



St. Johns County  
School District

Student Code of Conduct  
**2025-2026**



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**St. Johns County School District**

**Guiding Principles**

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**We believe that....**

- Trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship are essential to the well-being of individuals and society.
- All individuals have intrinsic value.
- Every individual can contribute something of worth to society.
- Individuals are responsible and accountable for their choices and decisions.
- In order to grow and thrive, individuals need caring relationships and a nurturing environment.
- Supportive family relationships are the foundation of the community.
- High expectations lead to higher performance which, in turn, empowers the individual and strengthens society.
- Continuous learning is a lifelong process that is essential to a productive and enriched life.

The St. Johns County School District is recognized throughout Florida for its exceptional academics, innovative programming, student accomplishments, and professional staff. The district's success is due to its commitment to both excellence in academics and character development.

The Six Pillars of Character (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship) are found in the District's Core Values. Individual worth and high expectations for all students are also part of this value system.

St. Johns County schools and organizations have come together with a common approach in an effort to say children matter, values matter, character matters and academic excellence matters in our community and in our country. These principles are embodied in the District's visionary Mission Statement.

**Mission Statement**

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The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.

# District Office Phone Directory

## Directory Information Switchboard (904) 547-7500

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[www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

<b>Academic Services</b>	(904)547-7520	<b>Instructional Services: Secondary</b>	(904)547-3947
<b>Athletics</b>	(904)547-7724	<b>Instructional Technology</b>	(904)547-3920
<b>Board Members</b>	(904)547-7510	<b>Media Services</b>	(904)547-4864
<b>Curriculum</b>	(904)547-6030	<b>Operational Services</b>	(904)547-7670
<b>ESOL</b>	(904)547-8924	<b>Public Relations</b>	(904)547-7517
<b>Exceptional Student Education</b>	(904)547-6059	<b>Risk Management</b>	(904)547-7554
<b>Facilities &amp; New Construction</b>	(904)547-8150	<b>School Improvement</b>	(904)547-8911
<b>Planning and Governmental Relations</b>	(904)547-7680	<b>School Services</b>	(904)547-7724
<b>Food Services</b>	(904)547-8931	<b>Student Records</b>	(904)547-7137
<b>Full-Service Schools</b>	(904)547-7797	<b>Student Services</b>	(904)547-7797
<b>Guidance and Programs of Choice</b>	(904)547-7754	<b>Superintendent</b>	(904)547-7502
<b>Head Start</b>	(904)547-8965	<b>Title I Services</b>	(904)547-8928
<b>Health Services</b>	(904)547-7693	<b>Transportation</b>	(904)547-7810
<b>Human Resources</b>	(904)547-7600	<b>Volunteers</b>	(904)547-3945
<b>Instructional Services: Elementary</b>	(904)547-6021	<b>Voluntary Pre-K Programs</b>	(904)547-8954
<b>Innovation &amp; Equity</b>	(904)547-3955		

# Directory of Schools

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## Elementary Schools

<b>Crookshank Elementary</b>	1455 North Whitney Street St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-7840
<b>Cunningham Creek Elementary</b>	1205 Roberts Road St. Johns, Florida 32259	(904)547-7860
<b>Durbin Creek Elementary</b>	4100 Race Track Road St. Johns, Florida 32259	(904)547-3880
<b>W. D. Hartley Elementary</b>	260 Cacique Drive St. Augustine, Florida 32086	(904)547-8400
<b>Hickory Creek Elementary</b>	235 Hickory Creek Trail St. Johns, Florida 32259	(904)547-7450
<b>R. B. Hunt Elementary</b>	125 Magnolia Drive St. Augustine, Florida 32080	(904)547-7960
<b>Julington Creek Elementary</b>	2316 Race Track Road St. Johns, Florida 32259	(904)547-7980
<b>Ketterlinus Elementary</b>	67 Orange Street St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-8540
<b>Otis Mason Elementary</b>	207 Mason Manatee Way St. Augustine, Florida 32086	(904)547-8440
<b>Ocean Palms Elementary</b>	355 Landrum Lane Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082	(904)547-3760
<b>Osceola Elementary</b>	1605 Osceola Elementary Road St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-3780
<b>Palencia Elementary</b>	355 Palencia Village Drive St. Augustine, Florida 32095	(904)547-4010
<b>Picolata Crossing Elementary</b>	2675 Pacetti Road St. Augustine, Florida 32092	(904)547-4160
<b>PV/PV Rawlings Elementary</b>	630 A-1-A North Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082	(904)547-3821
<b>South Woods Elementary</b>	4750 State Road 206, West Hastings, Florida 32033	(904)547-8610
<b>Timberlin Creek Elementary</b>	555 Pine Tree Lane St. Augustine, Florida 32092	(904)547-7400
<b>The Webster School</b>	420 North Orange Street St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-3860
<b>Wards Creek Elementary</b>	6555 State Road 16 St. Augustine, Florida 32092	(904)547-8730



## K-8 Schools

<b>Freedom Crossing Academy</b>	1365 Shetland Drive Saint Johns, FL 32259	(904)547-4230
<b>Hallowes Cove Academy</b>	2505 Rivertown Main Street Saint Johns, FL 32259	(904)547-4550
<b>Liberty Pines Academy</b>	10901 Russell Sampson Road Saint Johns, FL 32259	(904)547-7900
<b>Mill Creek Academy</b>	3750 International Golf Parkway St. Augustine, FL 32092	(904)547-3720
<b>Palm Valley Academy</b>	2135 Palm Valley Road Ponte Vedra, FL 32081	(904)547-4200
<b>Patriot Oaks Academy</b>	475 Longleaf Pine Parkway Saint Johns, FL 32259	(904)547-4050
<b>Pine Island Academy</b>	805 Pine Island Road St. Augustine, FL 32095	(904)547-4303
<b>Valley Ridge Academy</b>	105 Greenleaf Drive Ponte Vedra, FL 32081	(904)547-4090
<b>Trout Creek Academy</b>	855 Timberwolf Trail St. Augustine FL 32092	(904)547-4450
<b>Lakeside Academy</b>	1455 Twin Creeks Drive St. Augustine FL 32095	(904)547-4500

## Middle Schools

<b>Fruit Cove Middle</b>	3180 Race Track Road St Johns, Florida 32259	(904)547-7880
<b>Alice B. Landrum Middle</b>	230 Landrum Lane Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082	(904)547-8410
<b>Murray Middle</b>	150 North Holmes Blvd. St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-8470
<b>Pacetti Bay Middle</b>	245 Meadowlark Lane St. Augustine, Florida 32092	(904)547-8760
<b>Gamble Rogers Middle</b>	6250 US 1 South St. Augustine, Florida 32086	(904)547-8700
<b>Sebastian Middle</b>	2955 Lewis Speedway St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-3840
<b>Switzerland Point Middle</b>	777 Greenbriar Road St. Johns, Florida 32559	(904)547-8650



## High Schools

<b>Bartram Trail High School</b>	7399 Longleaf Pine Parkway St. Johns, Florida 32259	(904)547-8340
<b>Beachside High School</b>	200 Great Barracuda Way St. Johns, Florida 32259	(904)547-4401
<b>Creekside High School</b>	100 Knights Lane St. John, Florida 32259	(904)547-7300
<b>Pedro Menendez High School</b>	600 State Road 206 West St. Augustine, Florida 32086	(904)547-8660
<b>Allen D. Nease High School</b>	10550 Ray Road Ponte Vedra, Florida 32081	(904)547-8300
<b>Ponte Vedra High School</b>	460 Davis Park Road Ponte Vedra, Florida 32081	(904)547-7350
<b>St. Augustine High School</b>	3205 Varella Ave. St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-8530
<b>St. Johns Technical High School</b>	2970 Collins Avenue St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-8500
<b>Tocoi Creek High School</b>	11200 St John's Parkway St. Augustine, FL 32092	(904)547-4260

## Alternative Schools

<b>The Gaines Alternative and The Evelyn B. Hamblen Center</b>	One Christopher Street St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-8560
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## Post-Secondary Schools

<b>First Coast Technical College</b>	2980 Collins Avenue St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)547-3282
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## Charter Schools

<b>St. Johns Community Campus (ARC)</b>	2165 Arc Drive St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)824-7249
<b>Therapeutic Learning Center</b>	2109 Arc Drive St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)824-8932
<b>Treaty Oaks Preparatory Academy</b>	565 Brinkhoff Road St. Augustine, FL 32086	(904)236-6890
<b>St. Augustine Public Montessori</b>	7 Williams Street St. Augustine, Florida 32084	(904)342-5350

# St. Johns County School District

## 2025-2026

### Student Code of Conduct

#### INTRODUCTION

With the St. Johns County School District Mission Statement in mind, the Student Code of Conduct was developed to help District students, parents, faculty and staff understand the guidelines for maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment. In addition, all District students and staff are charged with modeling the characteristics of citizenship, character education and literacy. Each school develops its own rules and expectations for student conduct based on the District-wide Student Code of Conduct.

This Code applies to all District students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12, including high school and school-age students attending either a technical center in a dual-enrollment program or a community school program for high school credit. It applies to students:

- While on school grounds
- While being transported by School District transportation
- During school-sponsored events, such as field trips, athletic functions and similar activities.

While students may be disciplined for infractions as provided in this Student Code of Conduct, there also may be law enforcement consequences for acts of misconduct that violate the law.

This Student Code of Conduct is based upon the School Board's rules governing student conduct and discipline. It includes:

- Rules of conduct
- Specific grounds for disciplinary action
- Procedures to be followed in disciplinary actions
- An explanation of the rights and responsibility of students with regard to attendance, respect for person and property, knowledge and observation of rules of conduct, the right to learn, free speech and student publications, assembly, privacy, and participation in school programs and activities.

Required revisions made to the School Board approved 2025-2026 Student Code of Conduct will be made available on the School District's website, at [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** INFORMATION REGARDING FORMS WHICH MUST BE RETURNED BEGINS ON PAGE 56. FORMS **MUST** BE SIGNED BY STUDENT, PARENT OR GUARDIAN AND RETURNED TO STUDENT'S SCHOOL.

# **SECTION 1**

## **STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the intent of the Student Rights and Responsibilities section of this Code that students understand that individual rights involve associated responsibilities and that individual rights must be viewed in relationship to the health, safety, and welfare of the majority of students within each school. In each school, the principal is responsible for the orderly school administration, operation and instructional leadership under the supervision of the Superintendent, in accordance with rules and regulations of the School Board. The faculty and staff shall assist in the orderly operation of the school and assure the rights of students.

### **1. Safe, Positive and Receptive Learning Environment**

#### **Student Rights**

- To attend school in a positive learning environment.
- To have school staff who are receptive to student needs and concerns.
- To be safe from crime, violence, intimidation, bullying, harassment, racism and other discrimination in the school.

#### **Student Responsibilities**

- To maintain decorum that enhances a positive learning environment.
- To express needs and concerns in an appropriate manner.
- To know and obey District and school behavioral expectations and to report unsafe situations to school or law enforcement personnel.

### **2. Attendance**

#### **Student Rights**

- To be informed of School Board policies and school rules about absenteeism and tardiness.
- To appeal a decision about an absence.
- To make up class work in a reasonable amount of time after an excused absence.

#### **Student Responsibilities**

- To attend classes daily and be on time.
- To explain or document the reason for an absence.
- To request make-up work after an absence and to complete it in a reasonable amount of time.

### **3. Counseling**

#### **Student Rights**

- To be informed about school guidance services.
- To have access to individual and group counseling.
- To request counseling.

#### **Student Responsibilities**

- To use guidance services for educational and personal improvement.
- To schedule guidance appointments ahead of time, except in emergencies.
- To work cooperatively with all school staff.

#### **4. Curriculum**

##### **Student Rights**

- To have equal educational opportunity in academic and extracurricular programs, within reasonable limits.
- To receive course descriptions.
- To learn from competent teachers in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
- To take part in basic skills programs.

##### **Student Responsibilities**

- To request academic and extracurricular programs consistent with ability.
- To ask for help from school staff in choosing courses.
- To cooperate with teachers and contribute to an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
- To make every effort to master academic standards.

#### **5. Free Speech/Expression**

##### **Student Rights**

- To express views through speaking and writing without being obscene, disruptive, slanderous or libelous.
- To participate in patriotic observances.
- To have the free exercise of religious beliefs as guaranteed by law.
- To assemble peaceably on school grounds while following federal, state and local law and school rules.
- To help develop and distribute publications as part of the educational process.
- To be protected from sexual harassment and all other forms of bullying and harassment.

##### **Student Responsibilities**

- To respect the right of others to express their views.
- To behave respectfully during patriotic observances.
- To respect the religious beliefs of others.
- To plan, get approval for and conduct activities that are consistent with the school's goals.
- To follow the rules of responsible journalism under the guidance of an advisor, including seeking complete information about topics and refraining from publishing libelous, obscene or disruptive material.
- To refrain from sexual harassment and all other forms of bullying and harassment.

#### **6. Grades**

##### **Student Rights**

- To receive a teacher's grading standards at the beginning of the year or semester.
- To be notified of failure/potential failure when work is unsatisfactory.

##### **Student Responsibilities**

- To learn about grading standards.
- To meet academic standards in line with ability and to make every effort to improve unsatisfactory work.

## **7. Privacy and Property Rights**

### **Student Rights**

- To have privacy of personal possessions within the limitations prescribed by School Board rules and policies.
- To have personal property rights respected.

### **Student Responsibilities**

- To obey laws and School Board rules against bringing prohibited substances of any kind to or possessing them at school or school activities.
- To realize the school is not responsible for students' personal property.
- To respect others' personal property.

