# **Dixon High School**

## Home of the BULLDOGS

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#### 2022-2023 Student Handbook

#### **GOALS**

- **Goal 1:** Every student at Dixon High School has a personalized education and graduates from high school prepared for work, further education, and citizenship.
- Goal 2: Every student at Dixon High School has excellent educators, every day.
- **Goal 3:** Dixon High School has up-to-date, effective and efficient financial, business, and technology systems to serve its students, parents and educators.
- Goal 4: Every student at Dixon High School is healthy, safe, and responsible.



#### **Purpose Statement**

To educate students for a successful future.

#### Mission Statement

The Onslow County Schools community will prepare students to be globally competitive leaders and responsible citizens.

#### **Vision Statement**

Excellence in Education.

#### Goals

- **OCS-1:** Every student in the Onslow County School System has a personalized education and graduates from high school prepared for work, further education and citizenship.
- **OCS-2:** Every student in the Onslow County School System has excellent educators, every day.
- **OCS-3:** The Onslow County School System has up-to-date, effective and efficient financial, business, and technology systems to serve its students, parents and educators.
- **OCS-4:** Every student in the Onslow County School System is healthy, safe, and responsible.

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#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### Appeals Procedures (BOE Policy 1740/4010)

All students have the right to present for solution any problem arising within their status as students and shall be encouraged to exercise this right without fear of recrimination. It is for this purpose that a grievance procedure is established. The grievance procedure may be used to address any situation occurring within the operation of normal procedures of the school which causes a student and/or a parent to believe he/she has been wronged, except in the case of long-term suspension. Students and parents are encouraged to discuss their concerns informally with the person(s) involved before invoking formal grievance procedures. The entire grievance procedure is outlined in the Student Related Board of Education Policies and School Bus Safety Regulations Handbook. Students are presented a new handbook at the beginning of each school year. Handbooks are also available at each school and may be picked up by the student and/or parent.

#### Attendance-Onslow County Board of Education Policy (BOE Policy 4400)

Attendance in school and participation in class are an integral part of academic achievement and the teaching- learning process. Regular attendance develops patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory: the State of North Carolina (G.S. 115C-378) requires that every child in the State between the ages of seven (or younger if enrolled) and 16 years attend school. Parents or legal guardians have the responsibility for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily. Any parent, guardian, or other person violating the provisions of the Compulsory Attendance Law is guilty of a misdemeanor. (G.S. 115C-380).

#### A. Attendance in Grades 9-12

The following procedure will be implemented each semester:

- 1. First and Second Absences: Make up work shall be assigned by the student's teacher as deemed appropriate. All make up work shall be completed within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the child's teacher.
- 2. Third-Tenth Absences: Make up work shall be assigned by the student's teacher as deemed appropriate. All make up work shall be completed within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the child's teacher. If absences are consecutive, more time may be allowed at the teacher's discretion. Parents will be notified after the third, sixth and tenth absences.
- 3. Eleventh Absence: In grades 9-12, a student who misses more than 10 days in a semester, shall not be awarded course credit except by determination of the principal/designee upon careful review of the student's records. Make up work shall be assigned by the student's teacher as deemed appropriate. All make up work shall be completed within a reasonable amount of time as determined by the child's teacher.
- 4. When total absences (lawful and unlawful) exceed 10 days per semester, further documentation will be required (doctor's statement, court documentation, etc.)
- 5. Schools shall offer incentives to provide recognition of perfect attendance. The superintendent or designee will develop administrative guidelines to implement this policy.
- 6. Students must be present in class for a minimum of 60 minutes to be counted present for class.

#### **B. Lawful Absences**

When a student must miss school, a written note of explanation for the absence signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the front office on the day returning after an absence. An absence may be lawful for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness or injury which makes the student physically unable to attend school;

- 2. Isolation ordered by the state board of health;
- 3. Death in the immediate family;
- 4. A medical or dental appointment
- 5. Participation under subpoena as a witness in a court or administrative proceeding;
- 6. A minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent(s) with prior approval by the principal;
- 7. Participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel, with prior approval by the principal. Five days prior to the absences, the parent or legal guardian must present to the school principal a written statement requesting the absences be lawful.
- 8. The principal shall use his/her discretion on the reasonable number of days the student may be excused from school; or
- 9. Absence due to pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary.

In addition, a student whose parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting will be granted additional absences at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee to visit with his or her parent or legal guardian. Five days prior to the absences, the parent or legal guardian must present to the school principal a written statement requesting the absences be lawful. The principal shall use his/her discretion on the reasonable number of days the student may be excused from school. Extended illnesses generally require a statement from a physician. In the case of lawful absences and out of school suspensions, the student will be permitted to make up his or her work. The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

#### C. Unlawful Absences

A student's absence from school for any reason other than those listed under "Lawful Absences" will be considered unlawful.

#### **D. School Related Activities**

All classroom activities are important and difficult, if not impossible, to replace if missed. It is the intention of the board of education that classes missed be kept to an absolute minimum through close scrutiny and a monitoring system on the part of the principal. The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

- 1. Field trips sponsored by the school;
- 2. School-initiated and scheduled activities;
- 3. Athletic events requiring early dismissal from school;
- 4. In-school suspension; and/or
- 5. Job shadows and other work-based learning opportunities and Career and Technical Education student organization activities approved in advance by the principal.

Assignments missed for these reasons will be completed by students. The teacher will determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

#### **G. Excessive Absences**

When a student has accumulated ten (10) unexcused absences, the principal will conduct an investigation to determine if the parent or guardian has made a good faith effort to comply with the law. Dependent upon the outcome of the investigation, the principal may notify the District Attorney

and the Director of Social Services.

