centers
- After-school program
- Service to School/Service to Community
- Conflict resolution
- Restorative Practices
- Loss of school privileges
- Temporary removal from the bus
- Revision of Individual Educational Plan (IEP)/504 Plan
- Referral to community agency
- Late School
- Saturday School
- School Transition Program
- Student Success Center (SSC)/ Positive Action Center (PAC)

2

Leveled Interventions and Responses

<p>Level 1 interventions aim to teach alternative behavior so students can learn and demonstrate safe, respectful and responsible behavior. Staff are encouraged to try a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies.</p>	<p>Level 2 interventions often involve support staff, both school-based and within the community, and/or the administrator. These interventions aim to increase the student's skills, positive view of schooling, and positive experience at school so that misbehavior is less likely to continue or escalate.</p>
<p>Level 3 violations may involve the short-term removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. The duration of the short-term suspension, if issued, is to be limited as much as possible while adequately addressing the behavior. In the case of repeated need for short-term suspension, an assistance plan (Behavior Intervention Plan, Student Assistance Plan) should be developed.</p>	<p>Level 4 violations have the potential to significantly impact the safety of the school environment. These violations may result in the removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. Such violations may involve the reassignment of a student to another school or to an alternative program that will provide additional structure to teach appropriate behavior.</p>

Level 2 Violations	Level				Mandatory Response
	1	2	3	4	
Absence or Tardiness, Excessive In accordance with Student Attendance Policy 6.27, school staff will intervene when a pattern of attendance emerges that is concerning or seems counter to the student's continued school success	•	•			There will be no out of school suspension for attendance infractions; OPS attendance policy will be followed
Bus Misconduct Activity on the bus which is unsafe; refusal to follow directions of the driver or aide	•	•			
Careless Driving Driving on school grounds carelessly or without due caution so as to endanger a person or property		•			
Fighting, Less Serious Mutual physical combat that does not result in injury or a substantial disruption to the school environment, other than the disruption of the fight itself		•	•		
Misuse of Computers, Digital Devices, or Network Creation or access of inappropriate material; vandalizing; gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access; using computers, digital devices or networks for harassing or threatening or other non-educational purpose (see full definition in Glossary)	•	•	•		
Possession of Obscene or Pornographic Literature, Materials, or Electronic Images The possessing, taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise			•	•	
Reckless Behavior Recklessness involves the creation of an unjustifiable risk of harm to others and a conscious (and sometimes deliberate) disregard for or indifference to that risk, resulting in substantial disruption.	•	•	•		
Reckless Behavior Resulting in Personal Injury Recklessness involves the creation of an unjustifiable risk of harm to others and a conscious (and sometimes deliberate) disregard for or indifference to that risk resulting in personal injury.			•	•	•
Refusal to Cooperate with School Administrative Staff A student, who has already been sent to the office for misbehavior, continues to fail to comply with directions from staff.			•	•	
Tobacco, Use of To include students found to be in use of tobacco or a product that may be used to distribute tobacco or the chemical nicotine while in the school building, on school grounds or at school activities	•	•			
Unauthorized Use of Camera, Video Device, Personal Device that Attaches to School/District Network, Cell Phone or Recording Device Student use of cameras/video devices without explicit, prior written authorization of the principal is prohibited	•	•			
Verbal or Written Abuse to Staff, Nonthreatening Language or behavior that is disrespectful to a staff member	•	•			
Vulgarity/Profanity Written or oral language that is disgusting and/or repulsive, but does not constitute harassment	•	•			
Youth Gang Apparel and Behaviors Wearing apparel as identified by the Omaha Public Schools as gang related; wearing or carrying any item meant to identify a person as a gang member; writing gang graffiti, possessing items containing gang graffiti, or the display of gang hand signs	•	•	•		

For more information on Repeated Violations and a note regarding level of response, see page 13.
Full definitions for all violations can be found in the Glossary, beginning on page 14.

**LEVEL
3
Interventions
& Responses**

This list of interventions is not intended to be exhaustive, nor will every OPS school have access to each intervention listed. School staff will seek to implement the intervention(s) that seem to most effectively support positive behavior for the specific student under the specific circumstances.

Level 3 violations may involve the short-term removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. The duration of the short-term suspension, if issued, is to be limited as much as possible while adequately addressing the behavior. In the case of repeated need for short-term suspension, an assistance plan (Behavior Intervention Plan, Student Assistance Team) should be developed.

Interventions for Level 3 Violations may include, but not limited to:

- Interventions from all previous levels
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) collaboration [parent(s)/guardian(s) meeting may be required upon re-entry from a suspension]
- Plan of assistance (Behavior Intervention Plan, Student Assistance Team)
- Substance abuse screening
- Consult with Behavior Interventionist
- Credit recovery program
- Restitution
- Restorative Practices strategies, including school and community service
- Communication with law enforcement (as needed)

Suspension Guidelines for Grades K-6

Suspension discipline practices should be avoided whenever possible when working with students in Early Childhood programs and Kindergarten.

If an elementary student must be removed from the school environment, the following short-term suspension guidelines are recommended (per event):

- 1st and 2nd Grade: 2 day maximum
- 3rd and 4th Grade: 3 day maximum
- 5th and 6th Grade: 4 day maximum

There may be circumstances when it is necessary and appropriate to exceed these guidelines. Final decisions regarding length of suspension will be made by the Elementary Principal. For students in grades K-6, expulsion will not be a consequence for a violation of the **Student Code of Conduct** except in cases of knowingly and intentionally possessing a firearm.

3

Leveled Interventions and Responses

Level 1 interventions aim to teach alternative behavior so students can learn and demonstrate safe, respectful and responsible behavior. Staff are encouraged to try a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies.	Level 2 interventions often involve support staff, both school-based and within the community, and/or the administrator. These interventions aim to increase the student's skills, positive view of schooling, and positive experience at school so that misbehavior is less likely to continue or escalate.
Level 3 violations may involve the short-term removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. The duration of the short-term suspension, if issued, is to be limited as much as possible while adequately addressing the behavior. In the case of repeated need for short-term suspension, an assistance plan (Behavior Intervention Plan, Student Assistance Team) should be developed.	Level 4 violations have the potential to significantly impact the safety of the school environment. These violations may result in the removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. Such violations may involve the reassignment of a student to another school or to an alternative program that will provide additional structure to teach appropriate behavior.

Level 3 Violations	Level				Mandatory Response
	1	2	3	4	
Assault, No Injury Attempting to cause injury to another person, including staff; by knowingly and intentionally using force that places another person in reasonable apprehension of imminent personal injury		•	•		
Bullying Any intentional ongoing pattern of written or verbal expression, electronic abuse, physical acts, or gestures intended to cause distress/harm upon one or more students and includes an imbalance of power		•	•	•	OPS reporting and intervention procedures will be followed, as appropriate
Damage to School, Staff or Student Property Willfully or recklessly causing or attempting to cause damage		•	•		Restitution may be required, additional consequences may be applied if restitution is not made
Drugs, Possession or Under the Influence Drugs, alcoholic beverages, controlled or imitation controlled substances, or other mood-altering chemicals *See definitions for level of interventions at the school level.	•	•	•	•	Referral to Counselor for Substance Abuse Screening
False Allegations Against Staff Any knowingly or recklessly false allegation against a staff member, written, spoken or otherwise communicated which is harmful to the reputation of the staff member, or which may impede the ability of the staff member to perform assigned duties		•	•	•	
Fighting, Serious Mutual physical combat that results in injury, creates a substantial disruption involving large numbers of students, and/or results in the potential for continued fighting			•	•	Law enforcement may be contacted
Harassment Any physical, verbal, graphic, electronic, or written material or behavior, which may be related, but not limited to a person's disability, gender, race, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, or marital status which has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment * see Glossary		•	•	•	
Public Indecency Behaviors described in Nebraska Statute 28-806		•	•	•	
Theft Stealing or attempting to steal property.		•	•	•	Restitution may be required, additional consequences may be applied if restitution is not made
Threats or Intimidation Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes		•	•	•	Threats considered serious in nature require evaluation through threat assessment
Unlawful Activity Engaging in any activity forbidden by state or federal law and not otherwise specifically included in this Code which creates potential danger in the school environment or interferes with school purposes		•	•	•	Law enforcement may be contacted
Verbal or Written Abuse to Staff, Threatening Abusive communication directed at staff which includes words or actions that threaten the individual's safety and security		•	•	•	Threats considered serious in nature require evaluation through threat assessment

For more information on Repeated Violations and a note regarding level of response, see page 13.
Full definitions for all violations can be found in the Glossary, beginning on page 14.