## **8. Student Records**

### **Student and Parental Rights**

- To inspect a student's records and challenge inaccurate entries.
- To be protected from unlawful disclosure of student records and information.

### **Student and Parental Responsibilities**

- To provide the school with accurate information that could help in making educational decisions.

### **Parental Rights under School Board Rule 5.24**

- To inspect instructional materials.
- To consent to their student submitting to a survey, analysis, or evaluation, if pertaining to a matter listed in School Board Policy 5.24: Parental Access to Information.

## **9. Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

In order to participate in extracurricular activities (including athletic programs), students must adhere to School Board rules, school rules and applicable law. It is important for students to understand that the behavioral expectations placed upon them by the school can extend beyond the classroom and school campus. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The school administration may restrict a student's extracurricular activity privileges in connection with poor attendance, repeated tardiness, and/or disciplinary action administered under Section 4, or when in the judgment and discretion of the administration such restrictions are in the best interest of the student or the school.

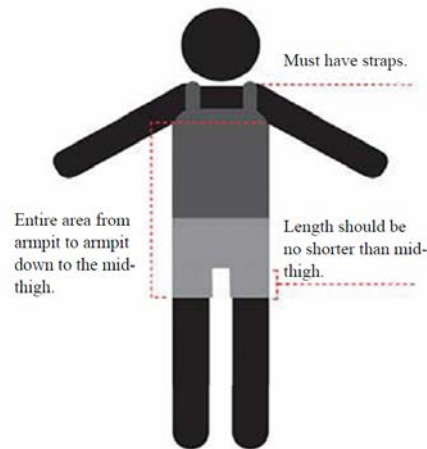
## **10. Student Dress Code**

The primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The St. Johns County School District expects students to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school day or any school sponsored event. Student dress code requirements reflect fair, equitable, and consistent practices for all students, while contributing to a safe and positive school climate.

In accordance with statutory requirement F.S. 1006.07 (students are prohibited from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or that exposes body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner) enforcement will focus on positive guidance without embarrassment to the student and should not disrupt the educational process.

### All Students

- Personal attire may be in the style of the day. Clothing, piercings and accessories displaying profanity, violence, discriminatory messages, sexually suggestive phrases, phrases or symbols of alcohol, tobacco or drugs is unacceptable.
- Gang graffiti will not be drawn or worn on backpacks, notebooks, folders, papers, clothing or any other object or on the body of any student or person on school property.
- Pajamas shall not be worn as exterior clothing on campus.
- Head gear, including but not limited to, caps, hats, bandanas and/or sunglasses shall not be worn indoors on campus unless permitted by school administration for religious or medical reasons. Students may wear sunglasses, hats, or other sun-protective wear while outdoors during school hours.
- Clothing must cover areas from one armpit to the other armpit, down to the mid-thigh. Tops must have shoulder straps and be long enough to adequately cover the waistline and not expose the midriff.



- Students must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for the learning environment. Bedroom slippers are prohibited.
- See-through or mesh garments must be worn with opaque clothing over it or underneath that meets the standard for clothing coverage.
- Rips or tears in clothing above the mid-thigh must not expose skin.
- Any student who attends First Coast Technical College must follow dress code regulations established by each occupational department of FCTC (i.e., safety clothing, protective garments, and business attire).

### Enforcement and Waiver

- Enforcement will focus on positive guidance without embarrassment to the student and should not disrupt the educational process.
- The principals or designees will determine the appropriateness of attire in conjunction with the current dress code policy. Nothing in these guidelines shall be construed to pre-empt the principal's authority to act in specific cases when, in the principal's judgment and discretion, a student's attire threatens to disrupt the educational process or the good order and discipline of the school or is otherwise inappropriate.

- For special events and occasions (spirit weeks, athletic contests, etc.) principals may modify this policy for their particular school.
- The School Advisory Council may recommend, and the Superintendent may grant, an individual school's request to deviate from dress code requirements. Examples include requiring school uniforms, all shirts shall be tucked in, no shorts, pants must have belts, etc.

## **11. Standards of Conduct for Students Riders Transported by School Bus**

Character Counts in schools, classrooms, buses, and bus stops. Riding a school bus is a privilege. While riding a bus, students are required to follow this code of conduct and the directions of the bus operator. School bus operators will report any code of conduct infraction or other student conduct requiring discipline to school administrators. The school administration is responsible for disciplining student riders in accordance with Sections 5 and 6 of this Code.

### **Responsibilities of the School Bus Operator**

- Operate the bus safely.
- Adhere to applicable state and local laws, Florida Department of Education (FDOE) rules and guidelines, District procedures, and best practices.
- Maintain order on the school bus with the collaboration and support of the school staff and administrators.
- Promptly report to dispatch and school administrators any disciplinary infraction or other student conduct affecting the safe operation of the school bus.
- Limit access aboard the school bus to assigned student riders, school district staff and administrators, and emergency services personnel.
- Administrators and bus operators reserve the right to assign seats to all student riders as appropriate.
- Assign kindergarten age student riders to the seats designated for them.
- Load kindergarten age student riders first at the schools. Sibling student riders may board and sit with their kindergarten sibling.
- School bus operators have the authority to direct student riders to refrain from using any devices or engaging in activities which, in their judgment, negatively affect the safe operation of the school bus.

### **Responsibilities of the Student Rider**

- Adhere to this Code of Conduct aboard the bus.
- Follow the bus operator's directions instantly.
- Board and disembark assigned school bus at the bus at zoned/assigned school and assigned school bus stop. Student riders are not permitted to disembark from school buses at locations other than the zoned and assigned school bus stop.
- Arrive at the school bus stop at least five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled school bus stop time.
- Wait for school buses in an orderly manner at designated area at least twelve (12) feet off the roadway.
- Wait for the operator's hand signal and look carefully in both directions before crossing a roadway. Parents/guardians are respectfully requested to not distract student riders during crossing operations.



- Remain seated at all times facing to the front of the bus while the school bus is underway.
- Stand to disembark the school bus only after the school bus has come to a complete stop and the school bus operator has signaled student riders to disembark.
- Keep head and limbs inside the school bus at all times.
- Refrain from throwing objects from the windows of the school bus. The school bus operator or school administration will refer student riders or other persons to law enforcement for throwing objects from or at a school bus.
- Refrain from accessing the underside storage compartments of school buses.
- Observe classroom conduct aboard the school bus and while waiting for the school bus at the school and assigned school bus stops. Ordinary conversation is acceptable.
- Refrain from pushing, tripping or other unsafe conduct while boarding, riding and disembarking the school bus.
- Refrain from any abusive, profane language, or other inappropriate communications with other student riders, school bus operators, school bus attendants, cyclists, motorists and pedestrians.
- Maintain strict silence at railroad crossings to ensure safe crossing of the school bus over the tracks.
- Refrain from consuming food or other substances while aboard a school bus. Water is permitted when appropriate at the discretion of the school bus operator. Metal water bottles should be stored in a students' backpack.
- Refrain from using cell phones and other electronic devices aboard a school bus as directed by the school bus operator. Audio or video recording aboard a school bus is strictly prohibited.
- Refrain from bringing animals (dead or alive), glass or glass containers, combustible items, sharp objects, balls, bats, cutting instruments, batons, drumsticks, skateboards and large objects (including band instruments) without prior permission of the school administration and school bus operator. Backpacks are acceptable.
- Refrain from applying or spraying perfume, cologne or aerosol items aboard a school bus.
- Refrain from vandalism of school buses. Student riders are responsible for damages to school buses.
- Wear seatbelts while aboard the school bus.

### **Discipline for Student Riders Violating School Bus Rules**

Disruptive behavior and violation of the Code of Conduct on a school bus by a student rider are grounds for suspension of the privilege of riding on a school bus, disciplinary action by the school administration, and/or assessment of criminal penalties by law enforcement.

- The principal or designee may suspend a student from the school bus for up to ten (10) days per occurrence for violating the standards of conduct for student riders aboard a school bus.
- The School Board may approve the suspension of school bus privileges for student riders for a period between eleven (11) days and the balance of the school year.
- In addition to the suspension of school bus privileges, student riders who violate the code of conduct while on a school bus are subject to out-of-school suspension and other disciplinary action as authorized by this Code.

### **Provisional Transportation Waiver Program (PTWP)**

Schools are not authorized to issue bus passes or instruct bus operators regarding bus ridership or stops. The Transportation Department is responsible for issuing Provisional Transportation Waivers in accordance with established criteria. Parents may apply for this waiver via the Transportation Web Portal. <https://sjcsd.mybusplanner.com> and select the option for Provisional Transportation Waiver.

### **Bicycle/E-Bikes/Scooters**

Students riding bicycles, electric bicycles, or scooters to school must wear a safety helmet in accordance with Florida Statutes (F.S. 316.2065 and 316.20655). For their safety, students should never ride any type of bicycle, electric bike, or scooter on school grounds. Upon arrival at school, students are required to disembark their vehicle at the entry gate and walk it to the designated storage area. The same protocol should be followed when leaving the campus. Students are encouraged to lock these items in the designated storage area.

## **SECTION 2**

### **STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

#### **1. Attendance**

Regular school attendance is a necessary part of a student's education. Excessive absences impair a student's educational progress, impacts whether the student passes or fails a grade, and may result in court proceedings and/or the loss of driving privileges. Students will be considered absent when they miss 50% of their school day. Absences shall be classified and treated as follows:

#### **Excused Absences**

Students must be in school unless the absence has been excused for one of the reasons listed below. Excused absences include the following:

- Personal Illness.
- Illness of an immediate family member.
- Death in the family.
- Religious holidays of the student's religious faith.
- Required court appearance or subpoena by a law enforcement agency.
- Special events, including, but not limited to, important public functions, student conferences, student state/national competitions that are school-sponsored, administrative approved post-secondary educational institution visitation, as well as exceptional cases of family need. Students must get permission from the principal at least five days in advance.
- Scheduled doctor or dentist appointments.
- Students having or suspected of having a communicable disease or infestation that can be transmitted are to be excluded from school and are not allowed to return to school until they no longer present a health hazard (Florida Statute 1003.22). Examples of communicable diseases and infestations include, but are not limited to, fleas, head lice, ringworm, impetigo, and scabies. Students are allowed a maximum of three (3) days excused absence for an infestation of head lice.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Shopping trips
- Pleasure trips
- Suspension from school
- Appointments without prior approval except in case of emergency
- Truancy
- Other avoidable absences.

## **2. Reporting Absences**

Any student who has been absent from school shall provide a note from a parent or guardian within forty-eight (48) hours of returning to school stating the cause of the absence. Failure to provide a note will result in an automatic unexcused absence. However, the fact that the student provides a note does not require the school administration to excuse the absence. The principal or designee will decide whether the absence meets the criteria for an excused absence, and that decision will be final. The administration may request additional documentation, such as a doctor's note. The excuse must state specific dates of absence, and must be signed by the treating, licensed physician. After fifteen (15) days of absence, whether excused or unexcused, a student must present verification from a licensed doctor for all subsequent absences due to illness. Special circumstances may justify a review by the School District's Health Services personnel.

## **3. Planned Absences**

In case of a planned absence, the parent or guardian shall provide written notice at least five (5) days prior to the absence. The fact that such notice is provided does not require the administration to treat the absence as excused. Rather, the principal or designee will determine whether such absence meets the criteria for an excused absence as listed in paragraph 1.

## **4. Make-Up Work**

### **Excused Absences**

When a student is absent from school with an excused absence, the student shall be responsible for all work and assignments missed during the student's absence. The student shall make arrangements with teachers for "make-up" work and will complete it within a reasonable time frame, as determined by the school, upon the student's return to school. Coursework, tests and quizzes can be made up at 100% credit.

### **Unexcused Absences**

When a student has an unexcused absence, it is the responsibility of the student to complete all coursework, test and quizzes and turn them in to the appropriate teacher. A student shall have one day to complete and turn in the work for each day the student is absent (i.e., in the event of three days unexcused absences; the student has three days to complete and turn in assignments) and may only earn 50% credit. Test and quizzes can be made up at 100% credit. Coursework, tests, and quizzes not completed and turned in within the allotted time frame will earn no credit. There is no expectation that the child's teacher or teachers recreate lessons, lectures, or labs for unexcused absences.

Unexcused absence without parental knowledge or consent, or absence from class without a written excuse from a teacher or administrator, will result in no credit for coursework, tests and quizzes missed during the absence.

## **5. Truancy**

If the school determines that a student subject to compulsory school attendance has had at least five (5) unexcused absences, or absences for which the reason is unknown, within a calendar month or ten (10) unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, within a 90 calendar day period pursuant to s. 1003.26(1)(b), or has had more than fifteen (15) unexcused absences in a 90 calendar day period, the superintendent of schools or his designee may file a truancy petition

Students are subject to the following actions for preventing and correcting truancy:

- When a student may be exhibiting a pattern of non-attendance, the principal shall refer the student to the school's attendance team to determine if a pattern of truancy is developing.
- The school's attendance team shall meet with the student and parent or guardian to determine if a pattern of truancy is developing and to identify and implement potential remedies.
- If the school-based efforts to resolve non-attendance are unsuccessful, the student shall be referred to the Superintendent or his designee for truancy.
- If no valid reason is found for the student's absences, the Superintendent or his designee may send the parent or guardian written notice requiring enrollment or attendance within three (3) days after the date of the notice.
- If the student does not return to school after the three (3) day notice, the Superintendent or his designee may refer the student and the parent or guardian to truancy court before the Circuit Court of St. Johns County. A criminal prosecution for truancy may also be initiated against the parent/guardian.