#### **Students That Fail Due To Attendance (FFs)**

Students who exceed 10 unexcused absences in any course must submit an attendance waiver with documentation for review. Students whose attendance is not waived will receive an FF in place of their final grade. Students with FFs will be put on an attendance contract, agreeing to maintain 10 or less unexcused absences, for the following semester. Students who successfully meet the terms of the contract will have their FFs removed and will earn the original final grade. Students who do not meet the terms of the contract will need to retake the course or complete credit recovery for credit. Students who have earned two FFs in the same course will need to complete credit recovery to earn credit for the course. Final decisions are at the discretion of the Principal.

Please note: FFs impact a student's GPA as an F until removed. Successfully retaking a course with an FF will remove the unsuccessful attempt from a student's GPA calculation. Recovery will not change a student's GPA.

#### <u>Cell Phones and Electronic Devices (BOE Policy 4318)</u>

To address concerns regarding cell phones in schools, and, as part of the ongoing review of the district's policies, the OCS Board of Education updated the district's cell phone policy (<u>Policy Code 4318: Use of Wireless Communication Devices</u>).

Effective with the start of the 2023-2024 school year, students are permitted to have cell phones and other wireless communication devices on campus, so long as the devices are not activated, used, displayed, or visible during the instructional day. DHS's instructional day is from when students arrive on campus at 6:45, until the dismissal bell at 2:10.

During this time electronic devices must be powered off and stored in a safe place out of sight. Students are encouraged to comply and secure the phones in their backpack. Pockets in clothing are not considered as securing their device. Phones not turned off, or seen in a back pocket- are in violation of the policy. Teachers are directed to "See it, hear it, take it" regarding cell phones. Smart Watches used to communicate will be in violation of this policy. Air pods connected to phones, that should be powered down, are in violation of this policy. Consequences for violating this policy are found on page 17.

Parents can contact their children through email during the school day. Students will be able to call parents using the phone in the front office.

DHS is not responsible for any loss or theft of any electronic device. Students are expected to secure their electronic devices at all times.

Note: Electronics are prohibited in test settings on exam days at the end of each semester. In the event a student has a cell phone/electronic device on campus, test administrators will collect all electronics prior to the administration of the final exam and return all electronics when the front office announces that testing is complete. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

#### **Child Nutrition** (BOE Policy 6200)

Meal Benefit Applications are available throughout the school year. A new application is required <a href="EACH"><u>EACH</u></a> school year beginning August 1. Applications may be completed online using <a href="www.lunchapplication.com"><u>www.lunchapplication.com</u></a> (you may apply after August 1 only) Please plan to complete ONE application per household prior to school start date if you believe you qualify for Free or Reduced price meals. Approved applicants are still responsible for accrued charges.

Breakfast is \$1.25 and Lunch \$2.50 for all grade levels. Reduced prices are as follows: Breakfast-Free; Lunch-\$0.40. Adult meals are sold at all a carte pricing. ALL Student Lunch meals must contain a fruit or vegetable choice to count as a meal.

Onslow County Schools provides nutritious breakfast and lunch meals designed around the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Dietary Guidelines of MY PLATE. Guidelines restrict the amount of fat, sodium and sugar in our meal selections and encourage increased consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, and calcium rich foods. Potable water is available for cup dispensing at all locations as well as bottled water for purchase.

A student breakfast may include three of four items: 2 breads and/or 1 bread and 1 meat, two fruit, and a milk choice. Often times, the entree is equal to two items (combination meat/grain or two grains). Students may decline any one component of the four items offered. All breakfasts must have a minimum of 1/2 C of fruit.

Students who bring meals from home may purchase milk at the alacarte price of .50, even if the child is qualified for free meals. Milk is included as a meal component for all pay statuses. Online meal payments are available

at www.lunchprepay.com

#### **Clubs/Organizations** (BOE Policy 3620)

Student activities are an important part of a student's career in high school. Each of the clubs at Dixon High has a major activity and performs a service project for the school or the community. Students and staff shall meet with school administration to submit ideas for a new club within the first ten days of the school year. Students and staff shall submit in writing detailed information about the new club and the advisor within the first twenty days of the school year. The advisor must be a staff member at DHS. The advisor and interested students must design guidelines, objectives, tentative times and dates for meetings, and present this information to the school principal. The principal and the staff advisor will meet with the Strategic Planning Team (Leadership Team) within the first 30 school days to present the new club and have the Team vote on the new club proposal. The principal will maintain the right to make final decisions regarding the organization, activities and guidelines for a proposed club as per Onslow County School Board Policy 3620.

#### Early Checkouts and Signing In/Out (BOE Policy 4400)

Early checkout is strongly discouraged. Students miss valuable instruction and may be counted absent. Occasionally, we understand that it will be necessary for a student to leave during the school day. Students will not be released to anyone but a parent, legal guardian, or emergency contact (as noted on the student emergency data sheet) without written approval from the parent for a third party to pick up the child. A parent or guardian is required to come into the school and sign the student out if a note is not provided. We cannot verify a person's identity over the phone or email so we will not sign a student out based on a parent or student initiated phone call.

Students who need to leave school before the dismissal time must present a written note first thing in the morning to the front office (phone calls will be made to verify note) from a parent. Notes from the parent or guardian requesting an early release from school must contain the following information:

- Date and time for early check-out,
- Reason the student needs to check out of school,
- Telephone number where the parent can be contacted,
- Doctor's name if the student is checking out for a medical appointment and a
- Parent's signature.

Early checkout times should be arranged to coincide with class changes as much as possible. All

individuals picking up a student should be prepared to show proper identification when they come for a student during the school day. The person picking up the child must come into the office to sign the student out of school. This includes students who drive to school.

#### Early Release/Late Entry (Seniors)

Each student's scheduled class day consists of four periods and a homeroom. For a student to be granted an early release or late entry, one parent must sign a release form. There are several conditions to this policy:

- 1. Only seniors can be released early or have late entry.
- 2. The student must leave and arrive at campus at the designated time or the release agreement is forfeited, which can mean reassignment to classes. Seniors will not be allowed to remain on campus or return to campus until designated times. Students who violate this rule will be handled as a trespasser.
- 3. A student may stay after their own classes are over under the following circumstances ONLY:
  - a pass from a teacher to include date, time, period & the destination of the student during that period.
  - if the teacher is not responsible for teaching a class during that period.
  - Students must sign in the front office as a visitor and display visitor pass. There will be NO exceptions to this.