LEVEL 4 Interventions & Responses

This list of Interventions is not intended to be exhaustive, nor will every OPS school have access to each intervention listed. School staff will seek to implement the intervention(s) that seem to most effectively support positive behavior for the specific student under the specific circumstances.

Level 4 violations have the potential to significantly impact the safety of the school environment. These violations may result in the removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. Such violations may involve the reassignment of a student to another school or to an alternative program that will provide additional structure to teach appropriate behavior. These interventions focus on maintaining the safety of the school community and correcting self-destructive and dangerous behavior.

Long-term suspension may be applied when it is feasible to reintegrate the student back into the school environment. Reassignment may be applied when chronic misbehaviors are present and school staff have documented efforts to intervene and support acceptable behavior. Expulsion may be applied when the student's presence at school is deemed too dangerous or disruptive for staff to maintain a safe and positive climate.

Upon return to a traditional school setting after a reassignment or expulsion, the school staff will establish a plan of support (i.e. a SAT plan) for the student's ongoing success at school.

Interventions for Level 4 Violations may include, but not limited to:

- Interventions from all previous levels
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) notification
- Long-Term Suspension or Reassignment
- Expulsion
 - For student in grades K-6, expulsion will not be a consequence for a violation of the **Student Code of Conduct** except in cases of knowingly and intentionally possessing a firearm.
- Referral to IEP team (students with disabilities) for manifestation determination
- Alternative educational placement
 - High School (grades 9-12)
 - Middle School (grades 6-8)
- Communication with law enforcement (as needed)

4

Leveled Interventions and Responses

<p>Level 1 interventions aim to teach alternative behavior so students can learn and demonstrate safe, respectful and responsible behavior. Staff are encouraged to try a variety of teaching and classroom management strategies.</p>	<p>Level 2 interventions often involve support staff, both school-based and within the community, and/or the administrator. These interventions aim to increase the student's skills, positive view of schooling, and positive experience at school so that misbehavior is less likely to continue or escalate.</p>
<p>Level 3 violations may involve the short-term removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. The duration of the short-term suspension, if issued, is to be limited as much as possible while adequately addressing the behavior. In the case of repeated need for short-term suspension, an assistance plan (Behavior Intervention Plan, Student Assistance Plan) should be developed.</p>	<p>Level 4 violations have the potential to significantly impact the safety of the school environment. These violations may result in the removal of a student from the school environment due to the severity of the behavior. Such violations may involve the reassignment of a student to another school or to an alternative program that will provide additional structure to teach appropriate behavior.</p>

Level 4 Violations	Level				Mandatory Response
	1	2	3	4	
Arson Intentionally setting or attempting to set a fire on or in school property.		•	•	•	Contact law enforcement
Assault with Injury (Intentional) Assault of another person, including staff, when the student has knowingly and intentionally used force to cause personal injury.			•	•	Law enforcement may be contacted
False Alarm/Bomb Threat Causing a substantial disruption to the school environment and/or placing students at risk by making a false report or activating an alarm.		•	•	•	Law enforcement may be contacted
Firearm Knowing and intentional possession, use or transmission of a firearm as defined in 18 U.S. Code 921 (see firearm definition in Glossary section).	Per federal law, expulsion for one calendar year; law enforcement will be contacted				
Selling, Distributing, Intent to Distribute, or Attempting to Distribute Drugs, Alcoholic Beverages, or a Controlled/ Imitation Controlled Substance			•	•	Contact law enforcement
Sexual Assault Sexual Assault in the first or second degree as defined in Nebraska Statutes 28-319 and 28-320 * see Glossary				•	Mandatory reassignment away from the victim or expulsion/Contact law enforcement/Report to the OPS Title IX coordinator
Weapon (other than firearm) Knowing and intentional possession, handling, transmission, or use of any knife or dangerous weapon (see Glossary section for listing and definition of a weapon).			•	•	Law enforcement may be contacted

Full definitions for all violations can be found in the Glossary, beginning on page 14.

Repeated Violations

Concerning a violation at any level, it may be relevant that the student has committed the same, or similar, violation multiple times during the same school year. In such a case, Repeated Violations may be added as a secondary violation. Repeated Violations will not be used as a primary violation or alone. There may be instances of repeated violations that warrant a higher level of response than indicated in this **Code**.

A note regarding level of response:

When determining the level of response to a violation of the **Student Code of Conduct**, school staff will consider the age of the student, the student's intent, the severity of the circumstances, the level of disruption to the school environment (either during or after the violation), the repeated nature of the situation (if applicable), and any other mitigating or aggravating factors. School response will not necessarily begin at the lowest level indicated for a first offense and may result in a higher resolution than that which is noted in the level of interventions and responses.

Glossary

Level 1 Violations

Cheating or Plagiarizing

Academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, copying the work of others on school assignments or tests, and using the ideas or writings of another person

Classroom Disruption/Other Behavior Disruptive to the School Environment

Behaving in such a way that interferes with teaching and learning

Disrespectful to Adults/Others

Mildly disrespectful behavior that does not rise to the level of verbal or written abuse

Engaging in Verbal Conflict

Disrupting the school environment by engaging in a loud argument that includes disparaging comments or discussion of potential physical conflict

Excessive Tardies to Class/Hall Sweep

Arriving late to class excessively, as determined by individual school procedures or caught in the hallway by school staff after the tardy bell has rang

Failure to Serve Detention

Student does not serve an assigned detention, whether it is scheduled during the school day or after school hours

Misuse of Pass/Out of Area

Student is out of his or her assigned area during the school day, uses a hall pass in a way not intended by the issuer

Inappropriate Clothing

Clothing which is construed to be distracting to the learning environment, per district and/or school guidelines. Refer to section: DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

Inappropriate Language

Using inappropriate words or topics of conversation in school

Insubordination/Non-Compliance with Behavioral Expectations

Failure to comply with the instructions of school staff when current behavior prevents success of the student or impacts learning

Parking, Unauthorized

Parking in an unauthorized area on school property

Truancy

Neither the family nor school officials know the student's whereabouts or the student is refusing to attend school or class

Level 2 Violations

Absence or Tardiness, Excessive

Absences: The District may report to the county attorney when the school has documented that efforts, as required by the collaborative plan, have not been successful in improving regular attendance, and the child has been absent more than twenty days per year. The school shall also provide notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to the referral to the county attorney. A referral cannot be made to the county attorney's office until at least 20 days of absence are accrued; however the school may involve the county attorney at any point in the process of addressing the student's absences. For additional information see the "Student Attendance Policy."

Tardies: Students who report to class after class has started or leave school before the end of the school day will have the total time missed calculated and will become an absence when it is equal to the length of the school day. Repeated tardiness will be reported to the parent(s)/guardian(s).

Bus Misconduct

Any offense committed by a student on a district owned, leased or contracted bus being used for a school purpose shall have the same level of Intervention or Response in the same manner as if the offense had been committed at the student's assigned school; this will include activity on the bus which is unsafe and refusal to follow directions of the driver or aide. Also see "Behavior Rules for Students Receiving District-Provided Transportation" on page 24.

Careless Driving

Driving on school grounds carelessly or without due caution so as to endanger a person or property.

Fighting, Less Serious

Mutual physical combat that does not result in injury or a substantial disruption to the school environment, other than the disruption of the fight itself; any fight, whether more serious or less serious, may be punished more severely if the students who are fighting do not stop fighting when a school employee orders them to stop

Misuse of Computers, Digital Devices, or Network

The use of computers or digital devices, whether stand-alone or as a part of a local area network, or as part of a wide area network such as the Internet, is a privilege, not a right, and must be consistent with and driven by the educational objectives of the Omaha Public Schools. Any use that is inconsistent with these objectives is prohibited.