## **6. Tardiness**

Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment and can have a negative impact on student achievement. Excessive tardiness (more than 1 time per week) will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Disciplinary action for unexcused tardiness shall be progressive, may include Level 1 consequences, and will be specifically defined in each individual school's discipline plan.

## **7. Driver's License**

Florida law requires that minors who fail to satisfy attendance requirements will be ineligible for driving privileges. The School District is required to notify the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles of the following:

- Students ages 14-18 who accumulate fifteen (15) unexcused absences, not including out of school suspensions, in a ninety (90) calendar-day period.
- Students between the ages of 16-18 who have signed a declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment.
- Students ages 14-18 who are expelled.
- Students ages 14-18 who did not enter school and for whom the school has received no indication of transfer to another educational setting.

These students may not be issued a driver's license or learner driver's license. Also, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall suspend any previously issued driver's license or learner driver's license of any such minor pursuant to Florida Statute 322.091. In order to have a driver's license reinstated, the student must attend school regularly for thirty (30) days with no unexcused absences and pay the appropriate reinstatement fee.

If the parent, guardian or student disagrees with the notice to suspend the student's driver's license, a hardship waiver hearing must be requested before 15 calendar days with the public school principal or the principal's designee. The hearing must be conducted within 30 calendar days of the request. If this hardship waiver is denied, an appeal hearing of hardship waiver denial can be requested from the school district office.

**8. Releasing Students from School**

School staff shall definitively establish the identity and authority of any person who requests the release of a student from school prior to regularly scheduled dismissal. If the person requesting the release of the student is a person other than a parent or guardian listed on the emergency contact form, the principal or teacher concerned shall not release the student without the consent of the parent or guardian who is listed on the emergency contact form. It is the responsibility of the enrolling parent or guardian at the time of registration, to make sure the emergency contact information is accurate and complete. If a non-enrolling parent contends that he or she has been improperly omitted, it is that parent's responsibility to resolve the issue with the enrolling parent or seek a court order if the parties cannot resolve the issue.

**9. Granting Permission to Leave School Grounds**

No student shall be sent off the school grounds to perform an errand or to act as a messenger except with the approval of the principal, provided that approval shall be granted only for urgent and necessary school business and with the consent of the student's parent or guardian.

**10. Exemption from Regular School Attendance**

A student of compulsory attendance age shall be required to attend school as provided by the law unless issued an exemption certificate by the Superintendent. Students who have reached age 16 must file a "Declaration of Intent to Terminate School Enrollment" if they wish to discontinue their education. Upon filing the intent, the student must allow the school to conduct an "Exit Interview" and "Exit Survey" to determine the reasons for the decision to terminate school enrollment and the actions that could be taken to prevent termination.

## **SECTION 3**

### **SCHOOL HEALTH**

#### **1. Illness in School**

A student with a temperature above normal or who is exhibiting other signs of illness shall be evaluated by the school nurse and sent home. The specific guidelines and recommendations for exclusion from school due to illness are referenced in each of the St. Johns County School District's Health Manuals, on file at each school.

#### **2. School-entry health examinations and immunizations**

Florida Statute 1003.22 states that each child who is entitled to admittance to kindergarten or entitled to any other initial entrance into a Florida public school, must present certification of a school-entry health examination performed within one year before enrollment in school and a completed DH Form 680 Certification of Immunization record for the prevention of those communicable diseases for which immunization is required by the Department of Health.

#### **3. Prescription and Non-Prescription Medicine**

Administration of medications during school hours is discouraged. The term "medication" includes both prescription and non-prescription ("over-the-counter") medication. All prescription and non-prescription medication to be administered by the school at the elementary, middle and high school level must be directed by a physician who has determined that a student's health and well-being requires medication during school hours. All non-prescription medication in the possession of students at the middle and high school not administered by the school requires written permission from the parent to the school.

The disciplinary consequences of unauthorized possession or use of prescription and non-prescription medication are addressed in Sections 4 and 5.

#### **4. Administration of Narcotics for Pain Management**

Every effort should be made to discourage the use of narcotics in school. Many are known to cause drowsiness and decreased coordination, thus presenting impaired learning and safety issues for the student. In the event of a student is prescribed narcotics for an acute condition (recent surgery, kidney stone, etc.) requiring administration during the school day, a written physician's order for the prescribed narcotic medication must be on file with the nurse and medication kept locked in the clinic.

## SECTION 4

### STUDENT DISCIPLINE

#### 1. Overview

Students are charged with modeling the six pillars of character. Students are also subject to state and federal law, State Board of Education rules and School Board rules and policies while:

- Being transported to or from school, or is presumed by law to be attending school
- Attending school or a school-sponsored activity
- Present on school premises

Student disciplinary infractions and the responses to them are divided into four levels. Each level represents progressively more serious infractions, and responses to them become progressively more severe. Both infractions and responses are outlined later in this section. The procedures relating to disciplinary action are explained in Section 5.

#### 2. Progressive Discipline

When deciding what disciplinary action should be taken, the principal or designee shall consider the student's age, exceptionality, previous conduct, probability of a recurring violation, intent, attitude, and severity of the offense and, whenever possible, shall impose disciplinary action in a progressive manner. For all levels, any incident that is hate-related and/or gang-related should be coded in the appropriate "related" category AND should be grounds to increase disciplinary actions.

#### 3. Student Athletes

It is recognized that some of the expectations for athletes may exceed the expectations for the general student body. Student athletes must remain aware that being a part of interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. As a condition of participation in interscholastic athletics, students and their parents are required to enter into a Pursuing Victory with Honor Contract and abide by the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, and the Student Code of Conduct. Therefore, it requires observance of all aspects of the codes of conduct whether or not the student-athlete is at school, and whether or not the student-athlete is participating in school-related activities. It is also the intent of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct to provide a clearly defined course for student-athletes to follow at school and in the community. Please refer to Section 8 (Student-Athlete Code of Conduct) for more information.

A student not currently suspended from interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activities, or suspended or expelled from school, pursuant to a District School Board's suspension or expulsion powers provided in law, including Florida Statutes 1006.07, 1006.08, and 1006.09, is immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities. A student may not participate in a sport if the student participated in that same sport at another school during that school year, unless the student meets the criteria in Florida Statute 1006.15(3)(i). A student's eligibility to participate in any interscholastic or intrascholastic extracurricular activity may not be affected by any alleged recruiting violation until final disposition of the allegation pursuant to Florida Statute 1006.20(2)(b). Students who participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular activities for, but are not enrolled in, a public school pursuant to Florida Statute 1006.15(3)(c)-(e) and (8), are subject to this Code of Conduct for the limited purpose of establishing and maintaining the student's eligibility to participate at the school. Students who meet the standards for participation are subject to all provisions of Florida House Bill 225 (2023).



#### **4. Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs**

The use, possession, delivery, or sale of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs including counterfeit or synthetic drugs, whether on school property or at a school function, will not be tolerated.

##### **Tobacco**

It is unlawful for anyone under the age of 21 to smoke tobacco in, on or within 1,000 feet of a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and midnight. If a student is found to have violated this provision, the parents or guardian and law enforcement will be notified and civil penalties may be imposed. Florida Statute 569.11.

All use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes in any form are prohibited in school buildings, on school property, or at any school sponsored activity by persons of any age. A student under the age of 21 who commits non-criminal tobacco violations (possessing or using tobacco in any form) and fails to comply with corresponding sanctions is subject to mandatory revocation or suspension of, or delay of eligibility for driver's license. Tobacco-like nicotine or other smoking devices are addressed under Search and Seizure, and Contraband in Section 4.

##### **Alcohol**

Students are prohibited from using, possessing, delivering, selling or being under the influence of alcoholic beverages on school property, on a school bus or school-approved transportation, or at any school-related function or activity. Violation of this rule is a Level IV offense.

##### **Drugs**

"Drugs" shall include any unlawful drug, narcotic or controlled substance (including prescription medications, except as provided in Section 4, paragraph 5), and any substance (including household products) represented to be such a drug, narcotic or controlled substance. Students are prohibited from using, possessing, delivering, receiving, selling, intending to sell, or being under the influence of drugs on school property, on a school bus or school-approved transportation, or at any school-related function or activity. They are likewise prohibited from possession of drug paraphernalia, which includes devices, products and things used or intended to be used for the ingestion of drugs.

Students are also prohibited from possessing, using, delivering, receiving, selling, or intending to sell any counterfeit drug which is a substance that (i) is represented to be, (ii) is represented to contain, or (iii) appears to be (looks like) a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, depressant, intoxicant or controlled substance of any kind, on school property, on a school bus or school approved transportation, or at any school-related function or activity. A violation of these rules is a Level IV offense and may subject a student to arrest and prosecution.

While on school property, school bus, or school-approved transportation, or at any school-related function or activity, students are prohibited from planning, intending or committing any act in furtherance of the possession, use, delivery, receiving, purchase, or sale of drugs, counterfeit drugs or drug paraphernalia.

##### **Use of Alcohol and Drugs**

A student who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs on school property, on a school bus or school-approved transportation, or at any school-related function or activity shall

be deemed to have used and possessed alcohol or drugs. Evidence of such use of alcohol or drugs includes but is not limited to a student's admission of use of alcohol or drugs on or off campus; witness statements; a positive Portable Breath Test result indicating use of alcohol (see paragraph 7); red and/or glassy eyes; drooping eyelids; odor of alcohol or drugs; difficulty communicating, walking or standing; difficulty with other motor skills; or other impaired faculties.

Students who violate the District's alcohol and drug policies are subject to the penalties provided for Level IV offenses. In addition, the principal may revoke the student's privilege of participating in non-academic school activities including, but not limited to, extracurricular activities, athletics, school trips, prom, and graduation exercise, and/or the revocation of school privileges, including, but not limited to, driving privileges.

Delivery, receipt, or sale of alcohol or drugs, or intent to deliver, receive or sell alcohol or drugs, is a more serious offense than use and possession of drugs or alcohol and shall result in a more serious penalty.

## **5. Prescription and Non-Prescription Medicine**

Students are prohibited from possessing prescription medication on school property, on a school bus or school-approved transportation, or at any school-related function or activity, unless such medication is prescribed by a current prescription, and the prescription is documented by a note from the prescribing physician filed with the school before the student brings the medication on campus. Unauthorized possession of prescription medication without a valid, current prescription constitutes possession of a drug and is a Level IV offense. If the student has a valid, current prescription for the medication, but fails to file the physician's note with the school before bringing it on campus, the possession is a Level II violation.

Students are prohibited from possessing any non-prescription medication at school, on a school bus or school-approved transportation, or at any school-related function or activity without the written permission from the parent or guardian, documented with the appropriate form on file with the school, prior to the medication being brought on campus. Unauthorized possession or use of any non-prescription medication is a Level II offense.

Misuse of non-prescription medication is a Level III offense. Misuse of non-prescription medication includes (i) the delivery of non-prescription medication or (ii) any use inconsistent with the manufacturer's directions or generally accepted guidelines.

Aggravated misuse of non-prescription medication is a Level IV offense. Aggravated misuse of non-prescription medication is the sale of non-prescription medication for any purpose or its delivery with the intended or actual effect of modifying mood or behavior, or inducing physical, emotional or behavioral changes, rather than for its intended purpose.

## **6. Contraband**

For purpose of this Code, "Contraband" is any item or substance that is prohibited by federal and/or state law, School Board rule or this Code from being used or possessed on School Board property, a school bus or school-approved transportation, or at any school-related function or activity. Contraband includes, but is not limited to, stolen property, drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, unauthorized non-prescription medications, tobacco, weapons, ammunition, matches, lighters, laser beam devices, firecrackers and fireworks, pornography, and gang-

related signs or symbols, e-cigarettes, vapes, hookahs, and any other nicotine-dispensing device. Contraband also includes any instruments or objects in any vehicle brought onto school property or to a school-sponsored activity, which could be used to inflict harm on or intimidate another person, but which are not designed or ordinarily intended for use as a weapon (i.e. Leatherman, multi-tools, key chain tools).

## **7. Search and Seizure**

Students, their lockers, vehicles, and other possessions are subject to search upon reasonable suspicion that they may possess drugs, other prohibited substances, objects or Contraband, while on school property or wherever students are under school supervision, such as on field trips, at extracurricular activities, or while being transported by school bus or school-approved transportation.

School staff may search students reasonably suspected of being in possession of Contraband or other prohibited items. They may search students' possessions when reasonable suspicion exists that such possessions may conceal or contain Contraband or other prohibited items. Students' possessions subject to search include, but are not limited to, book bags, back packs, athletic bags, notebooks, purses, coats, jackets, telecommunication devices, computers, cell devices capable of storing or communicating information, lockers, and vehicles. Students do not have any expectation of privacy in or around vehicles on school property. Students are responsible for the contents of any vehicle they possess on school grounds and shall be deemed to be in possession of any Contraband contained within their vehicle. School personnel are encouraged to seek consent from a student before the search but may proceed without consent if reasonable suspicion is present.

## **8. Canine Inspections and Metal Detectors**

In order to assist in the maintenance of drug and alcohol-free schools, school officials may enlist the assistance of law enforcement, including canine units. Canine inspections will be conducted in compliance with applicable law. Reasonable suspicion is not required for random canine inspections conducted in school classrooms, hallways, parking lots, and elsewhere on school premises.

Schools may utilize metal detectors in the interest of security and student safety.

## **9. Portable Breath Test**

When there is a reasonable suspicion that a student may be under the influence of alcohol, the school's administration may request law enforcement to administer a portable breathalyzer test (PBT) at school and school related activities.

## **10. Cell Phones and Wireless Communication Devices**

Students are permitted to possess cellular phones and other wireless communication devices on school grounds, school buses, and at school-sponsored events. However, all devices must remain powered off and securely stored in a student's backpack, purse, locker, or vehicle during the school day.