STUDENTS MAY NOT LOITER IN THE FRONT OFFICE OR FOYER AREA AFTER 10 MINUTES OF THEIR CLASS BEING OVER. IF THEY ARE HERE WITH NO PASS AFTER THE 10 MINUTE TIME PERIOD, THEY WILL GO TO ISS UNTIL THEIR RIDE ARRIVES.

#### Family Educational Rights (FERPA)

Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Onslow County Board of Education publishes the Board of Education policy statement regarding student records.

To all parents of students currently attending the Onslow County Schools who have reached the age of 18:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that governs the maintenance of student records. Under the law, parents of students or eligible students have both the right to inspect records kept by the school about the student and the right to correct inaccuracies in the records. Access to the records by persons other than the parents or the student is limited and generally requires prior consent by the parents of the students. The Onslow County Board of Education has adopted a written policy governing all the rights of parents and students

under FERPA. Copies of this policy may be found in the Superintendent's office, in the principal's and counselor's office of the school.

#### Fees (BOE Policy 4600)

The Onslow County Board of Education has passed a policy concerning the payment of school fees and sets the fee schedule each school year. Payment of fees is a prerequisite for driver education, participation in athletics, marching band, parking passes, extracurricular activities, and graduation exercises. Fees should be paid during the first week of each semester. **NOTE: Fees may now be paid online. Check the school website for the link or go to <a href="https://onslow.schoolcashonline.com">https://onslow.schoolcashonline.com</a>**.

Fee Waiver Policy (BOE Policy 4600)

Students whose families meet eligibility criteria to receive free lunch under rules and regulations established by the United States Department of Agriculture are entitled to make application for a waiver of required fees. **NOTE: Fee waiver forms must now be accompanied with the approval form for free/reduced lunch from the district office**. The principal is authorized by Board of Education Policy to investigate claims for fee waivers and to determine the amount of fees waived.

#### Field Trips and School Activities (BOE Policy 3320/3620)

All school rules and expectations apply when students participate in field trips and school-sponsored activities both on and off the campus. All students are to be in good behavioral standing to attend field trips. All staff members are to correct student behavior whenever and wherever necessary. Problems that are observed outside the classroom by teachers will be immediately referred to the administration. These situations will be resolved in accordance with policy outlined in this handbook. To participate in non-academic field trips, students must have passing grades in ALL current classes and have 10 or less unexcused absences in a previous semester; and ALL classes in the current semester leading up to the point of the day of field trip.

#### Forgery and Violation of Copyright Laws (BOE Policy 4310)

Students will not forge the signature of faculty, staff, parents, guardians, or any person serving in an official capacity. Plagiarism will be considered cheating. Forgery or falsifying documents for the purpose of deceiving personnel is a school violation. Copyright laws must be followed. Administration will determine the consequence based on the offense.

#### **Grading Scale System**

In October 2014, the State Board approved a standard 10-point Scale Approved grading scale to begin with the 2015-16 school year for all high school students. This scale will not include "pluses" or "minuses." Grades from prior years will not be altered retroactively.

Grades and Grade-Point Local school districts are required to follow the new scale at the high Average Calculations school level (grades 9-12). Under the new scale, grades and grade point average calculations will be applied as follows:

A: 90-100 = 4.0

B: 80-89 = 3.0

C: 70-79 = 2.0

D: 60-69 = 1.0

F: < 59 = 0.0

#### **Incomplete Coursework**

A student may be assigned an *Incomplete* for a course. The *Incomplete* must be removed within three weeks of the end of the grading period in question or the *Incomplete* converts into the grade earned.

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS** (BOE Policy 3460)

The board recognizes the importance of setting rigorous graduation requirements to help ensure that students are receiving an education that will prepare them to be productive members of society. In order to graduate from high school, students must meet the following requirements:

- 1. successful completion of all course unit requirements mandated by the State Board of Education;
- 2. beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, successful completion of cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction; and
- 3. successful completion of all other requirements mandated by the board, as provided in this policy.

For students who have transferred to the school system during high school or who, for other reasons, have completed course work outside of the school system, the principal shall determine what course work will be applied as credit toward graduation.

The actual course and credit requirements to earn a North Carolina High School Diploma for the Future-Ready Course of Study or the Occupational Course of Study differs based on when a student enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade for the first time. Please click on the following link to access the NCDPI website to ascertain the requirements to the type of respective diploma that is specific to the year the student first entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade. <a href="https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/high-school-graduation-requirements">https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/high-school-graduation-requirements</a>

#### **Graduation** (Early)

Early Graduation is a major decision that requires principal approval. Choosing to graduate early may have a significant impact on available post-high school education and employment options. The decision should be well- planned and thoughtfully made only after careful consideration by both the student and parents. The school's guidance counselor will be able to provide post-secondary options available to early graduates. Students who have completed all graduation requirements may request to graduate early, either at the mid-year of their senior year or the end of their junior year. The student's grade classification will be based on the OCS high school promotion standards. Diplomas are awarded only at the end of the school year.

#### **Hall Passes**

Students should not leave class during instructional time. **Students will not be permitted to receive a hall pass during the first 10 minutes and last 10 minutes of class.** Students who need to take care of matters in the front office, in guidance, or with administration should do so during class changes, during lunches, or, before or after school. Students are required to have a pass signed by a teacher or an administrator if they are out of class during instructional time. No students will be allowed in the hallways without an official hall pass. Students that need to access their vehicles during school hours, shall be escorted by an administrator or designee.

#### **Instructional Time**

One important way that a school can have a positive and direct impact on student achievement is through the protection of instructional time. For this reason, no visitors will be allowed to classrooms during the school day unless they are a guest speaker and part of a planned instructional activity or approved by administration. Anyone wishing to meet with a teacher must do so by appointment.