Computers and all associated networks, communication facilities, data storage and transfer devices, printers, scanners, peripherals, and other associated equipment or facilities (referred to as "computing facilities") are owned by the school district. The school district exercises exclusive control over this school property, and students should not expect privacy regarding their use of any computing facilities because school district property is subject to search and inspection at any time by school officials. This search and inspection includes but is not limited to electronic mail, Internet access, network access, file storage and transfer, and any personal computing, communication, and data storage devices used in conjunction with the computing facilities. If the device is participating on the district network, it will fall under the acceptable use policy as well as the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) guidelines defined by BYOD schools. Students are responsible for any use of computing facilities made by or through their account, regardless whether at school or at home. Students are responsible for whatever is contained in computer files assigned to them.

Students using computing facilities to access the Internet, an international computer network, are able to access computers and people all over the world. Sites exist on the Internet that contain illegal, indecent, defamatory, inaccurate, or offensive material. The Omaha Public Schools does not condone students' access to unsuitable materials, and it maintains software designed to restrict student access to such materials. The Omaha Public Schools also recognizes that it cannot control the information on other computer systems and that it may not be physically possible to screen out all such inappropriate information and materials. All student Internet activities are subject to being monitored.

It is the primary responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to establish and convey the standards that their student should follow. In support of parent(s)/guardian(s) the Omaha Public Schools will enforce the minimum appropriate computer use standards set out below. If a student uses a computer or the Internet inappropriately, he or she will be subject to the disciplinary actions previously stated.

Inappropriate use of computing facilities shall be defined as:

- The creation, display, access, transmission, reception, exchange or distribution of any text, image or sound that is indecent, obscene, racist, sexist, pervasively vulgar, defamatory, illegal, or that promotes harm to self or others or otherwise in violation of the Omaha Public Schools Internet Safety Policy.
- Using computing facilities to harass or threaten individuals or groups.
- Vandalizing computing facilities. This includes any **attempt to alter or destroy data of another or to endanger the integrity of a computer** or computer network or the data stored thereon (including the introduction of any virus, time bomb, trojan horse or the like), any deletion of or alteration to system files or data, and damaging equipment. The unauthorized examination or copying of files or data belonging to others is also defined as vandalism.
- Violating copyright law. This includes using unauthorized copies of software, music, photographs, movies or any other audiovisual or multimedia work and making, transmitting, receiving, exchanging and/or distributing such unauthorized copies. Violating copyright laws will be considered theft.
- Plagiarizing computer-based copyrighted materials in reports and assignments is also defined as inappropriate use.
- Gaining or attempting to "hack" or otherwise gain unauthorized access to computers, computer networks, or computer files or data. This includes, but is not limited to, exceeding the authority granted or attempting to evade security restrictions or software designed to prevent or monitor inappropriate access to the Internet or networks.
- Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to a personal account or file of another individual.
- Forgery of or interference with electronic mail messages. This includes impersonation of another person while sending electronic messages, using a false or anonymous name, age, gender or identifier, and the reading, deleting, copying or modifying of any other person's electronic messages.
- Using computers or computer networks to commit, facilitate, encourage or promote illegal acts.
- Using computers or computer networks to commit, facilitate, encourage or promote the unauthorized or fraudulent use of a credit card.
- Using computers or computer networks for a **non-educational purpose**, such as advertising, games, or commercial purposes, unless driven by learning objectives/educational objectives, etc. by the Omaha Public Schools.
- Giving a personal password to another individual or letting another individual use a personal account.
- Knowingly introducing materials forbidden by the Omaha Public Schools into the Omaha Public Schools computers and/or systems via any electronic storage media. This is defined as indecent, obscene, racist, sexist, pervasively vulgar, defamatory, offensive, or illegal material, or materials promoting harm to self or others.

Possession of Obscene or Pornographic Literature, Materials, or Electronic Images

Students are prohibited from possessing pornographic or obscene books, magazines, pictures or material of any kind. The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may

constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the school district; and reported to law enforcement and/or other appropriate state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and lifetime inclusion on sexual offender registries.

Reckless Behavior

Recklessness involves the creation of an unjustifiable risk of harm to others and a conscious (and sometimes deliberate) disregard for or indifference to that risk, resulting in substantial disruption.

Reckless Behavior Resulting in Personal Injury

Recklessness involves the creation of an unjustifiable risk of harm to others and a conscious (and sometimes deliberate) disregard for or indifference to that risk resulting in personal injury. The term personal injury shall mean physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition.

Refusal to Cooperate with School Administrative Staff

A student, who has already been sent to the office for misbehavior, continues to fail to comply with directions from staff.

Tobacco, Use of

To include students found to be in use of tobacco or a product that may be used to distribute tobacco or the chemical nicotine while in the school building, or on school grounds or at school activities; the use of tobacco by students in the school or on school grounds or at school activities is forbidden; This practice is in accordance with state and city statutes that forbid minors to purchase and use tobacco and in accordance with directives from the Fire Department.

Unauthorized Use of Camera, Video Device, Personal Device that Attaches to School/District Network, Cell Phone or Recording Device

Student use of cameras/video devices without consent from school staff is prohibited. The school accepts no responsibility for personal cellular telephones, and personal electronic communication devices present on campus. Refer to section: CELL PHONE/PORTABLE DEVICE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS.

Verbal or Written Abuse to Staff, Nonthreatening

Language or behavior that is disrespectful to a staff member

Vulgarity/Profanity

Written or oral language that is disgusting and/or repulsive, but does not constitute harassment.

Youth Gang Apparel and Behaviors

For the safety and welfare of students and the continued maintenance of a positive and secure learning environment the following rules relative to youth gang apparel, possessions and behaviors apply to all students on school grounds or at school activities:

- Dress as identified by the Omaha Public Schools as gang related apparel is not allowed. Any item worn or carried to identify a person as a gang member is not allowed.
- Writing gang graffiti, possessing items containing gang graffiti, or the display of gang hand signs are an indication of gang involvement and are not allowed.

Level 3 Violations

Assault, No Injury

Knowingly and intentionally using force and/or attempting to cause injury to school staff, volunteer, other person, or student; intentionally placing this person in reasonable apprehension of imminent personal injury. A student's intent may be inferred from the words and acts of the student.

Bullying

Any intentional ongoing pattern of written or verbal expression, electronic abuse, physical acts, or gestures intended to cause distress/harm upon one or more students and includes an imbalance of power; see the [OPS Due Process/School Support Handbook](#) for Reporting and Intervention Procedures, Best Practices, and information regarding Nebraska Revised Statute 79-267 (72-2, 137). Bullying on the basis of disability, gender, race, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, or marital status constitutes a violation of the Board's policies prohibiting unlawful discrimination or harassment.

Bullying Prevention Policy No. 5415

One of the guiding principles of the Omaha Public Schools is safe, healthy, and engaged students.

The administration and staff are to implement strategies and practices to reinforce and support a positive school culture. This will encourage students to engage in positive behaviors including: empathy, cooperation, teamwork, problem solving and self-control.

The administration and staff are to implement strategies and practices to identify and prevent inappropriate behaviors by all students, including bullying prevention education for all students. Inappropriate behaviors include bullying, intimidation, and harassment. Bullying means any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a

vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or designee, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

The school district shall review the bullying prevention policy annually.

Forms of Bullying

- Physical Bullying – Hitting, kicking, hair pulling, pushing, or any physical aggression.
- Verbal Bullying- Teasing, name calling, put-downs, or other behavior that would deliberately hurt others' feelings.
- Sexual Bullying – Any bullying behavior, whether physical or non-physical, that is based on a person's sexuality or gender or gender identity.
- Emotional or Exclusion Bullying – Starting rumors, telling others not to be friends with someone, eye rolling, or other actions that would cause someone to be without friends or intentionally left out.
- Cyber-bullying – Using electronic devices such as computers, cell phones, and pagers to bully others through methods such as posting comments, statements, or pictures on blogs or websites, text messaging, instant messaging, and email.

Rationale

The Nebraska State Legislature finds and declares that:

- (a) Bullying disrupts a school's ability to educate students; and
- (b) Bullying threatens public safety by creating an atmosphere in which such behavior can escalate into violence.

On or before July 1, 2009, each school district shall develop and adopt a policy concerning bullying prevention and education for all students. The school district shall review this policy annually.

Damage to School, Staff, or Student Property

Willfully or recklessly causing or attempting to cause damage. Any student who willfully causes or assists in causing damage or attempts to cause damage in any way to any property, real or personal, is subject to disciplinary action. The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall also be liable to the School District for all property belonging to the School District, loaned to the student, which is returned to the District in damaged condition. Restitution may be required.