In high schools, use of these devices during school hours is strictly prohibited unless explicitly authorized by school administration. When permitted, limited use may occur between class periods and during lunch. The use of wireless communication devices during instructional time is not allowed unless expressly approved by a teacher for educational purposes.

In accordance with House Bill 1105, the use of wireless communication devices by elementary and middle school students is strictly prohibited during the school day. Failure to comply with these guidelines may result in the confiscation of the device. Repeated violations will be treated as defiance of school rules and may lead to disciplinary consequences.

Earbuds shall not be used during the school day without administrative approval. As a safety precaution only one earbud shall be utilized when not under direct supervision of the teacher. Failure to comply may result in the item being confiscated.

Any disruptive, harassing or other inappropriate use of a cell phone or wireless communications device in violation of this policy or school rules, shall be cause for disciplinary action, including confiscation of the device as Contraband and, in the event of repeated or serious misuse, loss of the privilege to possess such a device on school property or while attending a school function. Inappropriate use includes, but is not limited to: (1) texting, phoning or web browsing during prohibited times; (2) taping conversations, music or other audio at any time; (3) taking photographs or video at any time except as permitted by the Acceptable Use Policy; (4) "sexting;" and (5) any activity that could in any manner infringe upon the rights of other individuals, including but not limited to students, teachers and other staff members.

When there is reasonable suspicion that a student has used a cell phone or wireless communication device in violation of the Code of Conduct or other school rules, or for an unlawful purpose, the school administration may search the phone's call log, voice messages, text messages, photographs and any other applications in furtherance of its investigation of the suspected violation. (Please see page 26, Section 10).

## **11. Instructional Technology**

The St. Johns County School District recognizes the value of instructional technology as a tool that assists student achievement within the classroom. Students may possess an instructional technology device and utilize it as an instructional tool in the classroom with the consent and under the direction of the school administration and teacher, as it pertains to the current curricular unit, lesson, etc., and only within the scope and sequence of the District's Acceptable Use Policy. However, this device must be turned off and stored when not being used. Failure to comply may result in the item being confiscated. Repeated failure to comply will be considered defiance of school rules and may result in consequences as provided in the District's Student Code of Conduct.

When there is reasonable suspicion that a student has used an instructional technology device in violation of the Code of Conduct/AUP or other school rules, or if used for an unlawful purpose, the school administration may review the device's applications in furtherance of its investigation of the suspected violation.

## **12. Bullying and Harassment**

Students and employees should be provided a safe and secure learning and work environment, free from bullying, harassment, and cyber-bullying of any kind. The complete text of the School Board's bullying and harassment policy is set forth in School Board Rule 3.21. Bullying and harassment are Level III violations of the Code of Conduct and are major infractions. Bullying or harassment will not be tolerated and disciplinary action will be taken. In addition to school consequences, criminal charges may be filed. This policy shall be interpreted and applied

consistently with all applicable state and federal laws. Conduct that constitutes bullying or harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited in all educational environments.

**13. Hazing**

Hazing will not be tolerated and disciplinary action will be taken when hazing occurs in connection with athletics, clubs, extracurricular activities or any other educational environment. The complete text of the School Board's Hazing Policy is set forth in School Board Rule 5.27. This policy shall be interpreted and applied consistently with all applicable state and federal laws. Hazing is a Level III violation of the Student Code of Conduct and is a major infraction.

**14. Dating Violence and Abuse**

It is the policy that the St. Johns County School District that all of its students have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from dating violence and abuse. The complete text of the District's dating violence and abuse policy is contained in School Board Rule 5.26.

**15. Zero Tolerance**

The School Board is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning school environment by protecting students and staff from misconduct that poses a serious threat to school safety. The School Board's policy and procedures for reporting and responding to felony level and other serious offenses are set forth in School Board Rule 5.13 – Zero Tolerance for Crimes and Victimization.

**16. Weapons Prohibited**

In addition to those penalties provided for Level IV offenses, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm (as defined in Chapter 790, Florida Statutes), to school, any school function, or on any school-sponsored transportation will be expelled, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one full year and referred for criminal prosecution.

It is a third-degree felony for a person to exhibit, in a rude and threatening manner, any firearm or destructive device, or other weapon within 1000 feet of school during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned school activity.

Toy pistols, more than two inches in length, water guns, or facsimile guns are prohibited from school property, transportation and activities. However, pursuant to Florida Statute 1006.07(2)(g), simulating a firearm or weapon while playing or wearing clothing or accessories that depict a firearm or weapon or express an opinion regarding a right guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the US Constitution is not grounds for disciplinary action or referral to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system under Florida Statutes. "Simulating a firearm or weapon while playing" includes, but is not limited to:

- A. Brandishing a partially consumed pastry or other food item to simulate a firearm or weapon.
- B. Possessing a toy firearm or weapon that is 2 inches or less in overall length.
- C. Possessing a toy firearm or weapon made of plastic snap-together building blocks.
- D. Using a finger or hand to simulate a firearm or weapon.
- E. Vocalizing an imaginary firearm or weapon.
- F. Drawing a picture, or possessing an image, of a firearm or weapon.

- G. Using a pencil, pen, or other writing or drawing utensil to simulate a firearm or weapon.

However, a student may be subject to disciplinary action if simulating a firearm or weapon while playing substantially disrupts student learning, causes bodily harm to another person, or places another person in reasonable fear of bodily harm. The severity of consequences imposed upon a student, including referral to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system, must be proportionate to the severity of the infraction and consistent with District School Board policies for similar infractions. If a student is disciplined for such conduct, the school principal or his or her designee must call the student's parents.

## **17. Legal Notices - Florida Statute 1006.07**

- A. Illegal use, possession, or sale of controlled substances, as defined in Chapter 893, by any student while the student is upon school property or in attendance at a school function is grounds for disciplinary action by the school and may result in criminal penalties being imposed.
- B. Use of a wireless communications device includes the possibility of the imposition of disciplinary action by the school or criminal penalties if the device is used in a criminal act. A student may possess a wireless communications device while the student is on school property or in attendance at a school function. The student's use of such device is subject to School Board rules and the provisions of this Code of Conduct.
- C. Violence against any School Board personnel, including acts committed off-campus, by a student is grounds for out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may result in criminal penalties being imposed.
- D. Violation of the District's bullying, harassment and sexual harassment policies by a student is grounds for in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or imposition of other disciplinary action by the school and may result in criminal penalties being imposed.
- E. Any student who is determined to have brought a firearm or weapon, as defined in Chapter 790, Florida Statutes, to school, shall be recommended for expulsion, with or without continual educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one full year and referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system. The School Board may assign the student to a disciplinary program or second chance school for the purpose of continuing educational services during a period of expulsion. The Superintendent may consider the one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request the School Board to modify the requirement by assigning the student to an alternative school or program or second chance school.
- F. Any student who is determined to have made a threat or false report, as defined by Florida Statutes 790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity will be recommended for expulsion, with or without continuing educational services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than one full year and referred for criminal prosecution. The School Board may assign the student to a disciplinary program or second chance school for the purpose of continuing educational services during the period of expulsion. The Superintendent may consider the one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis and request the District School Board to modify the requirement by assigning the student to an alternative school or program or second chance school.
- G. Any student who writes or composes and also sends or procures the sending of any letter, inscribed communication, or electronic communication, whether such letter or communication be signed or anonymous, to any person, containing a threat to kill or to do bodily injury to the person to whom such letter or communication is sent, or a threat to kill or do bodily injury to any member of the family of the person to whom such a letter or

communication is sent or who makes, post or transmits a threat in writing or other record, including an electronic record, to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism, in any manner that would allow another person to view the threat shall be subject to expulsion and referral to law enforcement for possible criminal prosecution.

- H. The procedures for assignment of students to an alternative school are set forth in Section 6 of the Code of Conduct.

**18. Safe Spaces Act**

As required by Florida Statute 553.865(4), schools are to maintain separate restrooms for the exclusive use of males and females, or unisex restrooms and/or changing facility as defined by Florida Statute 553.865(3)(m). No person (student or adult) on our campus may use restrooms designated for members of the opposite sex. Students who violate this mandate are subject to progressive disciplinary consequences under Section 5 of the Student Code of Conduct.



## SECTION 5

### LEVELS OF DISCIPLINE

School District staff should intervene in an effort to prevent or curtail misconduct. If further action is necessary, staff should refer the student to the school administration for disciplinary action. After hearing the student's explanation, consulting with staff members and doing any other investigation necessary, the administration will decide on disciplinary action.

#### 1. Level I:

Level I offenses are relatively minor acts of misconduct that interfere with the orderly operation of the classroom, a school function, extracurricular/co-curricular program or approved transportation. A student who commits a Level I offense may also be subject to criminal proceedings.

##### Infractions

- A. Classroom Disruption** - saying or doing something that keeps the teacher from teaching or other students from learning.
- B. Disorderly Conduct** - saying or doing something that upsets the normal school routine or any school activity, i.e., horseplay in hallways, inappropriate behavior in lunchroom.
- C. Disrespect** - conduct or behavior that demeans, degrades, antagonizes, humiliates or embarrasses a person or group of persons, including employees.
- D. Dress Code** - wearing anything that does not follow the school dress code.
- E. Failure to Report for Detention** - not showing up for detention.
- F. False and/or Misleading Information** - failure or refusal to tell the truth to members of the school staff.
- G. Insubordination** - failure or refusal to follow the directions of school staff, school rules, classroom rules, or behavior contracts.
- H. Misconduct on School Bus or School Approved Transportation** - saying or doing something that interferes with good order and discipline on the bus or interferes with the safety of others.
- I. Repeated Misconduct** - continual disruption of the normal school routine or activity.
- J. Tardiness** - being late for school or class more than once a week.
- K. Unauthorized Absence from School or Class** - being absent from school or class without a valid written excuse from a parent, guardian or doctor.
- L. Physical Contact after Misconduct (Elementary Age)** - refusing to settle down after being told to stop misbehavior - pushing, shoving or striking out at another child or adult.
- M. Public Display of Affection** - in a manner which is inappropriate in a school setting in the judgment and discretion of the principal.
- N. Violation of Separate Sex Group Bathroom Policy (Florida Statute 553.865(9)(a))** - willful entry of a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex or refusal to leave such a space after being asked to do so by instructional or administrative personnel or a safe-school officer.
- O. Other** - any other minor act of misconduct which interferes with the orderly operation of the classroom, the school program, a school function or activity, an extracurricular activity or approved transportation.

## Responses and Sanctions

If a student commits a Level I offense, the school administration shall take such action as deemed appropriate in the exercise of its judgment and discretion including, but not limited to:

- Counseling and direction with the student
- Parental notification required
- Verbal reprimand
- Special work assignment
- Peer mediation
- Withdrawal of privileges which may include, but not be limited to, participation in extracurricular activities and/or parking privileges
- Return of property, payment for same, or restitution for damages
- Detention (parental contact required)
- Behavior plan
- Level II sanctions for repeated offenses
- Saturday school
- Suspension from bus
- In-school suspension
- Other school-based consequences as deemed appropriate by the administration.

## 2. Level II:

Level II offenses are acts of misconduct that are more serious or disruptive than offenses in Level I. Level II also includes repeated acts of Level I misconduct, and acts directed against people or property that do not seriously endanger the health or safety of others. A student who commits a Level II offense may also be subject to criminal proceedings.

### Infractions

- A. Cheating/Plagiarism** -cheating is the unauthorized use of notes or other forms of assistance, including electronic devices, to complete a test or assignment; and plagiarism is the unauthorized use of another person's work and calling it one's own. Cheating offense penalties are also applicable to the student who provided notes, forms of assistance, answers to complete a test or assignment, etc.
- B. Cell Phone and Wireless Communications Devices** - using a cell phone or wireless communications device during school, a school function, or on a school bus, without permission, or in violation of this Code or school rules. (Please see page 26, Section 10).
- C. Destruction of Property (under \$10)** - breaking or destroying things that belong to the school or to another person.
- D. Disrespect** - conduct or behavior that demeans, degrades, antagonizes, humiliates or embarrasses a person or group of persons, including employees.
- E. Altercation** – verbal confrontation or minor physical contact (pushing, shoving) between two or more students, which is harmful or disruptive.
- F. Forgery** - falsifying or altering a signature, note, or document with the intent of misleading a staff member.

- G. Gambling** - betting on games or activities for money or other valuables.
- H. Insubordination** - refusing to follow school rules or directions from the school staff.
- I. Intimidation/Threats** - making a threat or coercing another person.
- J. Profane, Obscene, or Abusive Language/Materials** - using words, gestures, pictures, or objects including racial slurs that are not acceptable at school and/or upset the normal school routine or activity.
- K. Repeated Misconduct of Level I offenses** - saying or doing something that disrupts the normal school routine or school-sponsored activity or repeating a Level I infraction or repeated defiance of school rules.
- L. Stealing** - taking the property of another without their permission.
- M. Unauthorized Assembly and/or Publications** - holding meetings or passing out materials to other students, without permission, that disrupts the school routine or any school-sponsored activity.
- N. Verbal Confrontation** - being argumentative, using profanity and verbally rude to an adult or another student.
- O. Leaving Campus Unauthorized** - leaving campus without permission from school official.
- P. Unauthorized Use of Technology** - any student found in violation of the District's Acceptable Use Policy regarding the use of technology, including but not limited to, hardware and software.
- Q. Unauthorized Possession of Non-Prescription Medication** - possession or use of non-prescription medication contrary to the requirements of Paragraph 3, Section 3.
- R. Other** - any other intermediate act of misconduct or any more serious, harmful or disruptive than any of the offenses described in Level I.