#### **Integrity and Civility** (BOE Policy 4310)

All students are expected to demonstrate integrity, civility, responsibility and self control. This expectation is directly related to the board's educational objectives for students to learn to be responsible for and accept the consequences of their behavior and for students to respect cultural diversity and ideological differences. Integrity, civility, responsibility and self control also are critical for establishing and maintaining a safe, orderly and inviting environment. *Consequences will be determined* 

by school administration.

#### PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR

In addition to any standards or rules established by the schools, the following behaviors are specifically prohibited as violating the standards of integrity and civility:

- 1. cheating, including the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of an unfair advantage on any form of academic work;
- 2. plagiarizing, including the copying of the language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and representing it as one's own original work;
- 3. violating copyright laws, including unauthorized reproduction, duplication and/or use of printed or electronic work, computer software, or other copyrighted material;
- 4. cursing or using vulgar, abusive or demeaning language towards another person;
- 5. playing abusive or dangerous tricks or otherwise subjecting a student or personnel to personal indignity; and
- 6. falsification, which includes the verbal or written statement of any untruth.

#### **Lockers**

Each student is afforded the opportunity to rent a locker for a small fee of \$2.00 per school year. The instructional supply fee of \$5.00 must be paid before a locker may be rented. Students are not allowed to share lockers. Lockers are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. The school is not responsible for items or books lost from lockers. DHS will not replace lost or stolen items. School authorities, for any reason consistent with board policies or school rules, may conduct locker inspections without informing the student. (BOE Policy 4342)

#### **Media Center Usage**

Media Center Hours: 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Occasional changes in hours will be posted on the doors. Arrangements with the media specialist may be made for extended time. The media center offers support to the school's instructional program with a primary function to assist students with research. Students are encouraged to use the media center for leisure reading, study, and research. Quiet, businesslike conversation is acceptable. Students that are using the media center during class time must have a pass from their teacher and must sign in at the front desk.

#### **Medication** (BOE Policy 6125)

**ALL** prescription medication must be checked in at the main office. The office will dispense the medication as prescribed. Students are **NOT** permitted to carry any type of drug/medication or controlled substance in their possession at any time. Exceptions to this could be diabetic needs, epi pens, inhalers, etc. The nurse will make the final determination on accepted medications that may be carried by a student. Students that need to take a medication must have a pass granting permission to leave class at the time indicated on the medication label.

#### North Carolina Academic Scholars Program

- 1. The student shall complete the Future-Ready Core mathematics sequence of Math I, II, III; Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; or Integrated Math I, II, III and a fourth-level mathematics course that meets University of North Carolina system Minimum Course Requirements that include a mathematics course with either Math III, Algebra II, or Integrated Mathematics III as a prerequisite;
- 2. The student shall complete three course credits of science including an Earth/Environmental science course, Biology, and at least one physical science course that must include either physics or chemistry;

- 3. For students entering ninth grade in 2012-13 or later, the student shall complete four course credits of social studies;
- 4. The student shall complete two course credits of a world language (other than English);
- 5. The student shall complete four elective course credits in any one subject area, such as Career and Technical Education (CTE), JROTC, Arts Education, World Languages, or in another content area;
- 6. The student shall have completed at least three higher-level courses during junior and/or senior years which carry quality points such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or Dual Enrollment courses; Advanced CTE and CTE credentialing courses; honors level courses, or Project Lead the Way courses; and
- 7. The student shall earn an unweighted grade point average of at least 3.50.

#### **Prohibited Items on Campus:**

Students may not possess any item that poses a threat to the safety and orderly conduct of others on the Dixon High School campus. These items may not be present on school grounds or at school events. These items include, but are not limited to the following:

- Lighters/matches/fire starters
- Boxcutters or other sharps
- Skateboards, roller skates, wheelies, etc
- Throwing objects (wasps, spitballs, etc)
- Lewd materials from magazines, books, or the internet

#### **Restricted and Non-Restricted Areas**

Certain areas are off limits to students during all school hours. Restricted areas include but are not limited to parking lots, behind learning cottages, behind vocational building, sporting fields, and behind the cafeteria. Students must report to designated areas immediately upon their arrival to school (designated student wait areas include the cafeteria, the outside breezeway area, the media center; the media center lobby, and the front/back hallways). Students are not permitted to go to the parking lot during the school day without administrative escort.

During lunch periods, students are permitted in the cafeteria and the outside breezeway area. Unless a student has a pass from a teacher, students are restricted from classrooms and classroom hallways during lunch periods. Materials must be retrieved from lockers prior to the start of first period, during class changes, before the student's lunch period and/or at the end of the day. Students in restricted areas during school hours may receive consequences to include lunch detention, after school detention, ISS or OSS.

Following dismissal, any students remaining on campus should be under the direct supervision of a staff member. Students are not permitted to wander around campus waiting for a late afternoon/evening athletic event or extra-curricular activity.

#### **School Counselor Services**

The school counselors provide invaluable services for students. These services include advice and information concerning:

- Course planning to facilitate attainment of immediate and long-range career goals, as well as graduation requirements.
- Personal counseling to develop and maintain emotional maturity.
- Entrance requirements for the programs offered by technical schools, colleges, and universities.
- Information on examinations including the PSAT, SAT, ACT, and achievement tests.
- Scholarships and financial aid for higher education.

- The issuance of transcripts.
- Applications for special/summer academic programs.

Students are encouraged to meet with their assigned counselor. Students may stop by the school counselors' office before and after school and/or request an appointment with the receptionist.

#### <u>School Insurance</u> (BOE Policy 4220)

The Onslow County School Board Policy states that students participating in athletics must have\_accident insurance coverage. The insurance may be school insurance or a private insurance. Those students with private insurance must fill out the proper forms and submit them to the appropriate coach or teacher. Regular school insurance covers all sports except Varsity Football.