Drugs, Possession or Under the Influence

Drugs, alcoholic beverages, controlled or imitation controlled substances, or other mood-altering chemicals

Possession includes any knowing and voluntary having, taking, receiving or handling of drugs, alcoholic beverages or controlled/imitation controlled substances.

A student is considered to be under the influence when there is evidence the student has consumed an alcoholic beverage or a controlled/imitation controlled substance and there is an impairment of the student's ability to think and act correctly and efficiently.

Evidence of consumption may include the odor of alcohol on the student's breath, the odor of marijuana on the student's breath or person, other physical signs of consumption or the testimony of reliable witnesses that the student did consume alcohol or a controlled/imitation controlled substance prior to coming on to school grounds or on to a vehicle owned, leased or contracted by a school or the district being used for a school purpose or into a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee or attending a school sponsored activity or athletic event.

Evidence of impairment of a student's ability to think and act correctly and efficiently may include rapid mood swings, vomiting, slurring of words, lack of motor control and balance, glassy eyes and difficulty in orienting to time and place.

The use of drugs, alcohol, controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or abuse of non-controlled substance in the school, on school grounds or at school activities is forbidden.

Level of Interventions and Response Guidelines for Secondary Students

First Offense:

- Suspension 3 - 5 days
- Recommendation/requirement (school choice) to visit community counselor, social worker, and/or SRO.
- Provide the parent(s)/guardian(s) a list of community agencies that can address substance use/abuse.
- Required SRO notification.

Second Offense:

- Suspension 5 days
- Mandatory visit with community counselor for drug & alcohol screening with invitation of parent(s)/guardian(s) participation.
- Required SRO notification
- Social worker will follow up upon student's return to school.
- SAT will be scheduled.
- Mandatory intake with administrator and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be held before student is allowed to return. Student will be marked as *suspended* until parent(s)/guardian(s) attends intake.
- Other interventions as appropriate and determined by the school such as transition room, student success center, etc.

Third Offense:

- Suspension 6-10 days

- Mandatory visit to community counselor for discussion of further interventions and support. Student may return any time during days 7-10 once community counselor visit is complete. If community counselor visit is not complete, student may not return until day 11.
 - Required SRO notification
 - Second SAT will be scheduled.
 - Social Worker to continue to follow up.
 - Mandatory intake with administrator and parent(s)/guardian(s) will be held before student is allowed to return. Student will be marked as *suspended* until parent(s)/guardian(s) attends intake.
- Fourth Offense:
- Expulsion
 - Required SRO notification.

False Allegations Against Staff

Any knowingly or recklessly false allegation against a staff member, written, spoken or otherwise communicated which is harmful to the reputation of the staff member, or which may impede the ability of the staff member to perform assigned duties.

Fighting, Serious

Mutual physical combat that results in injury, creates a substantial disruption involving large numbers of students, and/or results in the potential for continued fighting. Any fight, whether more serious or less serious, may be punished more severely if the students who are fighting do not stop fighting when a school employee orders them to stop.

Harassment

Any physical, verbal, graphic, electronic, or written material, which may be related, but not limited to a person's disability, gender, race, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, or marital status which has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment.

Examples of prohibited harassment include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Unwelcome, intentional touching or grabbing of another student's intimate parts or the clothing covering a student's intimate parts.
- Explicit and offensive sexual references or gestures;
- Name calling or taunting on the basis of a person's: disability, gender, race, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, or marital status.
- Language of any kind, including graffiti, which is disparaging, demeaning or threatening to others on the basis of a person's: disability, gender, race, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, or marital status.
- Any other verbal or physical conduct which, judged from the perspective of a reasonable person with the same disability, gender, race, color, national origin, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, or marital status, as the person claiming he or she was harassed, creates a hostile school environment.

Public Indecency

As described in Nebraska Statute 28-806: (1) A person commits public indecency if such person performs or procures, or assists any other person to perform, in a public place and where the conduct may reasonably be expected to be viewed by members of the public: (a) An act of sexual penetration; or (b) An exposure of the genitals of the body done with intent to affront or alarm any person; or (c) A lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person of the same or opposite sex. (2) Public indecency is a Class II misdemeanor for persons 18 years of age or over.

Theft

Stealing or attempting to steal property. The parent(s)/guardian(s) shall also be liable to the School District for all property belonging to the School District, loaned to the student, and not returned on demand of the employee of the District authorized to make the demand. Restitution may be required, additional consequences may be applied if restitution is not made.

Threats or Intimidation

Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes and which is not otherwise specifically prohibited by other provisions of the **Student Code of Conduct**.

Unlawful Activity

Engaging in any activity forbidden by state or federal law and not otherwise specifically included in this **Student Code of Conduct** which creates potential danger in the school environment or interferes with school. Law enforcement may be contacted.

Verbal or Written Abuse to Staff, Threatening

Abusive communication directed at staff which includes word or actions that threaten the individual's safety and security.

Level 4 Violations

Arson

Intentionally setting or attempting to set a fire on or in school property. Fire Marshall will be contacted.

Assault with Injury (Intentional)

Assault of student, school employee, visitor, or volunteer, where the student has knowingly and intentionally used force to cause personal injury. A student's intent may be inferred from the words and acts of the student. The term personal injury shall mean physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition.

False Alarm/Bomb Threat

Causing a substantial disruption to the school environment and/or placing students at risk by making a false report or activating an alarm. Law enforcement may be contacted.

Firearm

Knowing and intentional possession, use or transmission of a firearm as defined in 18 U.S. Code 921.

Under 18 U.S.C. 921 the following are firearms:

1. Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion.
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
3. Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
4. Any destructive device which includes:
 - a. Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas –
 - i. bomb,
 - ii. grenade,
 - iii. rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces,
 - iv. missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce,
 - v. mine, or
 - vi. device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses;
 - b. Any type of weapon by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter, and
 - c. Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in subparagraph (a) or (b) and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled. The term "destructive device" shall not include any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon; any device, although originally designed for use as a weapon, which is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety, or similar device; surplus ordnance sold, loaned or given by the Secretary of the Army pursuant to the provisions of federal law; or any other device which the Secretary of the Treasury finds is not likely to be used as a weapon, or is an antique.

The term "firearm" does not include an antique firearm.

Guns, including antique firearms, BB guns, paint ball, "air soft" guns, dart guns, or pellet guns which are not firearms as defined above are considered dangerous weapons. Students are forbidden knowingly and intentionally to possess, use, or transmit any such gun.

Per federal law, expulsion for one calendar year; law enforcement will be contacted.

Selling, Distributing, Intent to Distribute, or Attempting to Distribute Drugs, Alcoholic Beverages, or a Controlled/ Imitation Controlled Substance

Evidence of an intent or attempt to distribute may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Possession of quantities of prohibited substances greater than those reasonably considered for personal use.
- Possession of paraphernalia associated with distribution of prohibited substances, such as but not limited to possession of scales, bags, and foil.
- Evidence of an exchange of prohibited substances.

An **imitation controlled substance** is a substance that looks very much like an illegal drug and is said to be an illegal drug, but is not an illegal drug. The following are to be considered in determining whether a particular pill/capsule is an imitation controlled substance:

1. The substance is said to produce the same or similar effects as the illegal drug or substance;
2. The person who has it or who is distributing it says that it is a specific illegal drug;
3. The person who is selling it charges more per pill/capsule than the pill/capsule's contents usually sell for;
4. The pill/capsule is packaged in the same or similar bottle or box as the illegal pill/capsule drug;
5. The pill/capsule looks like the illegal drug it is said to be.

Law enforcement will be contacted.

Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault in the first or second degree as defined in Nebraska Statutes 28-319 and 28-320. *See also Nebraska Statutes 28-319.01 and 28-320.01*

Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person is a violation of this **Student Code of Conduct**.

Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person is a violation of this **Student Code of Conduct**, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity or event, in accordance to Nebraska Statute 79-267.

Mandatory response for this violation:

- Law enforcement will be contacted.
- Mandatory reassignment away from victim or expulsion.
- Report all incidents to the OPS Title IX coordinator.

