



STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026



ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS (OSS) FAMILY CONTRACT 2025-2026

2600 Technology Drive Orlando, FL 32804

-School Copy-

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

As a parent/guardian of a student attending Orlando Science Schools, I commit to the following:

- Encourage my child to prioritize learning by supporting the school's efforts to make education their primary occupation.
- Ensure my child arrives at school on time, healthy, clean, and prepared to learn, adhering to the OSS dress code.
- Supervising my child's homework to ensure that all assignments are completed on schedule.
- Keeping the school informed of my current phone number, email, and physical address.
- Encouraging my child to participate in school-organized volunteer community activities.
- Attending meetings with my child's teachers and/or administration as requested.
- Take responsibility for my child's behavior at school.
- Acknowledge that a Board of Directors governs Orlando Science Schools.
- Understanding that the OSS administration has the authority to suspend or recommend expulsion for behavior that violates the Code of Conduct and if the parent/guardian fails to take responsibility for their child's conduct or cooperate with the school to correct it.
- Staying informed of official announcements from the OSS weekly newsletter and/or website.
- Reviewing my child's report cards issued by the school.
- Agreeing to support the faculty, staff, and volunteers in their efforts to help my child be a productive community member.
- Understanding that my child may face the consequences for violating the dress code, even if other students are also in violation.
- Following the school's drop off, pick up, and traffic circulation policies with courtesy.
- Agreeing to the terms and conditions outlined in the OSS Student and Parent Handbook and the OCPs Student Code of Conduct.

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)

As the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student named above, we have reviewed the Orlando Science Schools Student & Parent Handbook and the Family Contract with our child. We understand and agree to all its contents. We commit to supporting Orlando Science Schools by volunteering, maintaining regular communication with teachers, and fostering a positive educational environment at home through supervision and guidance on homework and school-related projects. We recognize the importance of our role in our child's education and will strive to meet these commitments.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

STUDENT

I have carefully reviewed and agree to comply with the policies, procedures, and expectations outlined in the Orlando Science Schools Student & Parent Handbook and Orange County Public Schools' Student Code of Conduct. I fully understand the Code of Conduct, Discipline Plan, and the Family Contract, and I pledge to uphold their principles. I know that violating these agreements may result in my expulsion.

Student's Signature _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Notice: Please be advised that this handbook may not cover every aspect related to the functions, procedures, and policies at Orlando Science Schools. As a Charter School in the Orange County Public Schools System, any situation not specifically referred to in this handbook shall be governed by the policies and procedures set forth by Orange County Public Schools. It is important to note that Orlando Science Schools reserves the right to modify or update any policy or procedure based on the need to implement temporary education programs and models. Any updates will be communicated to families and students in a timely manner.

This page was intentionally left blank.

ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS (OSS) FAMILY CONTRACT 2025-2026

2600 Technology Drive Orlando, FL 32804

-Family Copy-

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

As a parent/guardian of a student attending Orlando Science Schools, I commit to the following:

- Encourage my child to prioritize learning by supporting the school's efforts to make education their primary occupation.
- Ensure my child arrives at school on time, healthy, clean, and prepared to learn, adhering to the OSS dress code.
- Supervising my child's homework to ensure that all assignments are completed on schedule.
- Keeping the school informed of my current phone number, email, and physical address.
- Encouraging my child to participate in school-organized volunteer community activities.
- Attending meetings with my child's teachers and/or administration as requested.
- Take responsibility for my child's behavior at school.
- Acknowledge that a Board of Directors governs Orlando Science Schools.
- Understanding that the OSS administration has the authority to suspend or recommend expulsion for behavior that violates the Code of Conduct and if the parent/guardian fails to take responsibility for their child's conduct or cooperate with the school to correct it.
- Staying informed of official announcements from the OSS weekly newsletter and/or website.
- Reviewing my child's report cards issued by the school.
- Agreeing to support the faculty, staff, and volunteers in their efforts to help my child be a productive community member.
- Understanding that my child may face the consequences for violating the dress code, even if other students are also in violation.
- Following the school's drop off, pick up, and traffic circulation policies with courtesy.
- Agreeing to the terms and conditions outlined in the OSS Student and Parent Handbook and the OCPS Student Code of Conduct.