#### **School Safety** (BOE Policy 1510/4200/7270)

Specific procedures are in place to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and campus visitors in the event of a school crisis. To fully understand these procedures, mandatory drills will be conducted. All students should take all drills seriously. During a drill, students should follow all staff directives moving to assigned "safe" areas inside or outside the school buildings. Students are to remain with their class during safety drills and conduct themselves in an orderly manner waiting quietly for additional instructions. Talking, running, pushing or playing is not permitted during a drill. When the drill is over, students are to return to their class quietly.

Parents/Guardians/Visitors must report to the front office upon arriving on campus.

#### **Student Driving on Campus**

Driving on campus is a privilege and this opportunity will be suspended for students that drive in an unsafe manner. Students are to stay on the pavement and are not permitted to drive on the grass at any time. Students are not to pass another vehicle, including a school bus, while on the school campus. The vehicle speed should never exceed 10 mph. In addition to administrative action and/or action taken by the School Resource Officer, improper driving on campus will result in the suspension or loss of the student's driving privileges on campus. School officials may search vehicles parked on DHS campus.

#### **Student Parking on Campus**

Parking on the Dixon High School campus is a student privilege, and certain conditions are attached to that privilege. Students who fail to uphold those conditions will be subject to loss of parking privileges.

- A student must be eligible to purchase a parking pass (\$25.00) at the time of the request; after all current and prior fees are paid.
- Parking pass eligibility is determined by presenting the following information to the office: signed and dated DHS Campus Parking paperwork, a valid NC Driver's license, proof of insurance, a valid vehicle registration form in the student's name or the name of a parent, guardian, or other person that has presented a notarized letter giving the student permission to drive the vehicle, clearance of school fees: technology fees, media center, athletics, band, clubs, or monies owed to the cafeteria.
- The parking pass must be purchased prior to parking a vehicle on campus. **Permits are non-transferrable**. (You cannot give it to someone else)
- The parking pass must be hung on the rear- view mirror with parking spot number facing out. The pass must be visible.
- The parking pass will be assigned to a reserved number in a designated parking lot. Students may not park on the grass, a sidewalk, any road area, or any area NOT assigned with a parking pass. Vehicles parked in the wrong space or in an unauthorized area may receive a citation.

- Vehicles may NOT be left on campus overnight unless permission has been granted by the administration.
- The speed limit on campus is NOT to exceed 10 MPH. Drivers and passengers should wear their seat belt. Citations may be issued for a speeding violation or a seat belt violation.
- Vehicles should be secure at all times. Students are cautioned <u>NOT</u> to leave valuables in their vehicles.
- Students must enter the building upon arriving on campus. Loitering in vehicles or the parking lot may result in a citation.
- Permission must be given by the administration for a student to return to their vehicle during the school day.
- Vehicles parked on campus are *subject to search*. This may be done without consent or notification.
- Students may NOT leave campus for lunch.
- Students are NOT permitted to PASS another vehicle in the parking lot or while entering or leaving the campus
- Students with attendance issues, habitual tardiness, and /or discipline issues may have their parking privileges suspended or revoked until such issues are resolved
- Cars illegally parked or without a paid permit will be towed at the owner's expense.
   Violations of the above regulations will result in revocation of driving/parking privileges on campus.
- Students are not permitted to drive from one parking lot to another during the school day to be closer to their class. Students will only be assigned one parking space.

#### FREQUENT PARKING VIOLATIONS

- Using more than one space
- Loitering/littering parking lot
- Parking in other than assigned spot
- Improper permit display
- Student in parking lot without a pass
- Inaccurate vehicle registration/license/insurance
- Poor attendance, habitual tardiness, discipline problems

\*Violations of the above will lead to consequences that may include:

- 1st violation Written warning
- 2nd violation 5 day school parking suspension
- 3rd violation Revocation of parking permit without refund

Dixon High School is not responsible for damages to or theft from vehicles. Parking a vehicle on campus is a privilege. Students may lose the right to park on campus for a specified period of time or indefinitely for any infraction of these rules or for the improper operation of the vehicle on the school's campus. School disciplinary actions may include the loss of campus parking privileges for a specified time or indefinitely. Students who insist on parking a vehicle on campus following the loss of a parking privilege can expect the vehicle to be removed from campus at the owner's expense.

#### <u>Technology</u> (BOE Policy 1710, 3225, 3226, 4205, 6523, 7320)

Students are expected to follow the Responsible Use Guidelines for District Issued and Personally Owned Devices. Students that are provided a 1:1 Digital Learning Device will be required pay a \$25 Technology Usage Fee to help assist the district with costs associated with supporting the devices and peripheral equipment, as well as any accidental damages. The insurance assessment does not cover

theft, non-accidental damage, or loss while off school campus.

Students are expected to follow the Digital Learning Class Etiquette Procedures at all times. 1=Teacher time (Screens Down); 2=Interactive Time (Screens at 45 degrees); 3=Student Time (Screens Up)

#### <u>Title IX (BOE Policy 1741/7221)</u>

Onslow County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its programs or activities. The Human Resources Department at the Onslow County Technical Support Center will receive Title IX inquiries. Letters or phone calls may be made to the Onslow County Schools, 200 Broadhurst Road, Jacksonville, NC 28540 (910-455-2211)

#### Valedictorian and Salutatorian (BOE Policy 3450)

The valedictorian and salutatorian will be notified of these honors at graduation practice. The following administrative guidelines shall apply:

- 1. A student shall be enrolled in a high school in the Onslow county School system during the entire senior year to be designated a valedictorian or salutatorian. The student must enroll within the first 10 days of the school year.
- 2. The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be determined by the class ranking on the North Carolina Standardized Transcript.
- 3. The selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian shall be determined following the second semester exams and final averaging of grades for the senior year.
- 4. For valedictorian and salutatorian ranking purposes, the high school average shall be carried out to the fourth decimal and shall be based on a weighted scale.