### **Responses and Disciplinary Action**

If a student commits a Level II offense, the school administration shall take such action as deemed appropriate in the exercise of its judgment and discretion including, but not limited to:

- Parental notification required
- Behavior contract (oral or written)
- Peer mediation
- In-school suspension
- Work detail
- Detention (parental contact required)
- Confiscation of unauthorized devices, objects or/and substances
- Return of property, payment for same or restitution for damages
- Suspension from school
- Suspension from bus
- Behavior plan
- Saturday school
- Community service
- Level III sanctions for repeated offenses
- Other school-based consequences as deemed appropriate by the administrator.
- Referral to law enforcement.

### 3. Level III:

Level III infractions are major acts of misconduct which the School Board has determined constitute a serious breach of conduct. They include repeated misconduct acts from Level II, serious disruptions of school order and threats to the health, safety and property of others. A student who commits a Level III offense may also be subject to criminal proceedings.

#### Infractions

- A. **Physical Attack** - when one student physically attacks another student with the intent to do bodily harm.
- B. **Breaking and Entering** - unlawfully and forcefully entering or trying to enter school, school personnel property or student property.
- C. **Bullying** - unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, or use of digital technologies that include any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; causes discomfort or humiliation; creates an existence of an imbalance of power; or unreasonably interferes with the individual's school performance or participation.
- D. **Contraband Material** - having, using, displaying or giving to others any item of Contraband as defined in Section 4, Paragraph 6. Contraband may be confiscated and not returned.
- E. **Dating Violence and Abuse** - violation of the District's dating violence and abuse policy set forth in Rule 5.26.
- F. **Destruction of Property (\$10 and over)** - breaking or destroying things that belong to the school or to another person.
- G. **Open Defiance with Adult** - flagrant or hostile challenge to the authority of a school staff member, bus driver or other adult in authority.
- H. **Disrespect** - conduct or behavior that demeans, degrades, antagonizes, humiliates or embarrasses a person or group of persons, including employees and/or provocation.
- I. **Discriminatory language** - abusive or threatening speech that is directed at an individual or group that expresses prejudice/hate against a particular group through verbal or written communication, material, electronic images, text, or similar behavior.
- J. **Extortion/Threats** - making threats to hurt others, their reputation, or their property, in order to obtain money, information, or help from them.
- K. **Fighting** - two or more students mutually participate in the use of force or physical violence that may require physical restraint or result in bodily injury.
- L. **Gang-Related Signs and Symbols** - use of gang-related signs or symbols, or language intended or reasonably calculated to insult and/or incite another person.
- M. **Gross Insubordination** - unconditionally refusing to do as directed by school staff; saying or doing something that shows the student will not follow directions.
- N. **Harassment** - any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee which places the student or the school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or

her property and/or substantially interferes with the student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits and/or the orderly operation of a school.

- O. Hazing** – any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school serving any or all grades from 6 through 12 for purposes including but not limited to, initiation or admission into affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of a school. Hazing includes, but is not limited to pressuring, coercing, or forcing a student into:
- Violating state or federal law
  - Consuming any food, liquor, drug, or other substance
  - Participating in physical activity that could adversely affect the health or safety of the student

Hazing also includes any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, or exposure to the elements.

- P. Illegal Organizations** - belonging to or being a part of secret groups or clubs while at school.
- Q. Misuse of Non-Prescription Medication** - misuse of non-prescription medication, including (i) the delivery of non-prescription medication or (ii) any use inconsistent with the manufacturer's directions or generally accepted guidelines.
- R. Repeated Commission of Level I and Level II offenses** - repeated commission of Level I or II offenses, which tend to substantially disrupt the orderly conduct of school, a school function or extracurricular/co-curricular activity.
- S. Repeated unauthorized use of cell phones or other electronic devices.**
- T. Smoking and Other Use of Tobacco Products** - having, using, selling or giving to other students tobacco products and/or nicotine devices at school or at a school activity.
- U. Stealing** - taking the property of others without their permission.
- V. Trespassing** - entering or staying on school property or at a school activity after being told to leave by the school staff.
- W. Unauthorized Recording or Videotaping** – Unauthorized use of a cell phone or other device to videotape or record another student or staff member.
- X. Other** - any other major act of misconduct which seriously disrupts the orderly operation of the school program, or any school activity or transportation services which threatens the health, safety or property of self or of others or behavior not specifically described above which substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school, school function or an extracurricular activity.

#### **Responses and Disciplinary Action**

If a student commits a Level III offense, the school administration shall take such action as deemed appropriate in the exercise of its judgment and discretion including, but not limited to:

- Parental notification required
- Written behavior contract
- Return of property/payment for same or restitution for damages
- In-school suspension
- Suspension from bus
- Suspension from school
- Expulsion from bus (for bus-related offenses)

- Temporary or permanent removal from participation in extracurricular activity
- Referral to appropriate prevention or treatment program
- Referral to law enforcement
- Level IV sanctions for repeated offenses
- Other school-based consequences as deemed appropriate by administrator.

#### 4. Level IV:

Level IV acts of misconduct are the most serious. All infractions must be reported to the Office of School Services. Sanctions will include suspension and may include placement in an alternative school and/or expulsion and may be subject to referral to mental health services pursuant to Florida Statute 1012.584(4). A student who commits a Level IV offense may also be subject to criminal proceedings.

#### Infractions

- A. Aggravated Misuse of Non-Prescription Medication** - the use, sale or delivery of non-prescription medication with the intended or actual effect of modifying mood or behavior, or inducing physical, emotional or behavioral changes, rather than for its intended purpose.
- B. Alcohol** - the possession, use, delivery or sale of alcoholic beverages.
- C. Arson** - (mandatory referral to an appropriate agency): setting a fire or trying to set fire to school property or the property of others.
- D. Serious Assault** - any threat, direct or indirect, by word or act, to do violence or harm to a school employee, volunteer, or student which creates a fear that violence is imminent,
- E. Serious Battery** - actual or intentional touching or striking of a school employee, volunteer, or student against his or her will or intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual; in severe cases, the battery of a student may be the basis for expulsion.
- F. Bomb Threats/Explosives** - threatening an explosion on school property or at a school function; having, preparing, or setting off explosives (including fireworks) on school property, or at a school function. This also includes items that appear to be explosive devices including novelty items, toys, and/or replicas.
- G. Drugs** - possessing, using, delivering, buying, selling, intending to sell, receiving, or being under the influence of any drug or counterfeit drug, or planning, intending or committing any act in furtherance of the possession, use, distribution, purchase or sale of drugs, counterfeit drugs, or drug paraphernalia. This offense also includes possession, use, buying, delivery or sale of drug paraphernalia.
- H. False Fire Alarm** - pulling a fire alarm falsely or reporting a fire when there is no fire.
- I. Firearms** - the possession, use, or control of any firearm (operable or inoperable, loaded or unloaded) including, but not limited to, zip, pistol, revolver, rifle, or shot gun (refer to "Weapons Prohibited" section below).
- J. Inciting, Leading or Participating in any Act which Substantially Disrupts the Orderly Conduct of School or a School Function** - the willful act of inciting, leading or participating in any disruption (including gang-related activities or

incidents with multiple participants), disturbance or other act that interferes with the educational process; results in significant damage or destruction to public or private property (including electronic communication devices); causes personal injury to participants and others; or otherwise poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff and others. This may also include any false accusations made by a student that jeopardizes the professional reputation, employment or professional certification of any district employee.

- K. Larceny/Theft** - the act or attempted act of taking, carrying, leading, or riding away with property, from the possession, or constructive possession, of another person. Included are pocket picking, purse snatching, theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle, theft of bicycles, theft from a machine or device which is operated or activated by the use of a coin or token and all other types.
- L. Other Weapons** - the possession, use or control of any instrument or object, other than a firearm, which could be used to inflict harm on another person, or to intimidate any person; included in this category are objects such as BB guns or pellet guns, knives of any kind, chains, pipes, razor blades, ice picks, other pointed instruments (including pencils or pens), nunchakus, brass knuckles, explosives, Chinese stars, billy-clubs, tear gas guns, paintball guns, or electrical/chemical weapons or devices. Also included is anything represented to be a firearm or other weapon if used in an intimidating manner toward another person. This is not a comprehensive list of items considered weapons.
- M. Repeated Level III Offense**- repeated commission of a Level III offense.
- N. Robbery/Extortion** - the taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or putting the victim in fear of larceny.
- O. Sexual Battery** - any sexual act or attempt directed against another person, forcibly and/or against the person's will.
- P. Sexual Harassment** - any unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
- Q. Sexual Offenses** - any willful and/or deliberate act, behavior or conduct intended to result in sexual gratification or furthering acts lewd or lascivious in nature; any unsolicited sexual proposal or offensive touching of another person; or any act of indecent exposure.
- R. Threat** – writing or composing and also sending or procuring the sending of any letter, inscribed communication, or electronic communication, whether such letter or communication be signed or anonymous, to any person, containing a threat to kill or to do bodily injury to the person to whom such letter or communication is sent, or a threat to kill or do bodily injury to any member of the family of the person to whom such letter or communication is sent, or making a post or transmitting a threat in writing or other record, including an electronic record, to conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism, in any manner that would allow another person to view the threat.
- S. Vandalism**: the intentional destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private/personal property without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it; damage would be \$1000 or more.



- T. Violation of Early Re-entry Plan/Probation** - any act or series of acts that violates or has the practical effect of violating a re-entry plan from expulsion or a probationary plan.
- U. Other** - any other intentional, or wanton act which significantly harms or poses a substantive threat of serious harm to others clearly beyond the bounds of acceptable and tolerable student conduct in the community. This may include hate crimes, bullying, harassment, and repeated misconduct that result in multiple out-of-school suspensions. This also includes the planning or commission of any act in furtherance of a Level IV offense or felony.
- V. Invasion of Privacy** – video or audio recording or photographing an individual without their knowledge or consent when in a location where they should have a reasonable expectation of privacy (i.e., restroom, locker room, etc.) while at school.

### **Responses and Disciplinary Action**

If a student commits a Level IV offense, the school administration shall take such action as deemed appropriate in the exercise of its judgment and discretion including, but not limited to:

- Mandatory out of school suspension of up to 10 days
- Parent Notification Required
- Referral for placement in the alternative school
- Referral to mental health services and/or receive mental health screening
- Referral to law enforcement
- Possible expulsion from the School District
- Loss of senior year privileges including graduation ceremony
- Evaluation of event by threat assessment team

## SECTION 6

### PROCEDURES RELATING TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION

#### 1. Procedures for Out-of-School Suspension

Suspension, also referred to as out-of-school suspension, is the temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school-sponsored activities, except as authorized by the principal, for a prescribed period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days at any one time. Referral to an alternative school is not a suspension, but rather a school assignment.

When a student is accused of misconduct that would warrant suspension under the Code of Conduct, the following procedures shall apply. Before suspension is imposed, students shall be given notice of the provisions of the Code of Conduct they are accused of violating and the factual basis for the charges. Students shall have an opportunity to present their version of the incident before suspension is imposed.

The principal is authorized to immediately suspend a student if the student has physically assaulted another individual, engaged in behavior posing an immediate danger to students or staff, substantially disrupted the orderly operation of the school, or otherwise committed any offense which the School Board has determined constitutes a serious breach of conduct, including any Level III or IV offense. However, in these cases, the student shall still be given oral notice of the allegations and an opportunity to explain or defend the conduct. In these cases where immediate suspension is not authorized in accordance with this paragraph, the principal or designee should make a good faith effort to seek parental assistance before suspension.

In a timely manner following the imposition of suspension, the principal or designee shall make a good faith effort to inform the student's parent or guardian by telephone of the suspension and the reason such action was taken in a timely manner. The suspension and the reason for the suspension shall be communicated in writing to the parent or guardian within twenty-four (24) hours by United States mail or hand delivery. In case of high school students, written notice of suspension may be hand delivered in the care of the student.

#### 2. Review and Appeal of Out-of-School Suspension

The school staff shall notify the Superintendent in care of the School Services Department within twenty-four (24) hours of the suspension and the reasons therefor. The school shall use the District-approved Notice of Suspension form. The Superintendent's designee shall review such suspension for compliance with the requirements of the Code.

A student or student's parent or guardian may appeal a suspension by first contacting the principal. Thereafter, the student or parent/guardian may appeal to the Director of the Office of School Services as the Superintendent's designee. An appeal will not delay the imposition of the suspension.

The rules of evidence and judicial procedure do not apply to suspension procedures or appeals. The school's decision to impose suspension is not subject to further review or appeal beyond the School Services Office. The School Services Office's decision on review or appeal shall be final.

### **3. Procedures for Placement in an Alternative School**

The Superintendent shall appoint a District Discipline Committee to review all recommendations for placement in an alternative school and/or expulsion. If the school principal or designee shall recommend alternative placement, the principal or designee shall appear before the Committee and explain the facts and the rationale for the recommendation. After due deliberation, this Committee shall act upon the recommendation and so advise the student and principal. The District Discipline Committee may accept, reject, or modify the principal's recommendation.

Students must complete the entry process at the Gaines Alternative Center following administrative assignment by the District Discipline Committee. Students who do not attend Gaines Alternative Center may not attend any St. Johns County School District school for the assigned period of time plus an additional equal period of time.

### **4. Procedures for Appeal of Alternative School Placement**

The student, parent or guardian may request an appeal of the Discipline Committee's decision to administratively assign the student in an alternative school to the District Discipline Appeal Committee. However, the student must be in attendance at the alternative school while the appeal is pending. The Appeal Committee may request, receive, and will consider such additional information from the parties as necessary to properly review the initial decision. After due deliberation, the Appeal Committee shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent, who may affirm, reject or modify the original decision.