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)

As the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student named above, we have reviewed the Orlando Science Schools Student & Parent Handbook and the Family Contract with our child. We understand and agree to all its contents. We commit to supporting Orlando Science Schools by volunteering, maintaining regular communication with teachers, and fostering a positive educational environment at home through supervision and guidance on homework and school-related projects. We recognize the importance of our role in our child's education and will strive to meet these commitments.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

STUDENT

I have carefully reviewed and agree to comply with the policies, procedures, and expectations outlined in the Orlando Science Schools Student & Parent Handbook and Orange County Public Schools' Student Code of Conduct. I fully understand the Code of Conduct, Discipline Plan, and the Family Contract, and I pledge to uphold their principles. I know that violating these agreements may result in my expulsion.

Student's Signature _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

***Notice:** Please be advised that this handbook may not cover every aspect related to the functions, procedures, and policies at Orlando Science Schools. As a Charter School in the Orange County Public Schools System, any situation not specifically referred to in this handbook shall be governed by the policies and procedures set forth by Orange County Public Schools. It is important to note that Orlando Science Schools reserves the right to modify or update any policy or procedure based on the need to implement temporary education programs and models. Any updates will be communicated to families and students in a timely manner.*



O.R.C.A.S. CORE VALUES



- O** *Outreach towards community*
- R** *Respect and compassion for all*
- C** *Celebrate diversity*
- A** *Advocate for a safe learning environment*
- S** *Strive for excellence within a stimulating environment*



Contents

ORLANDO SCIENCE SCHOOLS (OSS) FAMILY CONTRACT 2025-2026	1
-School Copy-	1
-Family Copy-	4
CODE OF CONDUCT SUMMARY	10
2025-2026 ACADEMIC Calendar	11
FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK	12
MISSION STATEMENT	13
INTRODUCTION	13
In Loco Parentis	13
Notice of Limited Responsibility for Supervising Students	14
NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA	16
Release of Directory	17
Release of Educational Records to Other Educational Agencies	17
DUE PROCESS	19
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	19
Student Discrimination	20
Title IX and Sex Discrimination	20
Bullying and Harassment	20
CODE OF CIVILITY	21
Authority and Enforcement of the Code of Civility	21
DRESS CODE POLICY	23
Uniform Requirements	23
Administration and Compliance	23
Handling Violations	23
Communication	23
Uniform Policy in Detail	23
Dress-Down Day Policy	26
STUDENT SAFETY	27
Safe Harbor	27
Participation in Extracurricular/Co-curricular Activities	27
Possession, Use, or Sale of Controlled Substances and/or Alcohol	27
Possession of Firearms, Weapons, and/or Destructive Devices on School Property	27
Simulated Weapons	28
Violence Against School Employees	28
Threats or False Reports	28
Zero Tolerance for School-Related Violent Crime	29
Fighting and Self-Defense	29
CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY	30
Policy Overview	30
Statutory Compliance and School Authority	30
Designated Storage Area	30
Device Visibility and Usage	30
Usage During School Functions and After-School Activities	30
Legal and Privacy Concerns	30
Liability	30
Enforcement and Non-Compliance	30
SAFETY IN PRIVATE SPACES ACT	31
Hate Speech	32
Sexting	32
Student Parking and School Locker Search	32
Search of an Individual	32
Hazing	33
Teen Dating Violence and Abuse	33
Trafficking	33
Tobacco/Vaping	33