#### **Visitors**

Visitors must report to the main office when they arrive on campus to sign in and receive a Visitor's Pass. Visitors should sign-out as they leave the school's campus. Visitor passes must always be worn while on campus. Anyone sighted on campus without a visitor's pass will be trespassing and the proper authorities will be summoned. Appointments for conferences with teachers must be arranged through the main office or with the teacher. Classroom visits/observations will be scheduled by the office. Students from other schools are not permitted to visit the campus unless approved by the administration. Visitor parking is located on the front row of the parking lot located in the front of the school's campus.

#### **Weather Watch**

When inclement weather occurs, local radio and television stations will announce school closings or delays. School delays are also announced on the Onslow County Schools "Information Line" at 989-2211, the School Messenger system, Twitter - <a href="mailto:@Dixon\_Bulldogs">@Dixon\_Bulldogs</a> and the DHS webpage - <a href="https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/dixonhs">https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/dixonhs</a>. If no announcement is made, school will start at the regular time.

# Student Discipline

#### **Statement of Purpose**

Dixon High School is a place where students can come to concentrate on their academic pursuits, while having the opportunity to interact socially with their peers, participate in extracurricular activities and

be a part of a school community. It is our desire as the staff of Dixon to ensure that this atmosphere is positive and, most of all, conducive to student learning. The policies are designed to provide students with structured rules and consequences which are fair and equitable to the entire school population.

We are charged by the North Carolina General Assembly and the Onslow County Board of Education to provide a safe and orderly learning environment for our students. We take this responsibility very seriously. These policies are designed to ensure that the environment of our school is positive and encouraging to the academic growth of our students. The administrator will consider all information when making a decision about student discipline.

You must always remember that you make choices in your behavior. Only you can control the decisions and choices you make. The rewards and consequences you experience at DHS are based upon the decisions you make. We hope you will always choose to do what is in your best interest and the best interest of your school. The school's discipline program focuses on assisting students to develop the self-discipline needed to make good choices and, thus, create the best possible learning environment for all students.

#### **Bullying/Cyberbullying** (BOE Policy 4331)

The term "bullying" is defined as deliberate verbal, nonverbal, and/or physical abuse of a student by one or more students. This type of behavior is repetitive in nature and the victim/offender remains the same. Any student exhibiting such behavior will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as necessary to ensure a safe and orderly environment for learning. Bullying includes, but is not limited to:

- Derogatory, demeaning, intimidating, or defaming statements and/or gestures to or about a student;
- Intentional emotional harm to a student by exclusion and/or isolation;
- Hostile comments about another student's race, religion, disability, ethnicity, gender, and/or sexual orientation for the purpose of causing them to feel disliked or humiliated; and
- Unwelcome and uninvited physical contact or threats of physical contact that demean or offend the victim and result in a hostile environment for the victim.

#### Consequences: ISS, OSS, Alternative Placement and/or Report to Law Enforcement

Cyberbullying is defined as sending inappropriate texts or pictures (threats, harassing messages, information that incites inappropriate behavior on campus, on the bus or at any OCS function) will be considered a violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary action that may result in a complete loss of privileges related to Cell Phones and Electronic Devices on the campus of DHS and any DHS related event.

#### Consequence: Loss of privilege of using or possessing Cell Phones and Electronic Devices, ISS, OSS

#### **Bus Transportation** (BOE Policy 4316)

Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right. Students are assigned a bus number and the appropriate pick-up and delivery point on the bus route. Students must present a written note from a parent or guardian to the front office by the end of first period requesting any bus change. All requests must have prior approval from the administration and transportation coordinator before the change can take place. Repeated use of school bus transportation to a destination other than the student's home will not be allowed. The Dixon Transportation Coordinator is Dennis Byerly. He can be reached at 910-347-6708. Violations of bus conduct rules will result in bus suspensions. Violations of school rules on a

school bus result in school consequences.

Consequences for Bus Misbehavior: Bus Suspension, OSS

#### **CELL PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES** (BOE Policy 4318)

Violation of this policy regarding cell phones and electronics will result in the following: Consequences:

1st offense: Teacher takes phone and turns it into office. Student can pickup at end of day.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Teacher or administrator will confiscate the device. Only a parent/ guardian is permitted to pick up the phone from the office at the end of the school day. The office is open until 4 pm daily.

3rd offense and beyond: Teacher or administrator will confiscate the device. Only a parent/guardian is permitted to pick up the phone from the office at the end of the 3rd school day following the infraction. For example, if phone is taken on Monday, phone is picked up 3 days later on Thursday. Phones taken on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be held over the weekend and can be picked up on Monday afternoons.

NOTE: If the parent/guardian chooses to keep the phone the day of the infraction, then a 3-day OSS will be assigned. The parent/guardian will be asked to sign a document stating that they understand if they choose to take the phone a consequence of 3 days OSS will be assigned to their child.

Refusal to surrender any electronic device to a staff member upon request will result in 2 days OSS. For Repeated offenses, the Principal/Asst. Principal has the right to revoke/suspend all privileges of electronic devices to include school-issued laptops.

DHS is not responsible for any loss or theft of any electronic device. Students are expected to secure their electronic devices at all times.

Note: Electronics are prohibited in test settings on exam days at the end of each semester. In the event a student has a cell phone/electronic device on campus, test administrators will collect all electronics prior to the administration of the final exam and return all electronics when the front office announces that testing is complete. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

#### **Cheating/Plagiarism** (BOE Policy 4310)

Students are prohibited from cheating, including the actual giving or receiving of any unauthorized assistance or the actual giving or receiving of an unfair advantage on any form of academic work. Plagiarizing includes the copying of the language, structure, idea and/or thought of another and representing it as one's own original work. This includes unauthorized usage of AI technologies to complete assignments.

#### **Consequences:**

**1st Offense:** Detention and student will be given an alternate assignment. **2nd Offense:** 1 Day of ISS and student will be given an alternate assignment. **3rd Offense:** 3 Days of ISS and student will receive an alternate assignment.

#### Conduct / Public Display of Affection (BOE Policy 4300, 4315)

Students are expected to act as responsible, mature, young adults and use self-discipline throughout the day in all areas while on the school's campus, while attending a school-sponsored event, while riding a school bus, and/or an activity bus. Kissing, hugging, shouting, running, and excessive noise is not

acceptable conduct.