Weapon (other than firearm)

Students are forbidden to knowingly and intentionally possess, handle, transmit or use any instrument that is generally considered a weapon. Dangerous weapons (other than firearms) shall include: (a) Guns, including antique firearms, BB guns, paint ball, "airsoft" guns, dart guns, or pellet guns which are not firearms as defined above (b) knives of all kinds, including pocket knives, regardless of the length of the blade, dirks, or stilettos of any type, or any other dangerous instrument capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing, or tearing wounds; or (c) knuckles and brass or iron knuckles that consist of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles. (d) Any object which could be used to injure another person and which has no school related purpose for being at the time in the student's possession will be considered a weapon for purposes of this **Student Code of Conduct**. The following are examples of objects generally considered to be weapons: ammunition, stun gun, taser, lead pipes, chains, chuck-sticks, throwing stars, darts, black-jacks, unauthorized tools, fireworks, pepper spray, mace, or chemicals.

It is not a defense to a charge of possessing, handling, transmitting or using a weapon that the student did not intend to hurt anyone.

Law enforcement may be contacted.

Immediate Surrender of an Unknown Weapon

Students may not be in possession of weapons of any type. If at any time a student discovers that he or she has possession of a weapon the student must immediately turn the weapon in to the nearest teacher, counselor, administrator or other school staff person. If the student immediately turns in a weapon, the student will not face the consequence for weapon possession. If, however, the student continues to possess the weapon, to go on to further classes, to display the weapon to other students, or otherwise does not take the immediate action of reporting, the student will be subject to consequences as defined in the Student Code of Conduct. This clause does not apply to possession of a firearm or gun.

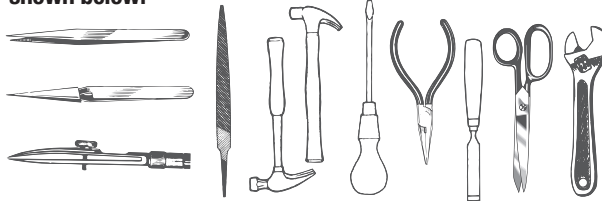
Notice To All Students

The items below are used as tools in some of your classes:

exacto knives, art knives, any item having a blade, blades of any kind, scissors, kitchen knives, awls, screwdrivers, punches, hammers, vise grips, and any other tool that may be used in a class.

Take the tools out of class or bring them from home and they become weapons. Possession of these items may result in expulsion.

Examples of some, but not all, unauthorized tools are shown below:



Examples of some, but not all, knives are shown below:



STOP!

Leave Them In Class! Don't Bring Them!

Any object which could be used to injure another person and which has no school related purpose for being at the time in the student's possession will be considered a weapon for purposes of the Code of Conduct.

WEAPON POSSESSION – Read Carefully

Students may not be in possession of weapons of any type. If at any time a student discovers that he or she has possession of a weapon other than a firearm/gun the student must immediately turn the weapon in to the nearest teachers, counselor, administrator or other school staff person. If the student immediately turns in a weapon, the student will not face the consequence for weapon possession. If, however, the student continues to possess the weapon, to go on to further classes, to display the weapon to other students, or otherwise does not take the immediate action of reporting, the student will be subject to expulsion/consequences as defined in the Code of Conduct.



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Intervention and Response Terms

Community Service

Duties performed for the benefit of the school or community. Examples include but are not limited to cleaning, outside work, or assisting students or staff.

Emergency Exclusion

The recommendation to exclude a student from school for a period of time as long as the student's presence in the school presents a danger to self or others

Expulsion

Expulsion shall mean a student may not attend any school in the district for the period of the expulsion. This includes any school function including graduation ceremonies or being on any OPS school property during the duration of the expulsion. However, an expelled student may participate in a district specified alternative school, class, or educational program during the term of expulsion. If misconduct punishable by a one semester expulsion occurs during the last 10 days of a semester, the expulsion will be for the remainder of the semester and the next semester or the remainder of the semester, summer school and the first semester of the next school year. No student may return to the school from which the student was expelled. Any student expelled more than once during his/her high school enrollment years will be readmitted to an alternative program after completing coursework at the Expelled Student Program in areas specific to the student need(s).

Reassignment

Mandatory transfer to another school or program; no student may return to the school from which he or she was reassigned

Saturday School

Saturday School requires that the student spend a block of time at school on a Saturday morning(s). Exact time(s) will be determined by the building principal. Transportation will not be provided to or from Saturday School.

Secondary Transition Programs

The high school transition programs provide on-site behavioral intervention for students. Students are assigned to the Transition Program through the Student Assistant Team (SAT) problem solving process. Students work in the transition room to acquire the necessary skills to be successful in the school setting, while receiving support to stay on track academically. The transition room staff provides coordination of intervention for each student.

Student Success Center (SSC)/Positive Action Center (PAC)

SSC/PAC is an in-school suspension option, provided to students as an effort to keep students in school and to minimize absences. In the SSC/PAC room, the students work in a closed classroom environment which minimizes distractions while allowing them to focus on their needs both academically and socially. Components of the SSC/PAC include individual guidance and/or instruction on writing skills, study skills, social skills, and conflict resolution. The SSC/PAC encourages students to accept responsibility for their actions. The use of the SSC/PAC rooms may also be used as a preventative measure to help students make positive choices as it relates to behaviors.

Late School

Late School requires that the student spend a block of time after school as determined by the building principal. Transportation will be provided for eligible students.

Suspension, Long-Term

Exclusion from school for a period of time exceeding five (5) school days but less than twenty (20) school days

Suspension, Short-Term

Exclusion from school for a period of time up to five (5) school days

Additional Information

BEHAVIOR RULES FOR CONDUCT OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS, NOT AT A SCHOOL FUNCTION – Policy No. 5103

It is the belief of the Omaha Public Schools that it is important to support the total student. Expectations for our students go beyond the school day and into the community. We believe that part of learning is accepting responsibility for one's actions. Thus, the school district is extending its authority to hours and places beyond the regularly perceived boundaries when conduct off school grounds causes substantial disruption to the school environment. Our intent is to support all students in their decision-making and their development into responsible adult citizens while serving as a deterrent to certain unlawful behaviors. Students engaged in inappropriate conduct off school grounds may be disciplined as provided for in the rules governing participation in co-curricular activities.

Disciplinary Action

Any student engaging in behaviors off school grounds that substantially disrupt the school environment and that violate the **Student Code of Conduct** may be subject to:

- A. Emergency exclusion if the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education;
- B. Suspension by the principal for up to five (5) school days; and/or
- C. Participation in and successful completion of a district substance use screening by a qualified community provider or community counselor at the discretion of District/school administration.

**BEHAVIOR RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN CO-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS – Policy No. 5103**

Students who participate in extracurricular activities are deemed to be held to a higher standard when it comes to representing their respective schools – both on- and off-campus. It is therefore critical for those students to always be mindful of their behavior, and how it reflects on their schools. A substantial disruption to the school environment is not required in order to be suspended from participation in co-curricular music/sports/clubs.

In addition to any other discipline imposed for violations of the **Student Code of Conduct** or for violations of the behavioral rules for conduct off school grounds, not at a school function, any student participating in any co-curricular music/sports/club at the time the student commits the violation will be subject to suspension from participation in said activity or activities as described below. The sanction shall be implemented upon confirmation and notice to the student by the school administration, and the sanction applies to all activities, public or private, that occur on school property or at a school function. In addition, the teacher/coach/sponsor may impose other sanctions as permitted and described pursuant to "Rules Regarding Other Conduct" in the **Student Code of Conduct**.

First Offense: 15 Activity Days upon confirmation and notice to the student

Second Offense: 90 Activity Days upon confirmation and notice to the student

Third Offense: 180 Activity Days upon confirmation and notice to the student

School Building Administrators will:

Take action based upon first-hand information. This may include contact with witnesses to the student's prohibited conduct. Prior to any decision, the administrator must confer with the student to inform the student of the charge and the available information, give the student an opportunity to tell the student's version of the incident, weigh the evidence as to the offense, make a decision whether the student engaged in the prohibited conduct, and then inform the student of the decision.

The administrator will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) in writing of the decision on the student's conduct. The administrator is required to report the decision to Student and Community Services.

Appeal Process

- A. Any student suspended from participation in co-curricular and athletic activities may appeal the suspension to the Student and Community Services/Hearing Officer. Any such appeal must be in writing and must be received by the Administrator's Office within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the written notice of suspension.
- B. If the student disagrees with the decision of the Student and Community Services/Hearing Officer, he or she may appeal the decision to the Supervisor of the Student and Community Services. Any such appeal must also be in writing and must be received by the Supervisor of the Student and Community Services within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the written notice of the Administrator/Hearing Officer's decision.