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & CONSEQUENCES	34
Expulsion.....	34
Out-of-School Suspension.....	34
Positive Alternative to School Suspension	34
Detention – Lunch/After-School/Multiple After School/Saturday	34
Parent Conference	35
Withholding of Privileges.....	35
Work Detail.....	35
Campaign Project	35
Behavior Contract	35
Restorative Practices	35
Court Orders and Felony Suspension/Expulsion.....	36
Consultation with Law Enforcement.....	36
Dual Enrollment/Postsecondary Notification	36
Failure to Attend Classes.....	36
Corporal Punishment	36
School Environment Safety Incident Report (SESIR).....	37
REWARD SYSTEM	38
Commendations	38
Schoolwide Rewards	38
ATTENDANCE POLICY	40
Excused Absences	40
Pre-Notified Extended Absences	41
Unexcused Absences	41
School Tardy.....	41
Habitual School Tardy	42
Class Tardy.....	42
Class Cuts/Skipping.....	42
Make-up Work for Absences – Excused or Unexcused	42
Early Checkouts.....	43
Truancy	43
Excessive Excused Absences.....	43
Perfect Attendance	43
Withdrawals	44
STUDENT DRIVER POLICY	45
Application and Payment Process	45
Parking Rules and Expectations	45
Policy on Reckless and Dangerous Driving:	45
Consequences for Violations:	45
CODE OF CONDUCT.....	47
Responsibility for Individual Actions and Choices	47
General Student Behavioral Expectations	47
Common Interventions.....	48
Progressive Discipline	48
Minor Offenses	49
Minor Offense Cycle	50
MAJOR OFFENSES.....	51
Level II Offenses.....	51
Level III Offenses.....	55
Level IV Offenses	58
Regarding Technology Equipment in Computer Labs/Media Center.....	62
Emergency Drills	62
INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM	63
Cheating and Plagiarism	63
Conferences	63
OSS CONNECT	63
Grading Scale	63

Grading System & Reporting	64
Homework Policy	64
Preparedness for Class.....	64
Promotion.....	64
Recognition	64
Schedule Changes	65
Textbooks	65
SERVICES FOR STUDENTS.....	66
After School Activities	66
After School Care Program.....	66
Communications Between School & Home	67
Field Trips	67
Lunch/Nutrition Program	67
Home Visits	67
Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).....	67
Behavioral Leadership Team	68
Exceptional Student Education (ESE)	68
School Pictures	68
School Resource Officer	68
School Sponsored Activities	68
TRANSPORTATION	69
Car Riders.....	69
Walkers	69
Skateboards, Roller Blades, and Scooters	69
Health and Safety	69
Illness and Injury.....	69
Emergency Contact Forms	69
Medication Policy.....	69
Self-Administration of Medication:	70
Over-the-Counter Medications.....	70
Wellness Policy	70
GUIDANCE	71
Graduation Information: Students Entering Grade 9	71
Graduation Requirements: Students with Disabilities	71
24-Credit Standard Diploma Requirements	72
Standard Diploma Designation Requirements	73
Public Postsecondary Options	74
24-credit Program: Graduate Early	74
Distinction Between 18-Credit ACCEL Option and 24-Credit Option	74
Bright Futures Scholarships	74
Financial Aid Information	75
Useful Websites and Links for Parents and Students	75
Scholarship Search Resources:	75
GENERAL INFORMATION	76
Announcements	76
Book Bags, Backpacks, Pencil Bags, Roller Bags and Purses	76
Classroom Observations	76
Corrections and/or Modifications to This Handbook	76
Definitions and/or Interpretations Used in This Handbook.....	76
Lockers	76
Lost and Found.....	77
Metal Detectors & Scans	77
Materials Distribution	77
Missing Items	77
Parking and Traffic Circulation	77
Parent Participation.....	77
Payments	77

Recording Devices – Audio or Video	77
Social Media	78
Student I.D. Cards	78
Telephone Calls	78
Video or Audio Surveillance	78
Visitors to the Building	78

CODE OF CONDUCT SUMMARY

Orlando Science Schools adheres to the OCPS Code of Conduct for major disciplinary offenses (Level II-IV) and uses a Conduct Point system to track Level I (Minor Offenses). A Level IV offense may result in up to 10 days of suspension, and an expulsion from the school district will be considered.