The Superintendent may request, receive, and review such additional information from the parties as necessary to properly review the Appeal Committee's decision. After due deliberation, the Superintendent shall act upon the Committee's recommendation and so advise the student and principal. The Superintendent may affirm, reject or modify the Appeal Committee's recommendation. The decision of the Superintendent is final, conclusive and binding.

For all meetings under this section, with the exception of the initial meeting of the District Discipline Committee, the student shall attend with the student's parent(s) or guardian or other responsible adult. The student may also invite others to attend on the student's behalf including legal counsel or other representation. The student shall have an opportunity to explain his or her actions and provide any additional information, as the student may believe necessary. These are not legal proceedings, and the rules of evidence and judicial procedure do not apply. No transcript of testimony will be required or provided. The Superintendent's decision is final.

### **5. Expulsion**

The principal's recommendation of expulsion shall include a detailed report explaining the basis for the recommendation and alternative measures to expulsion considered by the principal before making the recommendation.

The school principal may recommend to the District's Discipline Committee the expulsion of any student who has committed a serious breach of conduct, including any Level IV or other offense that is subject to expulsion under this Code or Florida law.

The District Discipline Committee shall review the recommendation for expulsion and either accept, reject or modify the principal's recommendation. The Committee's decision shall be communicated in writing to the Superintendent and the student's parents or guardian.

The Superintendent shall consider the Committee's recommendation and may adopt, modify or reject it. If the Superintendent recommends expulsion, the recommendation shall be forwarded to the School Board for final action.

The student or parent or guardian shall have the right to an expulsion hearing before the School Board. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements and safeguards of School Board Rule 5.12.

## **6. Discipline Procedures for Students with Disabilities**

The District complies with all federal and state laws pertaining to students with disabilities. A student identified as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) shall be subject to the same disciplinary procedures prescribed by Department of Education Rule 6A-6.03312 and the District's Exceptional Student Program Policies and Procedures.

Students with disabilities may be subjected to short-term or long-term removals depending on the disciplinary infraction of the Code of Conduct. A short-term removal is one in which a student with a disability is removed from a school up to ten (10) school days within a school year. Short-term removals do not require the school to provide services identified in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 plan, or to conduct a manifestation determination meeting.

A long-term removal is one in which a student with a disability:

- is suspended for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive days, or
- has been suspended for more than ten (10) cumulative days in the school year, or
- is subject to expulsion.

A long-term removal of a student with a disability requires the following:

- The school will schedule a manifestation determination meeting with the relevant members of the IEP or Section 504 team including the parent and student. At this meeting, the team reviews the student's IEP or Section 504 plan, the student's file, teacher observations, and relevant information provided by the student and student's parents. Following this review, the IEP or Section 504 team shall determine whether the student's behavior was a manifestation of his/her disability.
- If the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability, then the student may be disciplined in the same manner as non-disabled students. Additionally, the student may be removed to an alternative education setting if recommended by the District Discipline Committee. The District Discipline Committee will also serve as an IEP team to consider any educational placement issues relating to the student's disability. Students with disabilities may also be recommended for expulsion by the District Discipline Committee when appropriate.
- If the behavior is a manifestation of the student's disability, the District shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) and implement a behavior intervention plan (BIP) for the student to address the behavior. The student may not be disciplined and shall be returned to his/her original placement unless the parent and District agree otherwise as part of the student's IEP. However, if recommended by the District

Discipline Committee, a student may be removed to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than forty-five (45) school days without regard to whether the student's behavior is determined to be a manifestation of his/her disability if the student: (a) carries a weapon to or possesses a weapon at school, on school premises, or at a school function; (b) knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs at school, or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school, on school premises, or at a school function; or (c) has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function.

- If the student is recommended to the District Discipline Committee and has 504/IEP, parents/students may attend the initial meeting of the District Discipline Committee if the behavior was determined to be a manifestation of the student's disability and the incident involved drugs, weapons, or serious bodily injury.

Additional requirements for the suspension and expulsion of students with disabilities are detailed in the District's Exceptional Student Program Policies and Procedures, and Florida Department of Education Rule 6A-6.03312. Any time a significant change in placement (such as an exclusion of more than ten (10) consecutive days) is being considered, the parent(s) or guardian of a student with a disability shall be provided a copy of the notice of procedural safeguards for parents of students with disabilities and written notice, or the procedural safeguards and parent rights for Section 504.

## **7. Procedures for Felony Suspension**

A student may be suspended from all regular classes when formally charged with a felony, or with a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an adult, by a proper prosecuting attorney for an incident which allegedly occurred on other than school property, but which is shown to have an adverse impact on the educational program, discipline, or welfare in the school in which the student is enrolled. The procedures and requirements for felony suspensions are prescribed by Florida Statute 1006.09(2) and Department of Education rules.

## **8. Appeals of Other Disciplinary Action**

In cases where the student has not been identified as disabled and discipline has been imposed other than out-of-school suspension, alternative school placement, expulsion or felony suspension, the student or the student's parent or guardian may appeal the discipline by submitting an appeal in writing to the principal within 5 school days of the imposition of the discipline. The principal's decision may be promptly appealed to the Office of School Services. The Office of School Services' decision on the appeal shall be final. The appeal will not delay imposition of the discipline.

## **9. Disruptive Students – Staff Intervention**

An administrator or teacher shall have the authority, while on duty, to come into physical contact with a student or students to the degree necessary for the purpose of establishing or maintaining control of students, including to reasonably protect himself/herself, other people or property. The use of reasonable physical force must be consistent with federal and state laws, School District rules and School Board policy. Such physical contact shall not be construed to be corporal punishment.

## SECTION 7: MISCELLANEOUS

### 1. School Attendance Zones and Student Assignment

#### Residency

In order for a student to be eligible to enroll in St. Johns County schools, the student's residence must be in St. John County.

An adult student's residence is his or her current permanent residence. A minor student's residence is the residence of his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). If a minor student's parents or legal guardians live in separate residences while sharing physical custody under the terms of a court order or otherwise, the student may attend the school zoned for either residence with appropriate residency documentation.

#### Full and Complete Current Residence

A person cannot have more than one permanent residence, and only the student's current residence as defined above may be used for enrollment purposes.

#### Proof of Residence

St. Johns County School District requires detailed proof of residency provided by a parent/guardian or adult student. These requirements are included on the Student Services website: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/student/residency/>

#### Change of Residence

The following items are evidence that a change of residence is full and complete:

- The former residence is not occupied for any purpose at any time by the student or any of the persons which whom the student has been living;
- All personal belongings are moved from the former residence;
- Mail is received at the new residence; and
- All utilities are transferred to the new residence.

If the student's permanent residence changes, notification and updated documentation must be provided to the school within 10 school days.

#### School Assignment

The School Board has established residential attendance zones for each school. Except as otherwise permitted by the District's Student Assignment, Enrollment and Choice Plan: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/choice/wp-content/uploads/sites/121/2016/11/Student-Assignment-Enrollment-and-Choice-Plan.pdf>, all students, shall attend the school serving the attendance zone where the student's residence, as defined above, is located.

Any student whose residence as defined above is outside the boundaries of St. Johns County may not be enrolled in any district school without the approval of the School Board. No student shall be permitted to cross district lines for the purpose of attending school in the St. Johns County School District or outside the St. Johns County School District, except as otherwise provided by the District's Student Assignment, Enrollment and Choice Plan.

In all cases, the Superintendent or designee reserves the right to make an independent investigation and to make the final determination as to the residence of a student.

**Guardianship**

Pursuant to School Board Rule 5.05(1) (e), when a student resides with a person who is not the student's parent seeks to enroll in school, the student shall present a court order appointing the person with whom they reside as either their legal guardian or legal custodian or shall present other proper documentation from a state or federal agency placing the child with the person with whom they reside.

**Homeless**

Homeless children shall have access to a free public education in St. Johns County schools and will be admitted to a school in accordance with School Board Rule 4.18, based on the McKinney-Vento Act governing education of homeless students.

**Dependency or Delinquency**

Students who have been adjudicated to be dependent or delinquent pursuant to Chapter 39, Florida Statutes, shall be assigned by the Superintendent to the school best meeting the special needs of the student in consultation with the Department of Children and Family Services or such other agency or person having responsibility for the student's welfare.

**2. Administrative Assignment to an Alternative School**

The Superintendent has the authority to administratively assign students to Gaines Alternative Center to facilitate their transition to a mainstream District school from a juvenile justice facility, an alternative school outside the District, or from another school district where serious disciplinary charges were pending at the time of the student's withdrawal or transfer, or whenever in the Superintendent's judgment and discretion such alternative placement would be in the District's best interest in terms of protecting student safety and welfare or maintaining an orderly school environment.

**3. Education Records - Directory Information**

In accordance with School Board Rule 5.20, the School Board reserves the right to release selected personal information about students ("Directory Information") without the consent of the students or their parents or guardian. A student's parent(s) or an adult student, however, may notify the School Board that Directory Information concerning the student shall not be released. Such "opt-out" notice shall be in writing and filed annually with the principal of the student's school and with the District's office. Please refer to the "Release of the Student Directory Information Options" form at the end of this booklet.

Directory Information consists of the following data:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number, if listed
- Date and place of birth
- Internally generated pupil number
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height, if an athletic team member
- Most recent previous school or program attended
- Dates of attendance at schools in the District
- Degrees, awards and honors received
- Major field of study

- Photographs and video

Directory Information will be released to:

- Yearbook publishers, school ring vendors, school photograph vendors, as selected by each school
- Law enforcement and other governmental agencies, both state and federal (official request only)
- U.S. Armed Forces recruiting officials (as required by federal law)
- College and university recruiters

However, Directory Information will not be released when a parent or adult student has given an opt-out notice as provided above, except as required by law and except for photographs and video taken or other Directory Information presented at a public forum, public event or open house.

#### **4. Education Records - Notice of Rights**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible student to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31);
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest;
  - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - Accrediting organizations;
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
  - State and local authorities within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.



- The St. Johns County School Board has designated student Directory Information and the conditions for its release. Please refer to paragraph 3 above and Board Rule 5.20 listed on the District's website for further information. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-8520

**5. Education Records -- Divorced or Unmarried Parents**

Regardless of who may have legal custody or parental responsibility for a student, both parents have the right of access to the student's education records unless there is a judicial order limiting or prohibiting a parent's access.

**6. Education Records -- Name Change**

When a parent, guardian or any other person seeks to enroll a student under a name other than the legal name, or seeks to change the name of a student already enrolled, the parent or other person shall be informed that the name of the child as shown on the birth certificate or other supporting evidence as provided in Florida Statute 1003.21(4) of these regulations will be used until such time as a final court order verifies a legal change.

**7. Education Records – Online Educational Services**

The District shall continue to protect Student Personally Identifiable Information (PII) from data mining or targeting for marketing or other commercial purposes. Online educational services that are required for students to use as part of a school activity must be reviewed and approved by appropriate District staff, regardless if the software or service is free or not. The District will post on its website a list of online service providers that collect student PII data to provide required educational services and outline what student data elements are used by each service, for what purpose, when it will be destroyed and the terms of redisclosure (if any).

**8. Discrimination Prohibited**

St. Johns County School District prohibits discrimination against students, employees and job applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, ethnicity, national origin, marital status, disability, political or religious beliefs, national or ethnic origin and political beliefs. In accordance with the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act 20 U.S.C. 7905, the School Board shall not deny equal access to District facilities or discriminate against Boy Scouts of America or any youth group listed in Title 36A patriotic society. School Board Rule 2.16 as summarized below, contains the grievance procedure related to harassment and discrimination for employees, students and applicants.

**9. Grievance Procedure for Students Alleging Unlawful Discrimination or Sexual Harassment**

The Board and the Superintendent recognize that unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment are inappropriate in District schools and prevent students from achieving at their highest level. Whenever a student makes a complaint of unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment, every effort will be made to arrive at a satisfactory resolution of the problem on

an informal basis. When this is not successful, a student can resort to the more formal procedures as provided in School Board Rule 2.16.

### Definitions

- **“Unlawful Discrimination”** - occurs when a student is excluded from participation in, is denied the benefits of, or is subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity conducted by this School District, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, disability, social and family background or a language other than English by Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students when allowed by law.
- **“Sexual Harassment”** - is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other inappropriate verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:
  - Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student’s education.
  - Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting such individual.
  - Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student’s educational performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive school environment.
  - Such conduct places a student in reasonable fear to his or her person.
- **“Equity Committee”** - is a group of District administrators who are involved in resolving issues of unlawful discrimination and sexual harassment. The members of the Equity Committee and their telephone number(s)/e-mail(s) are:

Gene Bennett	(904) 547-6067 or <a href="mailto:Gene.Bennett@stjohns.k12.fl.us">Gene.Bennett@stjohns.k12.fl.us</a>
Wayne King	(904) 547-7600 or <a href="mailto:Wayne.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us">Wayne.King@stjohns.k12.fl.us</a>
J Wynn	(904) 547-7604 or <a href="mailto:J.Wynn@stjohns.k12.fl.us">J.Wynn@stjohns.k12.fl.us</a>
Kim Dixon	(904) 547-3947 or <a href="mailto:Kim.Dixon@stjohns.k12.fl.us">Kim.Dixon@stjohns.k12.fl.us</a>
Dave Morell	(904) 547-6047 or <a href="mailto:David.Morell@stjohns.k12.fl.us">David.Morell@stjohns.k12.fl.us</a>
Cynthia Preston	(904) 547-7551 or <a href="mailto:Cynthia.Preston@stjohns.k12.fl.us">Cynthia.Preston@stjohns.k12.fl.us</a>

### Title IX Coordinator

Members may also be contacted by mail at 40 Orange Street, St. Augustine, Florida, 32084.