Rules Regarding Other Conduct

Individual coaches, activity sponsors, or staff responsible for an activity may impose participation restrictions or eligibility restrictions for participation in co-curricular activities on students for behavior other than those listed previously provided:

- A. Students and parent(s)/guardian(s) have first been advised of the participation/eligibility rules and the types of misbehavior that would cause a student to become subject to such participation and/or eligibility restrictions.
- B. Restrictions and/or ineligibility are imposed only after the coach, activity sponsor or responsible staff has:
 - 1. investigated the alleged misbehavior;
 - 2. given the student written or oral notice of the charges against the student;
 - 3. explained the evidence against the student; and
 - 4. given the student a chance to tell his or her version of what happened.
 - 5. The coach, activity sponsor or responsible staff has decided the student, in fact, violated the participation and/or eligibility rules.

The student has the right to appeal the individual coach's, activity sponsor's or responsible staff's decision, as specified above, to the school principal.

BEHAVIOR RULES FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING DISTRICT-PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION

The school bus is considered an extension of the school. Any behavior violation committed by a student on a district-owned, leased or contracted bus being used for a school purpose shall have the same level of *Intervention and Response* in the same manner as if the violation had been committed at the student's assigned school; this will include any referral or activity on the bus which is considered unsafe and/or refusal to follow directions of the driver, OPS staff or aide. **The Student Code of Conduct** will be applied to referrals for behaviors on the bus.

In addition, it is expected that students adhere to the following

- The driver is in full charge of the bus and students. Please show respect and follow directions of the driver and/or staff.
- Only assigned students are eligible to ride their assigned bus.
- Wait until the driver instructs you to get on or off the bus.

Safety Guidelines for Transportation:

- Board the bus in an orderly manner.
- Sit facing forward, keeping the aisle clear.
- If students are required to wear safety restraints, the bus will not move until the restraints are properly fastened.

If required, students who refuse to wear safety restraints, may be subject to Intervention and Response, including removal from the bus.

- Remain seated until the driver directs you to unload.
- Do not extend your arms or head outside the bus window.
- Do not throw any items out of the bus window.
- Keep your voices at a quiet level, so to not distract the bus driver.
- Eating, drinking and smoking are not permitted on school buses.
- The school district is not responsible for items left on the bus.
- Be on time to your bus.

Violation of **Safety Guidelines for Transportation** may result in any of the following resolutions:

- Structured entry on the bus
- Bus safety training review
- Assigned seating while on the bus
- Student conference with administration
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) conference with student and administration
- Temporary removal from the bus (1-5 days)*
- For continued bus misconduct, a student may be suspended from the bus for 6-19 days*

*If a student is temporarily removed from the bus, it is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to transport the student to and from school.

Repeated violation of **Safety Guidelines for Transportation** may result in the loss of the bus transportation privilege.

BOOK BAGS

Middle School

To ensure the safety and security of staff, students, and visitors at middle school buildings, the following items are banned from use by students in middle schools: book bags, totes, backpacks, duffel bags, briefcases, luggage or storage containers used to carry items. These items can be brought to school, but are no longer allowed to be carried from class to class, and must be stored in lockers during the school day. All lockers and their contents are subject to random searches by school staff without prior notification to students. This does not include district provided carriers for district owned electronic devices.

High School

Students may carry book bags, backpacks, and similar items to transport books, supplies, and other belongings. Bags are subject to inspection, and the student is responsible for all contents.

DRESS AND PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Your personal appearance is basically a concern of you and your parent(s)/guardian(s). However, the administration of a school has the responsibility to help students develop good taste in manners of dress and appearance. The development of good judgment in personal appearance should be a cooperative effort between the school and the home.

The following general statements apply to all students.

1. The nature of your appearance should contribute to a positive learning environment.
2. Interpretation of the rights of a minority of the student body should not be such that it negatively influences the general image of the student body or that of the school.
3. Appropriate dress for some activities and learning situations are not necessarily appropriate for others. The health and safety of the individual will not be jeopardized in favor of the students personal preference as to appearance and attire.
4. Shoes and shirts are essential for proper attire. Hats and hair in curlers are not considered proper attire.
5. Printed wording or pictures on clothing that advertise or promote alcohol or drugs or carry derogatory connotations, etc., are prohibited.
6. It is NEVER appropriate to display undergarments.

Standards of dress also include the wearing of caps and gowns by seniors at Commencement Exercises. This public function is memorable for the graduating seniors of the Omaha Public Schools and the wearing of caps and gowns lends the proper dignity to the occasion.

MAKE-UP WORK DURING SUSPENSION

Students will be given an opportunity and must assume responsibility for making up work, including tests, missed during suspension. Completion of make-up work is equal to the time the student has been suspended from school but is not to exceed ten (10) days. Credit will be awarded for acceptable makeup work. See OPS Policy No. 5207 for more information on make-up work.

MISCONDUCT BETWEEN SEMESTERS OR BETWEEN SCHOOL YEARS

If misconduct otherwise covered by the **Student Code of Conduct** occurs between semesters or between school years, the penalties provided for in the **Student Code of Conduct** shall be enforced during the next semester. The registration for and completion of a district substance abuse assessment may take place prior to the beginning of the next semester if either a hearing on the misconduct is waived or any hearing requested is completed sufficiently in advance of the beginning of the next semester to permit successful completion of the assessment. If the assessment is not successfully completed prior to the beginning of the next semester, the penalties otherwise provided for in the **Student Code of Conduct** shall be enforced on the student during the next semester.

NO TRESPASS/BAN AND BAR RESTRICTION

Visitors to the schools must respect the learning environment and maintain proper behavior and decorum. Disruption of the orderly process of the school is prohibited. The principal or his/her designee is authorized to deny access, ban or bar future access, remove or request the removal of any visitor whose behavior is disruptive to the educational/working environment of the school as outlined below:

1. Presents a risk to the safety of others resulting in the likelihood of violence (i.e. specific threats, posturing, or actions)
2. Presents a disruption to the learning environment adversely affecting students/staff (i.e. yelling or destroying property)
3. Repeated failures to follow school policy/procedures (i.e. refuses direction from school administrators or check-in process)
4. Does not have legitimate purpose to be on school grounds or activities (i.e. loitering or wandering inside building)

An individual in receipt of a "No Trespass or Ban/Bar Restriction" may not come onto the grounds of an issuing school. All restrictions are applicable from date of issuance through the subsequent summer and are made void, unless otherwise specified, each August. Any visitor to the schools who has been denied access or who has been asked to leave may appeal to Student and Community Services.

PERSONAL CELL PHONE/PORTABLE DEVICE GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a district-wide procedure regarding the use of cell phones and other Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) by students and the consequences for noncompliance with the procedure to ensure that the use of cell phones and PEDs does not interfere with teaching and learning during the school day.

GUIDELINES

High school students are permitted to use cell phones and PEDs only during lunch and passing periods, as well as before and after school. Elementary and middle school students shall leave cell phones powered off in their backpacks or lockers and may only use them before or after school and/or at the approval of their building administration. The use of cell phones and PEDs should not interfere with teaching and learning during the school day. The school assumes no liability for theft, loss, or damage of cell phones and/or other PEDs possessed by students on school property or held by school officials during the confiscation period.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Cell phone" includes, and is not limited to, iPhones, "smart" phones, Internet enabled phones and other PEDs that are capable of placing and/or receiving telephone calls (including personal listening device such as earphones, ear buds, "Bluetooth", etc.), text messages, creating and distributing videos, taking photographs, and the like.
2. "Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a smartphone, cellular phone, or tablet.
3. "Personal Electronic Device" is an electronic device that emits an audible signal, visual signal, vibration, displays a message, or otherwise summons the possessor, including, but not limited to, paging devices, electronic emailing devices, radios, CD players, DVD players, video cameras, iPods or other MP3 players, laser pointers, portable video game players, personal digital assistants (PDAs), cameras, and any device that provides a connection to the Internet.