Level I (Minor Offenses)	Level II	Level III	Level IV
Tardy to Class	Vandalism (under \$100)	Simple Battery	Alcohol
Uniform Dress Code Violation	Disrespect	Vandalism (\$100 to \$999)	Arson/Igniting
Unauthorized Personal Items and Consumption	Physical Altercation	Disrespect	Threat/Intimidation
Unnatural Hair Color	Forgery (non-criminal)	Extortion/Blackmail	Aggravated Battery
Personal Electronic Device Violation	Gambling	Fighting	Threats to the School
Unauthorized Area Violation	Minor Insubordination/Open Defiance	Firecrackers/ Fireworks	Drug Use/Possession/Sale/Distribution
Academic Disengagement and Device Misuse	Threat	Gross Insubordination/ Open Defiance	Weapons/Other Dangerous Objects
Disruptive Conduct	Stealing (under \$100)	Illegal Organizations	Disruption on Campus-Major
Disrespectful and Inappropriate Communication	Unauthorized Assembly	Possession of Contraband	Grand Theft (\$750 or over)
	Gang Related	Tobacco	Repeated Misconduct
	Electronic Device Violation	Stealing (\$100 to \$749)	Robbery
	Horseplay	Unauthorized Entrance to OCPS Property	Sexual Battery
	Other Serious Misconduct	Violation of Curfew	Sexual Harassment
	Repeated Minor Offenses	Other Serious Misconduct	Sexual Offenses
	Unauthorized Absence	Threat	Violation of Early Re-entry Plan
	Academic Dishonesty	Gang Related	Criminal Mischief (\$1000 or over)
	Offensive Language	Harassment	Other Major/Interruptions of Campus
	Provoking Misconduct	Electronic Device Violation	Bullying
	Public Displays of Affection (PDA)	Horseplay	Hazing
	Providing False and/or Misleading Information	Disruptive Conduct	Simple Battery
			Sexual Assault
			Electronic Device Violation
			Burglary
			Homicide
			Kidnapping
			Tobacco
			Trespassing
Minor Offense – Consequences	Level II – Consequences	Level III – Consequences	Level IV – Consequences
Lunch Detention	Removal from Extracurricular Activities	Removal from Extracurricular Activities	District Discipline Team Meeting
After-School Detention	Withdrawal of Privileges	Withdrawal of Privileges	Assignment to Alternative School
Saturday Detention	Confiscation of Contraband	Confiscation of Contraband	Referral to Intervention Program
Work Detail	Schedule Change	Schedule Change	Removal from Extracurricular Activities
Campaign Project	Work Detail	Work Detail	Withdrawal of Privileges
After-School Detention	Campaign Project	Campaign Project	Confiscation of Contraband
Work Detail	PASS (1-3 days)	PASS (1-5 days)	Schedule Change
Withdrawal of Privileges	Suspension from School (3-5 days)	Suspension from School (1-10 days)	PASS (10 days)
Confiscation of Contraband			Suspension from School (10 days)
Pass (1-3 days)			Expulsion from School District

2025-2026 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Day(s) of Week	Date(s)	Event
Monday	August 11	First Day of School
Monday	September 1	Labor Day Holiday
Friday	October 10	End of First Marking Period
Monday	October 13	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	October 14	Begin Second Marking Period
Monday-Friday	November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break
Friday	December 19	End of Second Marking Period
Monday-Friday	December 22 – January 2	Winter Break
Monday	January 5	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tuesday	January 6	Begin Third Marking Period Begin Second Semester
Monday	January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Monday	February 16	Presidents' Day/Teacher Non-Workday Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Thursday	March 12	End of Third Marking Period
Friday	March 13	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Monday-Friday	March 16-20	Spring Break Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Monday	March 23	Begin Fourth Marking Period
Friday	April 24	Teacher Professional Day Student Holiday/Teacher Non-Workday
Monday	May 25	Memorial Day Holiday Schools and District Offices Closed
Wednesday	May 27	End of Fourth Marking Period Last Day of School
Tuesday-Wednesday	May 28-29	Post Planning

Note: The dates mentioned may change depending on the final updates to the OCPS school calendar for the 2025-2026 academic year. Parents or guardians will be informed of any such changes.