### Examples

Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Verbal harassment or abuse of a sexual nature
- Subtle pressure for sexual activity
- Repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications (e.g., a person’s body, clothes or sexual activity, etc.)
- Unwelcome or inappropriate physical contact (e.g., patting, pinching, or unnecessary touching)
- Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats.
- Display of sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or written materials.

Sexual harassment does not refer to occasional compliments or welcomed interactions of a socially acceptable nature.

### **Complaint Procedure**

- **Informal discussion** - if a student believes there is a basis for a complaint, the student shall discuss the complaint with his or her immediate teacher or a school administrator (except in cases of discrimination or harassment allegations involving the teacher or a school administrator, in which case they can report and discuss the issue with a member of the Equity Committee) within sixty (60) days.
- **Level One** - if the student is not satisfied with the informal discussion, he or she may, within ten (10) days, file a formal complaint with his or her principal. If the complaint involves the principal, it may be filed with the Equity Committee. The principal, or the Committee, as the case may be, shall investigate the complaint and report in writing to the student within ten (10) days after receipt of the complaint. Complaints involving an administrator above the building level may be filed by the complainant at Level Two.
- **Level Two** - if the student is not satisfied with the resolution at Level One, student may, within ten (10) days of the report, file a copy of the complaint with the Superintendent. Within ten (10) days of receipt of the complaint, the Superintendent shall respond in writing to the student.
- **Board Appeal** - if the student is not satisfied with the resolution by the Superintendent, the student shall have the right to appeal the Superintendent's decision to the School Board, provided request for placement on Board agenda is filed within ten (10) days.

### **Investigations**

Reports of sexual harassment and discrimination will be promptly and impartially investigated by appropriate District staff. During the investigation, both the alleged perpetrator and victim will have the opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence.

### **Disciplinary Consequences**

Sexual harassment is a Level IV offense, subject to discipline that may include expulsion, mandatory suspension and placement in an alternative school, as prescribed in Paragraph 12, Section 4 of this Code.

### **Remedies and Support**

The District will take steps to prevent recurrence of incidents of sexual harassment and to remedy the discriminatory effects of such harassment. In addition to taking disciplinary action against the perpetrator, the District, when appropriate, will work with victim to develop a safety plan designed to protect the victim from recurrence and to remedy the discriminatory effects of the harassment.

### **Confidentiality and Protection**

Confidentiality and protection from retaliation will be provided to the extent possible to any student who alleges unlawful discrimination or harassment. A student who appropriately reports unlawful discrimination or sexual harassment will not be subjected to adverse educational action or retaliation in any form.

## **9. Homeless Students**

The federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), ensures that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public pre-school education, as other children and youth. The requirements of the McKinney-Vento Act are implemented by School Board Rule 4.18.

Homeless children and youth must have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment based on homelessness alone.

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless. If, due to a loss of housing, a child must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground, on the street, in abandoned buildings or doubled-up with relatives or friends, then he/she is eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act.

For further information, please visit [www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/homeless](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/homeless), or contact the SJCS Homeless Liaison at 904-547-7593.

## **10. Notification of Social Security Number Collection and Use**

In compliance with Florida Statute 119.071(5), the District gives this notice regarding the purpose of the collection and use of student's Social Security number.

The District collects students' Social Security numbers for use in performance of the District's duties and responsibilities. To protect students' identity, the District will secure the Social Security number from unauthorized access. The District will never release a student's Social Security number to unauthorized parties; in addition, each student in the District will be issued a unique student identification number. A student's identification number is used for all educational purposes while enrolled in the District schools, including registration, access of your online record, etc.

In addition to the federal reporting requirements, the public school system in Florida uses the Social Security number as a student identifier. This use is authorized in Florida Statutes 229.559 and 1008.386. In a seamless K-20 educational system, it is beneficial for postsecondary institutions to have access to the same information for purposes of tracking and assisting students in the transition from one educational level to the next.

All Social Security numbers are protected by federal regulations and are never released to unauthorized parties.

## **11. Pledge of Allegiance**

As provided by Florida Statute 1003.44(i) and School Board Rule 3.10, the Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited at the beginning of each day in St. Johns County public schools. A student has the right to be excused from reciting the pledge, including standing and placing the right hand over his or her heart, upon written request of the student's parent.

## SECTION 8

### Student-Athlete Code of Conduct

#### 1. Introduction to the Pursuing Victory With Honor Program

**At its best, athletic competition can hold intrinsic value for our society. It is a symbol of a great ideal: victory with honor. The love of sports is deeply embedded in our national consciousness. The values of millions of participants and spectators are directly and dramatically influenced by the values conveyed by organized sports. Thus, sports are a major social force that shapes the quality and character of the American culture. In the belief that the impact of sports can and should enhance the character and uplift the ethics of the nation, we seek to establish a framework of principles and a common language of values that can be adopted and practiced widely. The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and the six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. (Preamble to the Arizona Sports Accord – Pursuing Victory with Honor)**

Athletics is an important part of the total school program in the St. Johns County Schools and works in conjunction with the other educational experiences to provide students the environment and opportunity to develop the values of character and ethical decision-making. This opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics is an extracurricular activity and privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, the sport, other students, the family, and the community, as well as the student-athlete.

The Student-Athlete Code of Conduct governs all student-athletes (including home school and virtual school students) in the District who participate in interscholastic athletics. These standards of conduct shall supplement, and not supplant or replace, the District's Student Code of Conduct or any additional or more stringent rules and standards of conduct that the Head Coach of each athletic team lawfully imposes as a condition of participation in such activity. Discipline imposed as a result of a violation of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct shall not preclude additional discipline or consequences under the Student Code of Conduct or the rules and bylaws of the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA). The Pursuing Victory with Honor Program and Student-Athlete Code of Conduct hold student-athletes to a higher standard of conduct than the general student body. Participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege, not a right, and that privilege is conditioned upon the student-athlete's compliance with the Student Code of Conduct, FHSAA rules and by-laws, and, in addition, the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. Student-athletes and their parents should be aware that the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct applies not only at school and school events and activities, but also off-campus and during non-school hours, including breaks and vacations.

It is the intent of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct to provide a clearly defined course for student-athletes to follow, at school and in the community. It is also the intent that a onetime infraction should result in appropriate consequences without causing lasting hardship.

#### 2. Parent and Student Contracts

In order to participate in the interscholastic athletics, student-athletes and their parents are required to execute the Pursuing Victory with Honor Contract and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the Pursuing Victory with Honor program and the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. These contract forms for student and parents are found within this Student Code of Conduct.

### 3. Prohibited Conduct

Each student-athlete is expected to display good sportsmanship, win or lose. This means that student-athletes must demonstrate the “Six Pillars of Character” Counts in both school and in the community at large during the time that the student is enrolled in the District. Student-athletes are subject to disciplinary action under the District’s Code of Conduct and Student-Athlete Code of Conduct, as well as FHSAA rules and by-laws. Such disciplinary action may include suspension or termination of the privilege of participating in any or all extracurricular activities. Sanctions may apply to all practices and meetings and at all times before, during and after games or school-sponsored events, as well as to bus trips to and from games or school sponsored events. Ejection from any contest or event will result in a suspension from subsequent contests under the rules and bylaws of FHSAA and the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. The following are violations of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct:

A. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

B. Disrespectful, derogatory, harassing comments and/or conduct (verbal, written, electronic), disruptive conduct, and insubordination by a student-athlete directed toward any other person or group, including but not limited to game officials, coaches, advisors, teammates, athletes or members of opposing teams or schools, fans, spectators, other students, and the general public.

C. Conduct at school, at related activities, on school transportation, or in the community which is clearly beyond the bounds of what is acceptable and tolerable. Any misconduct in the community that would constitute a Level III or Level IV offense if committed at school constitutes a violation of this standard of conduct.

D. No student-athlete shall knowingly attend any party or other social gathering where underage drinking and drug use occurs. This rule is intended to apply to gatherings that consist primarily of students and student age individuals where underage drinking is occurring, usually without the knowledge or acquiescence of the parents, and shall not apply to events such as a wedding, family reunion, or the like. **It shall not be a defense to this rule that a gathering of students at which alcohol and drugs are consumed was sanctioned by any parent or held with parental consent. It is the attendance at such gatherings that is prohibited by this rule. Actual consumption of alcohol or use of drugs is not a prerequisite to establish a violation of this rule. Any student-athlete who is found to have voluntarily remained in the vicinity of a gathering prohibited by this section shall be guilty of a violation of this rule whether or not he or she consumes or uses any prohibited substance.** No student-athlete will be deemed to have violated this rule if he or she can show to the satisfaction of the school Principal, Athletic Director and Head Coach that, immediately upon becoming aware that underage drinking and/or drug use is present at a party or social gathering, he/she completely removed himself/herself from the place where the party or social gathering was held, including parking areas.

E. A student-athlete’s use, distribution and possession of alcohol (including hosting a party where alcohol is available) drugs or controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, use of performance enhancing substances; use of tobacco products or any other misconduct that, if committed at school would violate the rules governing drug and alcohol use, as set forth in Section 4 of the Student Code of Conduct, or misuse of prescription medication, as set forth in Section 4 of the Student Code of Conduct. For purpose of this provision, the definition of “drugs” in Section 4 of the Student Code of Conduct applies.

F. Felony arrest.

#### **4. Disciplinary Procedure**

Student-athletes who are accused of a violation of the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to the disciplinary procedures specified in Sections 4 and 6 of the Student Code of Conduct. In conjunction with that disciplinary process, the principal or designee shall impose such athletic sanctions as may be appropriate under the paragraph below.

Some offenses under the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct may not be subject to Student Code of Conduct discipline because the alleged offense occurred off-campus, after school hours or for some other reason. In those cases, the principal or the principal's designee shall give the student-athlete oral notice of the allegations and an opportunity to explain or defend the conduct. The principal or designee shall then determine whether the student-athlete violated the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. If a violation is found, the principal or designee shall impose such sanctions as may be appropriate under paragraph 5 below. The sanctions and the reason for the sanctions should be communicated in writing to the student-athlete's parent or guardian within twenty-four (24) hours by United States mail or hand delivery, including hand delivery in the care of the student-athlete, following the conclusion of the school-based investigation.

The school should notify the Superintendent in care of the Office of School Operations within twenty-four (24) hours of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct disciplinary action and the reasons therefor. The Superintendent's designee shall review the case for compliance with the requirements of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct.

A student-athlete may appeal disciplinary action imposed under the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct to the Student-Athlete Disciplinary Review Committee, by scheduling a hearing through the Office of School Operations. However, the pendency of the appeal shall not delay the commencement of any sanctions, including suspension from athletic contests.

The rules of evidence and judicial procedure do not apply to disciplinary proceedings under the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. The decision of the Student-Athlete Disciplinary Review Committee shall be final and shall not be subject to further review.

#### **5. Responses and Sanctions**

The following are the sanctions for student-athletes who are found to have violated the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. The sanctions listed shall not be construed as a promise or guarantee of any particular form of discipline. The District retains the right to take disciplinary action under this policy that is deemed to be appropriate under the individual circumstances of each case. These penalties can be assessed in addition to those assessed under the Student Code of Conduct.

All game(s) suspensions will be served during the athlete's current-year season of participation. In the event that a sanction is assessed at the end of the current season, the sanction will be carried over into the next sport season in which the student-athlete participates. Student athletes will begin serving sanctions immediately upon imposition. In the event a student-athlete files an appeal of a disciplinary action imposed as a result of a code violation, the game(s) suspension will be immediately served upon imposition and/or during the appeals process.

**A. Minor Violation** - A coach shall be responsible for assessing penalties for violation of team and attendance rules. Such penalties may range from a verbal warning to expulsion from the team for repeat offenses. Coaches shall generally practice progressive discipline, depending on the facts and circumstances. A coach's decision to remove a student-athlete from a team will be approved by the



Athletic Director prior to the imposition of the penalty. The coach shall notify the parents of the imposition of any sanction including the nature of the offense and the reason(s) for the disciplinary action.

- B. Level 1 Violation** - Any student-athlete found to have engaged in prohibited conduct unless otherwise indicated at another Level. For a Level 1 violation, suspension from participation, probation and successful completion of educational component may be required.
- C. Level 2 Violation** - Any student-athlete found to have committed a second Level 1 violation while on probation or any student-athlete found to have hosted a party where alcohol is served or where drugs are present, or who participates in any bullying, harassment or hazing. For a Level 2 violation, suspension from participation, probation, and successful completion of educational component may be required. The commission of any drug or alcohol offense while serving probation for a current drug or alcohol offense will result in loss of participation for one calendar year.
- D. Level 3 Violation** - Any student-athlete found to have engaged in prohibited conduct while serving a Level 2 probation or to have committed a second Level 2 violation during his/her enrollment in the District. For a Level 3 violation, loss of participation for 1 calendar year, probation and successful completion of educational component may be required.
- E. Level 4 Violation** - Any student who is charged with or convicted of, a felony. Such a student-athlete will be suspended from participation (includes practices and meetings) until the case has been adjudicated after which a review will be conducted to determine eligibility. Level 4 also includes repeated violations while on probation. For a Level 4 violation, loss of athletic eligibility while enrolled in the District.