Repeated violations will result in a discipline referral.

#### **Destruction of School Property** (BOE 4330)

The loss, destruction or defacement of school property shall be paid for by the offender.

Consequences: ISS, OSS, Report to law enforcement, and/or charged for the cost of replacement/repair

#### **Detention/After School Detention**

At least twenty-four hours' notice will be given before detaining students before or after school. Notice is given in order for students to make arrangements for transportation, etc. Students who have jobs or obligations after school are not exempt from this process. If students are assigned to after school detention, they must stay or face further disciplinary action. After school detention will be served with the assigning teacher/staff member **from 2:15-2:45 pm**.

#### **Detention: Failure to Serve**

Students assigned after school detention, may not participate in extra-curricular activities until after 2:45 pm. Parents or guardians will be notified immediately by the teacher issuing the detention for any student that does not serve their detention. At that time, parents or guardians will be informed of the failure to serve, the consequences for not serving the detention (detention time doubled), and new detention dates will be set. Parents or guardians will be reminded that transportation arrangements must be made prior to serving detention. Failure to serve the second assigned detention will result in one day of in-school suspension. Each further violation will result in one day of out-of-school suspension. If a student is absent on the day he/she is to serve detention, he/she is to serve detention on the next available detention day.

#### Disorderly Conduct (BOE Policy 4300, 4310, and 4315)

No student shall engage in disorderly conduct on a school bus/activity bus, on the school grounds, or at any school function at or away from school. Disorderly conduct includes, but is not limited to profanity, arguing, shouting, verbal altercations causing a disturbance, or encouraging others to fight. Disorderly conduct also includes conduct that creates the threat of imminent fighting or other unacceptable behavior. Making or using an utterance, gesture, display, or abusive language which is intended to (or likely to) provoke violent retaliation and thereby cause a breach of the peace and order of the school is also considered disorderly conduct. This includes being around and/or encouraging others to fight or argue. If a fight starts, students should leave the area. Blocking the free entry or use of school facilities is also a violation. Students are expected to maturely work out their problems with each other or get the help of a school counselor or administrator.

Consequence: Detention, ISS, OSS, Arrest

#### <u>Disrespectful Behavior to Faculty Members</u> (BOE Policy 4300, 4310, 4315)

No student shall behave in a manner that is considered to be disrespectful to a staff member. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, talking back to a faculty member, use of profane or vulgar language to or in the presence of staff members, or disrespectful gestures or body gestures directed toward staff members.

Consequence: ISS, OSS

#### <u>Disrespectful Behavior to Other Students</u> (BOE Policy 4300, 4310, 4315)

No student shall behave in a manner that is considered to be disrespectful to fellow students. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, use of profane or vulgar language to or in the presence of fellow students, disrespectful gestures or body gestures directed toward other students, ridicule or any other act which damages another student's reputation.

**Consequence: Detention, ISS, OSS** 

#### <u>Disruption/Violation of Classroom Rules</u> (BOE Policy 4300, 4315))

No student shall behave in a manner that prevents the teacher from teaching and students from learning. Students will adhere to classroom rules as established by the teacher as well as those defined by the Board and school.

Consequence: Detention, ISS, OSS

#### **Dress Code** (BOE Policy 4303)

The dress and appearance of students has a significant effect upon conduct and behavior while at school. The purpose of the Dixon High School dress code is not to censure individual expression but to help maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and free of distractions. A student's appearance must not disrupt the teaching and learning process.

If dress is inappropriate, the student will remove the inappropriate attire for the remainder of the school day. If students don't have a change of clothes, efforts will be made to provide them clothes. If alternative clothes aren't available, students will be sent to ISS until a change of clothes can be provided. Parents will be notified to bring the student a change of clothing. Class time that is missed will be considered unlawful/unexcused. All work must be made up.)

The following attire shall be the dress code for **ALL** Dixon High School students during the instructional day which <u>includes exam days</u>:

- √ The shoulder width of shirts, blouses, or dresses must completely cover undergarments.

  Students <u>are not</u> permitted to wear spaghetti strap tops/dresses, tube tops, altered shirts, one shoulder tops or completely off the shoulder, halter tops/dresses, or open back tops/dresses.
  - ✓ Shorts, skirts and dresses <u>must</u> cover all hind parts when standing or sitting. Undergarments should not be visible due to short lengths, sagging pants, or tears/rips in pants.
  - √ Any student dressed inappropriately on exam days will be required to change prior to taking the exam or will be sent home.

#### The following attire is considered unacceptable and is prohibited for DHS students.

- Clothing which is obscene, sexually suggestive, revealing, advertises tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs or other illegal items, violent behavior, or contains inappropriate language.
- Clothing which is representative of gang affiliation. This includes rags, bandannas, or handkerchiefs hanging from a pocket, scarves or bandannas tied around legs/arms/necks, one pant leg up, baseball caps tilted one-way, gang lettering/language, gang numbers, gang symbols, and/or colors that are associated with gang affiliation.
- Any symbols, styles, flags, or attire frequently associated with intimidation, bullying, violence and/or violent groups.
- Offensive, obscene, or vulgar writing or pictures on any item being worn or any item being carried by the student. This includes book bags.
- Shirts must either be tucked in or fall below the belt (waistline) far enough so that when bending or reaching above the head the midriff is not exposed. Mesh shirts, midriffs, halfshirts, see-through shirts or revealing attire is not acceptable.
- Shirts, t-shirts, and blouses that do not overlap at the top of the shorts, pants, and/or skirt when the student is standing.
- Undergarments being worn as outer-garments. (Undergarments may not be visible).
- Bedroom shoes/house slippers. (Doctor's note required if student must wear a bedroom

- shoe or house slipper.)
- Clothing unbuttoned or cut to reveal the chest, midriff, or a part of the body that is expected to be covered like high thigh area.
- Any adornment such as chains, bracelets, spikes, that reasonably could be perceived as, or used as a weapon. "See It/Take It" procedures will be followed.
- Clothing that covers any part of the face, except for religious reasons.
- Blankets are prohibited.
- Sunglasses are prohibited from being worn in the building.