Tutoring Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Science	History	Electives	Mathematics	English

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year at Orlando Science Schools! We are thrilled to embark on a new beginning and a new future with you. Our administrative team and staff are excited to provide you with the best possible learning climate.

Education is a shared responsibility, and the successful operation of our school depends on the cooperation of everyone involved: students, parents, and staff. Our mission is to create a partnership among all members to make our school a place where we can work and have fun together in harmony.

At Orlando Science Schools, we pride ourselves on providing a safe and orderly environment conducive to learning. Our faculty and staff are eager to share their expertise in academics, special programs, and extracurricular activities. We encourage you to get involved and become an active participant in our school through classes, clubs, and activities.

This handbook provides an essential overview of our school's mission, guidelines, and services. Please read it carefully, discuss it with your family, and let it guide your effective involvement in all parts of the school. When you're finished, please sign, date, and return the Family Contract indicating your understanding and acceptance of its contents.

We wish you a purposeful and rewarding 2025-2026 school year. Keep this handbook as a reference, and let's work together to achieve excellence!

Go, Orcas! Strive for Excellence!

Sincerely,

Mr. Nicholas Koebe Principal

Orlando Science Schools - High School

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Orlando Science Middle/High Charter School is to provide students with a well-rounded education with special emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), and Reading in the light of research-based, proven, and innovative instructional methods in a stimulating environment.

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Board Policy JIC and Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, the School Board of Orange County, Florida, mandates the adoption of a Code of Student Conduct. This Code, developed by OCPS and adopted by OSS, aims to clarify expectations and guidelines to maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for students, parents/guardians, and school personnel.

The Code is reviewed with students, school advisory committees, and parent/teacher associations at the start of the school year and quarterly thereafter. It is also introduced to new students at the time of their enrollment. To conserve resources, paper copies of the Code are not distributed to every student. Instead, OSS students can access the Code of Conduct and student handbook on their grade-level Teams pages.

The Code applies to all Kindergarten through Grade 12 students at OSS, including those in high school and students in dual-enrollment programs. All students must adhere to the rules stipulated in the Code:

- While on school grounds.
- While being transported to or from school.
- During school-sponsored activities, including, but not limited to, field trips, athletic functions, and similar activities.
- And, where applicable, in any other areas as permitted by Florida Statutes and/or State Board of Education Rules.

Schools have the authority to discipline students for conduct near the school or conduct that may jeopardize the health, safety, or welfare of students, school personnel, or the school itself. It is also noted that disciplinary actions outlined in the Code may be complemented by additional consequences from law enforcement for acts that violate the law.

Please be aware that federal and state statutes and Board Policies referenced in this handbook are subject to amendments that could affect specific sections of the handbook during the current school year.

In Loco Parentis

State and federal laws recognize the authority of teachers and school administrators to act in the place of parents or guardians under the legal doctrine of in loco parentis. This grants school personnel the ability to supervise and manage students during school hours, on school property, in school transportation, or during school activities. According to Section 1003.31(1), Florida Statutes, while at school, students are under the direction and control of school administrators or designated teachers.

This legal framework allows school staff to conduct searches based on reasonable suspicion without needing a warrant, a more lenient standard than the probable cause required for law enforcement. It also permits them to question students without Miranda warnings and without the need for parental or legal representation.

This authority is crucial for maintaining a safe and orderly environment at Orlando Science Schools, enabling effective educational and administrative decisions that benefit all students.

Notice of Limited Responsibility for Supervising Students

Orlando Science Schools (OSS) employees are not responsible for supervising students who arrive more than 30 minutes before or remain more than 30 minutes after school or school-sponsored activities. OSS also does not oversee students who are absent from school or not registered for school activities.

Casual or incidental encounters between OSS staff and students do not constitute supervision. Parents and guardians should not expect supervision outside these designated times. However, OSS retains the authority to enforce discipline for any incidents or behaviors occurring on school property.