**Drug testing may be required as part of a sanction at student or parent expense.**

- **Probation** is a stipulated period of time (1 calendar year with a review after 6 months) assessed to an athlete as a consequence for violations of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. This period of time may be extended (extended probation) until the athlete has successfully fulfilled all requirements of the assessed for a violation. The **Educational Component** is a rehabilitative activity intended to reinforce the athlete's personal adherence to the policies and rules that govern the interscholastic program and is designed to educate the athlete about the violation committed and its impact on reaching personal and team goals. Following a meeting with the District Director for Athletics, this component will occur after school hours and will take place at the location of the provider in partnership with the St. Johns County School District. The Educational Component will be required for any student-athlete that is found to be in violation of the drug and alcohol policy outlined in the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct. Suspensions from team participation may continue until this meeting is held.

The St. Johns County School District is committed to creating a safe, secure and enjoyable experience for all fans. We want all event attendees to enjoy the experience in a responsible fashion. Event attendees are responsible for their own behavior. Any behavior that is deemed unruly, disruptive, or illegal in nature to officials, players, school administration and/or other spectators may result in removal from the event and loss of the privilege for attending future events.



## Participation Penalty

Sports	Number of Games	Level 1 Participation Penalty	Level 2 Participation Penalty
Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball	25	3	5
Wrestling	20	2	4
Beach Volleyball, Bowling, Lacrosse, Tennis and	18	2	4
Golf	16	2	3
Flag Football	15	1	3
Swimming and Diving, Track and Field, Weightlifting	13	1	3
Football and Cross Country	10	1	2
Cheerleading and Dance (Competitive and/or Spirit)	To be determined by the interscholastic athletic season in which a cheerleader or dancer is participating.	To be determined by the interscholastic athletic season in which a cheerleader or dancer is participating.	To be determined by the interscholastic athletic season in which a cheerleading or dancer is participating.

**Any violation is subject to review by the Director for School Services.**

If an athlete misses games due to school suspension for a disciplinary infraction, the games missed shall be counted toward the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct participation sanction. Cheerleading sanctions may also result in the loss of competitive events and/or cheer competitions.

## Section 9

### **Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) and Internet Safety Policy Guidelines for Students and Visitors**

The District's AUP and Internet Safety Policy Guidelines provide a framework to accomplish these overarching principles:

- Protect Students and visitors from inappropriate content
- Promote online safety and student education
- Prevent unauthorized access and disclosure of sensitive information
- Comply with CIPA
- Protect the District's digital resources
- Provide online guidelines and related prohibited activities

Parents, Guardians, Visitors and Students should reference the AUP and Internet Safety Policy Guidelines document listed on our District website:

<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/it/aup>

Students and guardians can expect to acknowledge and comply with these guidelines during Online enrollment or during Online student verification process.

**General Rule:** Except at open house and public events as discussed below, students, parents and visitors are not allowed to videotape, photograph or make audio recordings while on school premises. All recording devices must be turned off at school. The purpose of this general rule is to foster an appropriate educational environment, prevent unwarranted disclosure of student images and information, and to comply with the requirements of the negotiated agreement with the St. Johns Education Association.

**Open House and Public Events Exception:** Open house and public events are events where school premises are opened to the public or a segment of the public at the direction of the principal. They include: open houses, sporting events, plays, musicals, contests, fairs, fund raisers, awards/recognitions and theatre performances. They also include off campus events such as graduations, contests, fund raisers and other school sponsored public events.

In the exercise of judgment and discretion, a principal may also allow videotaping or photographing under other circumstances, provided that appropriate steps are taken to prevent unwarranted disclosure of student images contrary to their directory information opt-out election and to avoid disruption of the educational environment.

# FORMS

Forms from this booklet which must be completed and returned to school by Student Athletes:

1. Pursuing Victory with Honor Parent Contract
2. Pursuing Victory with Honor Student-Athlete Contract

Form from this booklet which must be completed and returned to school by ALL students:

1. Parent/Student Acknowledgements

***\*Unless signature occurred through online parent verification process, all forms listed above must be signed by parent/guardian and student and returned to school 5 days upon receiving the Student Code of Conduct.***



# St. Johns County School District

## Pursuing Victory with Honor Parent Contract

*Athletic competition of interscholastic age children should be fun and should also be a significant part of a sound educational program. Everyone involved in sports programs has a duty to assure that their programs impart important life skills and promote the development of good character. Essential elements of character building are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship (the "Six Pillars of Character"). The highest potential of sports is achieved when all involved consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model (T.E.A.M) values and are committed to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Parents/guardians of student-athletes can and should play an important role and their good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and this Contract can dramatically improve the quality of a child's sports experience.*

### TRUSTWORTHINESS

- ❖ **Trustworthiness**- Be worthy of trust in all you do.
- ❖ **Integrity**- Live up to high ideals of ethics-sportsmanship and encourage players to pursue victory with honor. Do what's right even when it's unpopular or personally costly.
- ❖ **Honesty**- Live honorably. Don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest conduct.
- ❖ **Reliability**- Fulfill commitments. Do what you say you will do.
- ❖ **Loyalty**- Be loyal to the school and team; put the interests of the team above your child's personal glory.

### RESPECT

- ❖ **Respect**- Treat all people with respect at all times and requires the same of your student-athletes.
- ❖ **Class**- Teach your child to live and play with class and be a good sport. He/She should be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- ❖ **Disrespectful Conduct**- Don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual nature or actions, trash-talking, taunting, hazing, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- ❖ **Respect for Officials**- Treat game officials with respect. Don't complain or argue about calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

### RESPONSIBILITY

- ❖ **Importance of Education**- Support the concept of "being a student first." Commit your child to earning a diploma and getting the best possible education. Be honest with your child about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level. Reinforce the notion that many

universities will not recruit student-athletes who do not have a serious commitment to their education. Be the lead contact for college and university coaches in the recruiting process.

- ❖ **Role Modeling-** Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right. Parent/guardians should also represent the school, coach, and teammates with honor, on and off the court/field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model.
- ❖ **Self-Control-** Exercise self-control. Don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration.
- ❖ **Healthy Lifestyle-** Promote to your child the avoidance of all illegal or unhealthy substances including alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and some over-the-counter nutritional supplements, as well as unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight.
- ❖ **Integrity of the Game-** Protect the integrity of the game. Don't gamble or associate with gamblers.

## **FAIRNESS**

- ❖ **Fairness and Openness-** Live up to high standards of fair play. Be open-minded, always willing to listen and learn.

## **CARING**

- ❖ **Caring Environment-** Consistently demonstrates concern for student-athletes as individuals and encourages them to look out for one another and think and act as a team. Helps promote the well-being of student athletes by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous or illegal conduct to a school authority (coaches, administrators, teachers, etc.)

## **CITIZENSHIP**

- ❖ **Spirit of the Rules-** Honor the spirit and the letter of rules. Teach your children to avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship.

***I have read and understand the requirements of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and this Contract. I acknowledge that my child may be disciplined or removed from a team if he/she violates any of their provisions. I also acknowledge that I am responsible for my behavior at athletic events. Any behavior that is deemed unruly, unsafe, disruptive or illegal in nature could be cause for removal from the athletic event, and I may lose the privilege to attend future events as deemed appropriate by school administration.***

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**Parent/Guardian Signature**

**Date**

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**Print Name**

**Date**

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**Sport**

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**Student's Name**



## St. Johns County School District

### Pursuing Victory with Honor

### Student-Athlete Contract

*Athletic competition for interscholastic age student-athletes should be fun and should also be a significant part of a sound educational program, embodying high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while developing good character and other important life skills. Essential elements of character building are intrinsic in the concept of sportsmanship and six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. (the "Six Pillars of Character"). The highest potential of sports is achieved when learning from the T.E.A. M. concept (Teaching, Enforcing, Advocating and Modeling these values) and by committing to the ideal of pursuing victory with honor. Good-faith efforts to honor the words and spirit of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and this Contract will improve the quality of our programs and the well-being of all teammates.*

#### TRUSTWORTHINESS

- ❖ **Trustworthiness** –Be worthy of trust in all you do.
- ❖ **Integrity**- Live up to high ideals of ethics and sportsmanship and always pursue victory with honor.
- ❖ **Honesty**- Live and compete honorably. Don't lie, cheat, steal or engage in any other dishonest or unsportsmanlike conduct. Plagiarism or cheating is not acceptable.
- ❖ **Reliability**- Fulfill commitments. Do what you say you will do. Be on time to practices and games.
- ❖ **Loyalty**- Be loyal to your school and team. Put the team above personal glory.

#### RESPECT

- ❖ **Respect**- Treat all people, including the teacher-coach, with respect at all times. Demonstrate an appropriate demeanor that reflects self-control and an unwavering commitment to fair play.
- ❖ **Class**- Live and play with class. Be a good sport. Be gracious in victory and accept defeat with dignity. Help fallen opponents, compliment extraordinary performance, and show sincere respect in pre- and post-game rituals.
- ❖ **Disrespectful Conduct**- Don't engage in disrespectful conduct of any sort including profanity, obscene gestures, offensive remarks of a sexual nature, trash-talking, taunting, hazing, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport.
- ❖ **Respect for Officials**- Treat game officials with respect. Don't complain about or argue with calls or decisions during or after an athletic event.

#### RESPONSIBILITY

- ❖ **Importance of Education**- The primary responsibility of a student-athlete is academic achievement. Be a student first, and commit to earning your diploma and getting the best education you can. Be honest with yourself about the likelihood of getting an athletic scholarship or playing on a professional level, and remember that many universities will not recruit student-athletes who do not have a serious commitment to their education, the ability to succeed academically or the character to represent their school honorably. Not achieving passing grades will result in your suspension from the team until the deficiency is corrected.

- ❖ **Role Modeling-** Remember, participation in sports is a privilege, not a right, and that you are expected to represent your school, coach and teammates with honor, on and off the field. Consistently exhibit good character and conduct yourself as a positive role model.
- ❖ **Self-Control-** Exercise self-control. Don't fight or show excessive displays of anger or frustration. Have the strength to overcome the temptation to retaliate.
- ❖ **Healthy Lifestyle-** Safeguard your health. Don't use any illegal or unhealthy substances, including alcohol, tobacco, drugs and nutritional supplements, or engage in any unhealthy techniques to gain, lose or maintain weight. Be informed about the health risks involved in the use of recreational and performance-enhancing drugs, tobacco and alcohol, as well as eating disorders.
- ❖ **Integrity of the Game-** Protect the integrity of the game.

#### **FAIRNESS**

- ❖ **Fairness and Openness-** Live up to high standards of fair play. Be open-minded, always be willing to listen and learn.

#### **CARING**

- ❖ **Concern for Others-** Demonstrate concern for others. Never intentionally injure any player or engage in reckless behavior that might cause injury to yourself or others.
- ❖ **Teammates-** Help promote the well-being of teammates through positive counseling and encouragement, and by reporting any unhealthy or dangerous or illegal conduct to a school authority (coaches, administrators, teachers, etc.)

#### **CITIZENSHIP**

- ❖ **Playing by the Rules-** Have a thorough knowledge of and abide by all applicable game and competition rules. Demonstrate and demand integrity.
- ❖ **Spirit of Rules-** Honor, observe and enforce the spirit and the letter of rules. Avoid temptations to gain competitive advantage through improper gamesmanship techniques that violate the highest traditions of sportsmanship. Do not engage in or allow any conduct designed to evade the rules governing fair competition.

***I have read and understand the requirements of the Student-Athletic Code of Conduct and this Contract. I acknowledge that I may be disciplined or removed from a team if I violate any of their provisions.***

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**Student Signature**

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**Date**

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**Print Name**

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**Date**

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**Sport**

Our athletic program endorses "Pursuing Victory with Honor" and the "Six Pillars of Character", a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. [www.charactercounts.org/sports](http://www.charactercounts.org/sports)

**St. Johns County School District  
2025-2026 STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

**Parent/Student Acknowledgment  
Student's Rules and Regulations of Operation**

Your signature means that you have received this Code of Student Conduct booklet and you know what the rules are.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

Students, parents/guardians, teachers, counselors, administrators, and office staffs all have important roles to play in our schools. With so many people working together, problems may occur from time to time. Rules have been made to address these problems. Like laws, rules apply to everyone, and they work only when everyone knows what they are.

This booklet lists the District rules for students in St. Johns County. The rules apply to all activities occurring on school grounds, on other sites being used for school activities and for any vehicles authorized for the transporting of students. Please read them. Since parents/guardians can be held responsible for the actions of their children, it is important that they are aware of the rules and consequences if the rules are broken. Parents, students, school faculty and staff need to know the rules.

Parents need to become involved in the education of their children and have the responsibility to provide the school with the current emergency contact person and/or telephone numbers. They also have the responsibility to notify the school of anything (such as medical information) that may affect their child's ability to learn, to attend school regularly, or to take part in school activities. As a parent, you also authorize designated St. Johns County School District personnel and St. Johns County Health Department School Health personnel to provide emergency care for your child and to exchange medical information as necessary to support the continuity of care of your child. Parents should also take special notice of the Attendance section of this Booklet as well as the Suspension and Expulsion provisions, which are in accordance with School Board Rule.

Signed forms must be part of every student's record. Your signature means that you have read this booklet and understand the rules. (It does not mean that you agree or disagree with them.)

**All forms must be signed by parent/guardian and student and returned to school.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





**FAIRNESS**

**CITIZENSHIP**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**RESPECT**

**TRUSTWORTHINESS**

**CARING**



CHARACTER COUNTS! Is a county-wide initiative involving our St. Johns County School District, community organizations, law enforcement, business sponsors and local government. These St. Johns County organizations have come together with a common approach in an effort to say children matter, values matter, and character matters...in our community and in our country.