4. "School Hours" means the time a student enters the school bus or school property until the end of the school's designated "school day." "School Day" means the regular school day with a designated starting time and ending time as defined by the local school building.
5. "School property" includes parking lots, school buses, and outside or inside all areas of the school building.
6. "Turned off" or "powered off" means the device is not activated. Devices in quiet vibrate or other modes, except off, are not considered turned off or powered off.
7. "Use" includes carrying or possessing a cell phone or PED that is either visible or can be heard, with or without a personal listening device such as earphones, ear buds, "Bluetooth", etc. A cell phone set on "vibrate" or "manner mode" shall be considered to be in use. A cell phone or PED that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message or otherwise summons the possessor shall be deemed "in use." A cell phone or PED, even if placed in an "off" position but visible to others, may be deemed "in use." A cell phone or PED in an "off" position and stored out-of-sight in a back-pack, book bag, pocket, purse, vehicle, locker, etc. shall be deemed "in use."

PROCEDURES

Students are permitted to use cell phones and PEDs only during the following times:

- Before school hours on school property (as directed by school administration).
- After school hours on school property (as directed by school administration).
- Lunch period (high school students only).
- Passing periods (high school students only).
- At evening or weekend activities on school property.
- An emergency situation with the permission of the teacher, instructor, coach, program director, or administrator.
- For approved instructional use by the student's teacher (high school students only).

Building administration will have the discretion to determine the use of cell phones and PEDs for students participating in after school and/or extracurricular activities while on school property or while attending school sponsored or school related activities on or off school property.

Prohibited Use of Cell Phones and PEDs:

- The use of cell phones and PEDs at any time other than those specified.
- The sharing or electronic posting of images taken or stored on cell phones or PEDs during school hours and/or on school property.

If guidelines for use are not followed, then the Personal Electronic Device (PEDs) and/or cell phone may be confiscated:

When a PED and/or cell phone is confiscated the device should be turned over to the designated staff member. The individual who confiscated the item shall take reasonable measures to secure the item until such time the PED and/or cell phone is given to the building administration by the end of the day. Once the device is turned over to the designated staff member, the staff member shall take appropriate action to store the device in a secured location within the school building. Return of the device will occur according to building policy, which may include communication with the parent(s)/guardian(s) and possible disciplinary action.

Noncompliance with Attempted Confiscation:

Students committing repeated violations of this Procedure shall be subject to additional disciplinary action consistent with the **Student Code of Conduct**. Students who refuse to comply with a request to turn over their cell phone and/or PED shall be subject to discipline for insubordination and such other disciplinary action consistent with the **Student Code of Conduct**.

SCHOOL EXCLUSION AND DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

A principal (or designee) may determine that it is necessary to exclude a student from classes. The decision to exclude is made after the principal has investigated the facts, given the student oral or written notice of the charges against the student, and provided an opportunity for the student to present the student's version.

The range of possible exclusions includes short-term suspension, emergency exclusion, long-term suspension, expulsion, or reassignment. It is the principal's responsibility to determine the type of exclusion and/or action recommended. A student cannot attend school, take part in any school function including graduation ceremonies, or be on school property during the duration of a suspension, exclusion, or expulsion.

The administrator will take action based upon first-hand information. This may include contact with witnesses to the student's prohibited conduct. Prior to any decision, the administrator must confer with the student to inform the student of the charge and the available information, give the student an opportunity to tell the student's version of the incident, weigh the evidence as to the offense, make a decision whether the student engaged in the prohibited conduct, and then inform the student of his/her decision.

In cases of recommendations for long-term suspension, reassignment, exclusion or expulsion, the student may, upon request, have a hearing on the specific charges. Students are advised of this right when a principal decides to recommend one of the above actions. If a hearing is not requested within five school days the recommendation will go in effect. See OPS Policy No. 5101 for more information on student discipline and exclusion of students from school.

Rights for the Student Receiving Special Education Services

If a student receiving special education services violates a provision of the **Student Code of Conduct** resulting in a recommendation for expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or a long-term suspension in excess of five consecutive days, an IEP Manifestation Determination (Due Process) meeting shall be convened within three working days of the recommendation. The IEP team shall determine if the conduct in question was caused by, or had a direct and substantial relationship to the student's disability and will also determine if the conduct in question was a direct result of the school district's failure to implement the IEP. If a student or parent(s)/guardian(s) wishes to appeal the outcome of the IEP Manifestation Determination an appeal could be placed through the Special Education Department with the Director of Special Education.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS (SRO)

School Resource Officers (SROs) are hired and trained to support the safety efforts of the Omaha Public Schools. They serve in designated schools and work alongside school administration. SROs and/or police officers are responsible for responding to criminal law matters where it is mandated by law that such offenses be referred to the criminal justice system. Absent an immediate threat of imminent physical harm and/or criminal law matters, school discipline issues are addressed by school administration.

SROs and/or police officers who witness school discipline issues shall contact school administration to address the matter. SROs should act as any school adult in redirecting minor misbehavior and may choose to de-escalate a situation using conflict resolution techniques and leverage existing positive relationships with those involved. Incidents must be referred to school personnel to determine appropriate response for violations of the **Student Code of Conduct**.

STUDENT SEARCHES – Policy No. 5406

Drug Searches by Police/Sheriff Canine Units

The District retains the right to utilize the services of Omaha Area Law Enforcement Authorities Canine Units in the detection of illegal drugs and/or contraband at any time, announced or unannounced at the District's schools and programs.

- A. The Superintendent or his designee (in consultation with the Office of School Safety) may request the canine unit be utilized to search all inside areas of a school building, including lockers, at a time when students are or are not present. If a search takes place in a classroom when students are present, all will exit the room, leaving all items behind.
- B. A building principal (in consultation with the Office of School Safety) may request that a canine unit be utilized to search vehicles in a school parking lot or in other areas where student vehicles are parked during or after school hours. If a dog alerts to a student's vehicle, the student will be required to unlock the vehicle doors and trunk for internal inspection. Any refusal to unlock the vehicle will be handled by law enforcement.
- C. Any illegal drugs and/or contraband found on school grounds, whether in a student locker, vehicle, or any other place on school grounds, will be confiscated and the student may be subject to disciplinary action specified in the **Student Code of Conduct**.
- D. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be notified should illegal drugs and/or contraband be discovered.
- E. This policy shall be included in the student handbooks. This policy shall not be implemented until parent(s)/guardian(s) and students are provided written notice of this policy.

Searches of School Lockers, Student Automobiles, and Students' Persons

Student lockers, desks and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over this school property, and students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in school property because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Students are responsible for whatever is contained in desks, lockers, and district owned electronics issued by the school.

Vehicles parked on school property are subject to search by the principal or the principal's designee if the principal or his or her designee has reasonable cause to believe that contraband is in or on the vehicle.

Students and their personal effects are subject to being searched by the principal or his or her designee if there is reasonable cause to believe that the student is in possession of contraband or evidence indicating that the student has otherwise violated the **Student Code of Conduct**. This includes all student pockets, purses, backpacks, and other kinds of carrying devices, and any personal computing, communication, and data storage devices. If the student does not allow the search, Law Enforcement may be called.

SECRET ORGANIZATIONS

Under state law, it is "unlawful for the pupils of any public secondary school to participate in or be members of any secret organization." The Board of Education is empowered to deny to any student who violates the law any or all privileges of the school, or it may expel such student for failure to comply with the law.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE – Policy No. 5008

After FIVE days of unexcused absence, or its hourly equivalent, the District shall render services to address barriers to attendance. Such services shall include, but are not limited to:

- A. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child; and
- B. One or more meetings between, at a minimum, a school attendance officer, a school social worker, or a school administrator, or his or her designee, the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the child, when appropriate, to attempt to address the barriers to attendance. During this meeting or meetings, a collaborative plan will be developed to improve attendance. This plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
 1. Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child;
 2. Educational counseling;
 3. Educational evaluation;
 4. Referral to community agencies for economic services;
 5. Family or individual counseling; and
 6. Assisting the family in working with other community services.

After TEN cumulative days of unexcused absences, the student's records will be reviewed by the school's attendance team, individualized problem solving or updating of collaborative plan may occur as needed.

After FIFTEEN cumulative days of unexcused absences, a letter will be sent to the parent(s)/guardian(s) by the designated school official. This letter shall provide notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) that the District may refer the absences of the child to the county attorney upon twenty days of unexcused absences. This letter shall also provide notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) that they may request a meeting to review the collaborative plan.

Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney:

The District may report to the county attorney when the school has documented the efforts made as required by the collaborative plan have not been successful in improving regular attendance and the child has been absent more than twenty days per year. The school shall also provide notice to the parent(s)/guardian(s) prior to the referral to the county attorney being made.

A referral cannot be made to the county attorney's office until at least 20 days; however the school may involve the county attorney at any point in the process of addressing the student's absences.

The school's Attendance Team will be responsible for implementing and monitoring this process.

The following circumstances will not be counted toward intervention as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-209:

Excused absences will include but not limited to:

- A. School Sponsored Activities – School related activities that take a student out of his/her scheduled classes; i.e. field trips, competitions, athletic events, school matinees, speakers, testing, etc.
- B. Bereavement – Parent/guardian notifies the school the student is attending a funeral.
- C. Court/Legal Appearance – The student is required to attend a court or legal proceeding. This is specific to only the student.
- D. Ill – Parent/guardian notifies the school the student is ill.
- E. Medically Excused – A medical provider's note is required to verify the absence to include; a medical appointment, hospitalization, or a long term chronic illness; or the school nurse is required to send the student home.
- F. Military Leave – The student absence is specific to deployment and/or military leave activities.
- G. Office – The student is in the school, but in the office (visiting the nurse, counselor, administrator, etc.).
- H. Post Secondary Visit – The student is visiting a post secondary program.
- I. Religious Holiday Observance
- J. Student Success Center – Student is assigned to the Student Success Center.
- K. Suspension
- L. Bus – A delay due to school bus transportation.

The following circumstances will require intervention as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-209:

Unexcused absences will include but not limited to:

1. Absent – The school has been notified of an absence that does not meet the definition of excused.
2. Truant – Neither the family nor school officials know the student's whereabouts, the student is refusing to attend school or class, or the school has been notified that the student has been reported as a run-away.
3. Unverified – No one has contacted the school, or the school has been unable to confirm the reason for the absence, or the school has not confirmed the reason for absence.

Student Attendance: STRIVE FOR 95

Attending school on time and every day is a critical and necessary factor for student success. Showing up for school and being ready to learn has a huge impact on student academic success and their connectedness to school starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school.

STRIVE FOR 95 focuses on students missing no more than 9 days throughout the year. Students are expected to arrive on time and be engaged in learning throughout the academic day.

Attendance matters. Students who maintain the STRIVE FOR 95 goal are more likely to be on or above grade level academically, be socially and emotionally connected to the school and staff, and remain on track to high school graduation.

Ensuring students arrive on time and attend school throughout the day is everyone's responsibility.

Student Responsibilities

- Establish bed time and morning routines
- Understand the importance of STRIVE FOR 95 and why attendance matters
- Arrive on time
- Attend school the entire day
- Miss less than 9 days of school throughout the year

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Establish bed time and morning routines
- Ensure your child(ren) arrive to school on time
- Encourage and acknowledge the importance of STRIVE FOR 95
- Schedule any medical or other appointments after school or on non-school days
- Report any absences to the school attendance secretary

Teacher Responsibilities

- Create a positive classroom culture of why attendance matters
- Encourage and acknowledge the importance of STRIVE FOR 95
- Set and monitor progress attendance goals with students
- Collaborate with school staff to address attendance concerns
- Celebrate students who are meeting attendance goals

Administrative and Support Staff Responsibilities

- Create a positive school culture of why attendance matters
- Encourage and acknowledge the importance of STRIVE FOR 95
- Set and monitor progress attendance goals with staff, students and parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Collaborate with school staff and families to address attendance concerns
- Celebrate students who are meeting attendance goals

Secondary School Attendance Practices (Middle and High School guidance)

Student attendance in school is the key to learning. The goal is for each student to be in class every day, on time and for the entire day. The responsibility for attendance is shared by the student, the parent(s)/guardian(s), the teacher, and other school staff. Although each person's performance affects reaching the goal and STRIVING FOR 95, everyone will be responsible for the student's actions and consequences for their actions will follow.

Students:

Secondary students have the primary responsibility to be at school on time, every day, for the entirety of the day, and to report on time to their scheduled class each period. All absences are instructional minutes missed, with the exception of a school sponsored activity, shall count as an absence from school. Work covered in each class period is important, and any time missed affects student performance.

Students who are absent more than ten days in a semester may have difficulty completing the required work at a passing level.

Students have the responsibility to make arrangements for makeup instruction and complete all work missed due to absences. Teachers should follow the Omaha Public Schools common grading practices.

Promptness to class is also very important. Practices dealing with tardiness must be in place at the classroom as well as the school level and be clearly communicated to all students.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Parent(s)/guardian(s) have the responsibility to emphasize the importance of school attendance and see that the student is in school on time and through its entirety every day. STRIVE FOR 95 is a collaborative effort and with parent/guardian support we can reach this goal. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall call the school if a student is absent and shall provide appropriate written notice including doctor's notes if applicable. Parent(s)/guardian(s) have the responsibility to encourage their students to make up work. Parent(s)/guardian(s) should attend parent-teacher conferences and contact the teacher, principal or other school official if they have questions. Parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement in or attendance at school events and activities supports the importance of school and also creates better understanding and communication.

Teachers:

Teachers will provide the classroom climate, instruction and acceptance of all students that promote learning and good attendance. Clear expectations for student performance and activities that are essential parts of instruction must occur at the very beginning of each class as well as throughout the class period. Teachers are responsible for assisting students in completing makeup work following the student's absence.

Administrative and Support Staff:

Principals, Assistant Principals, Counselors, and other support staff will demonstrate a firm but caring demeanor that communicates high expectations and concern for the individual and his/her attendance. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will be informed of cumulative absences at regular intervals.

Students who are absent must be given the support, encouragement and instructional help they need to master the appropriate learning outcomes. Although any absence may lower a student's academic achievement, the goal shall be to support the student in learning with the overall goal to be mastery of learning outcomes.

STUDENT SIGNATURE OF RECEIPT OF SCHOOL RULES

The signature on the Receipt of Student Handbook verifies that a copy of the Student Handbook, which contains the **Student Code of Conduct** and other school rules, was received. The signature shows agreement to the accepted responsibility to know the contents of the handbook, to understand the rules for students contained in it, and that the rules will be followed. In elementary schools, the signature is received by the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student. In secondary schools, the student signs the Receipt of Student Handbook.

SUMMER SCHOOL AND DUE PROCESS

Students attending school classes during non-traditional times, such as spring and summer sessions, are also held to the requirements of the **Student Code of Conduct**. However, disciplinary consequences may be limited to short-term suspension, long-term suspension and Expulsion from Summer School. Students have the right to a hearing if more than five days of the session are missed due to a disciplinary action.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS – STUDENTS

Surveillance cameras are located on all school buses and in various public spaces in school buildings. These cameras are present to assist school officials in providing a safe learning environment for all students. Video from these cameras although otherwise confidential student records, may be reviewed in the presence of school officials by parent(s)/guardian(s) of students being disciplined as a result of misconduct recorded on tape. If an incident involves two or more students, then all parent(s)/guardian(s) must provide written consent to view the video. Written consent is not needed for students who are seen in the video, but who are not involved in the incident. Video may be used as evidence in student hearings. See OPS Policy No. 3231 for more information on video surveillance.

Students should know that they have no expectation of privacy in those places where surveillance cameras are installed and that student hearing records become public records if a student in an appeal to the Ad Hoc Student Discipline Hearing Committee of the Board of Education requests a public hearing on the appeal or files a lawsuit challenging the decision of the Committee.

TOBACCO, ALCOHOL, DRUGS

The use of tobacco, drugs, alcohol, controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or abuse of non-controlled substance in the school is forbidden. The school district recognizes that student drug and alcohol abuse is a public health issue and not a school discipline, juvenile justice, or criminal issue. When students are suspected of using or abusing drugs, school staff will collaborate with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to address the issue, and students may be referred to student assistance programs. Suspension is not considered intervention for drug use or abuse, but may be utilized in order to maintain a safe and drug free school environment.

UNAUTHORIZED VISIT TO OTHER CAMPUSES

A violation committed by a student on school grounds other than those of the school to which the student is assigned or at any school sponsored activity or athletic event shall be punished in the same manner as if the offense had been committed at the student's assigned school.