Consequence: When student apparel violates dress code, a change of clothing is required. Students will not be permitted to correct the same clothing that violates dress code. Students without a change of clothing will be sent to ISS until a change of clothing is obtained or for the remainder of the day.

#### <u>Drugs or Alcohol: Possession, Sale, Use or Under the Influence (BOE Policy 4325)</u>

No student shall possess, use or consume prior to nor while attending school or any school functions, transmit or be under the influence of alcohol, narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic substances or any other substance defined as a controlled substance (pursuant to Chapter 90 of the North Carolina General Statutes) while in any school building or on any school premises, at any school function or event before, during, or after school hours or during any period of time when the student is subject to the authority of school personnel unless the substance is prescribed by and taken in accordance with the prescription of a physician.

#### **Consequences:**

Alcohol- 5 days OSS,

Marijuana, THC, CBD, Delta 8, or other controlled substances- 10 days OSS

#### Fight/Assault on another Student (BOE Policy 4331)

No student shall assault, cause or attempt to cause bodily harm, verbally or physically threaten, fight, or intimidate another student. Any student who engages in a fight, is determined to have provoked a fight, or does not take reasonable steps to prevent a fight may be suspended. Name calling and threats may also result in suspension. The student who physically attacks another individual may be charged with assault, suspended for a minimum of 5 days and/or referred to the Onslow County Learning Center. The second violation of this policy may result in recommendation for long term suspension. Any student involved in recording a fight and/or circulating the contents to others through any other social media outlet will be subject to administrative action.

Consequence: OSS, Report to Law Enforcement, Change of Learning Placement

#### **Hazing or Extortion** (BOE Policy 4331)

No student or group of students shall subject another student to physical injury as part of an initiation, or as a prerequisite to membership into any school group, athletic team, or other similar group. No student shall be involved in forcing or threatening another student in order to obtain money or other valuables or to participate in humiliating acts. No student shall bully other students for any reason.

**Consequences: Minimum 3 days OSS** 

#### Insubordination/Failure to Comply (BOE Policy 4300, 4301)

All students will follow the instructions or directions of any staff member. Students must also correctly identify themselves when asked to do so by any staff member. If a student questions a directive of a teacher, it must be <u>in private</u>. The refusal to follow reasonable directives of teachers or other school personnel will be considered disobedient behavior and may result in immediate suspension. Any student who refuses to state their full name to a school employee when asked will be suspended out of

school.

Consequences: ISS, OSS

#### Skipping (BOE Policy 4215)

Upon arriving to campus each day, students are expected to remain on campus until the end of their last scheduled class and are required to attend all classes as scheduled. The following acts are considered skipping:

- > Leaving campus without permission
- > Not attending homeroom or meetings during homeroom period
- ➤ Leaving class with a teacher pass and not reporting to the assigned destination.
- > Going to your car or parking lot anytime during the school day without permission.
- > Visiting another teacher's classroom during assigned instructional time.

Consequence: 1st offense: minimum 1 day ISS and parent contact

2nd offense: minimum 2 days ISS and parent contact

3rd offense: Administrator recommendation

Leaving campus without permission in vehicle will result in the loss of parking privileges.

#### **Tardies**

All students are expected to be in class and prepared for the lesson to begin immediately after the tardy bell rings. The amount of time between classes is seven minutes; therefore, students must move quickly from one class to another. Students arriving late to school, after the second tardy bell, will be counted tardy and should report to the front office to check in. If a student is late due to a medical or dental appointment, a doctor's note should be presented.

The following policy concerning students being tardy will be in effect. The number of tardies for each respective period.

- Unexcused Tardy #3: Parent contact by teacher
- Unexcused Tardy #5: 1 day of period ISS.
- Unexcused Tardy #6: 1 day of ISS.
- Unexcused Tardy #7: 2 days of ISS.
- Unexcused Tardy >7: Other administrative consequences/actions.

**Administration will hold tardy student sweeps to curb student tardiness.** Teachers will lock doors after late bell has rung, and students left in the hallway will be escorted to ISS for the remainder of the period or assigned after school detention.

#### **Theft**

Students are prohibited from stealing or attempting to steal school or private property, and/or from knowingly being in possession of stolen property. Failure to turn in any stolen property promptly to the principal or a school system administrator will be considered a violation of this section.

Consequence: Report to Law Enforcement, Restitution, ISS, OSS

#### Threats to School Safety (BOE Policy 4333)

WEAPONS, BOMBS, BIOLOGICAL OR CHEMICAL THREATS, EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, and THREATS TO SAFETY (BOE Policy 4333)

The presence of weapons, bombs, biological or chemical threats, or actions that constitute a clear threat to the safety of students and employees will not be tolerated. Any student violating this policy will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as necessary to ensure a safe and orderly environment for learning.

Consequence: OSS, arrest, long-term suspension, change of learning placement. Possession of a firearm will result in long-term suspension (minimum 365 days) from school.

#### Vapes/Tobacco Products: Possession and/or Use (BOE Policy 4320)

Students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product (1) in any school building, school vehicle, or on the school grounds at any time; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including school trips. The term "tobacco products" includes nicotine vapes, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, blunts, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, smokeless tobacco, and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products or products that creates fumes or vapors.

Consequences: 5 days OSS

Students that receive more than 10 days OSS during a given school year will be candidates for a change of learning placement to OCLC.

# DIXON HIGH SCHOOL RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND THIS HANDBOOK AT ANY TIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Any student that may violate the rules, policies and guidelines in this handbook may lose: the right to attend the prom, parking privilege, attend school sponsored trips, participate in extra-curricular activities to include sports, or any other school event not specifically listed.

Seniors may also lose the right to participate in the graduation exercise.