SECTION I: FAMILY EDUCATION RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS UNDER FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older (eligible students) certain rights with respect to your student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five (45) days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents/guardians or eligible students who wish to inspect their child's or their education records must submit a written request to the Principal that identifies the record(s) the parents/guardians or eligible student wishes to inspect. The Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education record that the parent/guardian or eligible student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents/guardians or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend their child's or their education records must write the school Principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. If, as a result of the hearing, the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent/guardian or eligible student can insert a statement into the record setting forth his or her views regarding the nature of the inaccuracy. The statement must remain with the contested part of the record for as long as the record is maintained. Please note, while the FERPA amendment procedure may be used to challenge facts that are inaccurately recorded, it may not be used to challenge a grade, an opinion, or a substantive decision made by a school about a student. FERPA was intended to require only that schools conform to fair recordkeeping practices and not to override the accepted standards and procedures for making academic assessments, disciplinary rulings, or placement determinations. Additionally, if FERPA's amendment procedures are not applicable to a parent's/guardian's request for amendment of education records, the school is not required under FERPA to hold a hearing on the matter.
3. The right to consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff; the person elected to the school board; or, a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a specific task. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Additionally, personally identifiable information will be released without consent to appropriate officials in emergency situations, to comply with a lawfully issued subpoena and in cases involving compulsory school attendance and child abuse. Further disclosures of personally identifiable information from educational records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents/guardians or the eligible students can be found in 34 C.F.R. Part 99.31. Please note: Per FERPA, disciplinary records are also considered educational records and cannot be disclosed unless one of the above exceptions applies.
4. 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 address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Release of Directory

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the school to the contrary in accordance with OCPS procedures and Board Policy JRA, Student Records. The form to opt-out of the release of directory information can be obtained from your child's school or by completing the form found at <https://www.ocps.net/cms/One.aspx?portalId=54703&pageId=1259544>. Please note, directory information, as permitted by the Board, will only be shared with contracted entities and is pursuant to Board Policy JRA, Student Records.

In accordance with FERPA and Board Policy JRA, Student Records, the following information, also known as "directory information," can be found in your child's school records and is not confidential:

- Student name.
- Student address.
- Telephone numbers, if listed.
- Name of the most recent previous school.
- Dates of attendance at schools in the district.
- Participation in officially recognized activities.
- Diplomas, certificates, and honors received.
- Date of graduation.
- Date and place of birth.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's/guardian's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks.

Military recruiters may also request the name, addresses, and telephone listings of students pursuant to federal law. Local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA), must provide the requested information to the military recruiters, unless parents/guardians have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent. [Note: These laws are Section 9528 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. § 7908) and 10 U.S.C. § 503(c), and Section 1003.451, Florida Statutes.

In addition, the names and directory information pertaining to children of active or former law enforcement officers, investigative personnel of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, firefighters, justices and judges, and other officials, as outlined in Section 119.07, Florida Statutes, are exempt from disclosure. If such a parent/guardian makes a written request to the school that information not be released by the school without parent/guardian consent, the school shall not release such information.

Release of Educational Records to Other Educational Agencies

FERPA allows for the sharing of educational records with other educational institutions under 34 C.F.R. § 99.34. OCPS may release records to institutions where the student is planning to enroll or is currently enrolled if it pertains to the student's enrollment or transfer. Parents or guardians can request a copy of these records and may seek a hearing as specified in this section. Additionally, as per Section 1003.25, Florida Statutes, transferred records must include reports of serious or recurrent behavior, threat assessments, and intervention services, along with psychological evaluations and related treatment plans or progress notes maintained by OCPS.



SECTION II: STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DUE PROCESS

All students at OSS are entitled to constitutional rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The OSS Code of Conduct and any disciplinary actions will respect these rights. Students exhibiting behavior violations as described in this handbook may face consequences ranging from parental notification to suspension, expulsion, and even criminal prosecution, in accordance with Orange County Public Schools' Board Policies.

Students have the right to a safe environment, free from harassment, hazing, or threats. Any concerns about such issues should be immediately reported to an administrator for prompt and confidential investigation. Similarly, concerns regarding the safety of other students should also be brought to an administrator's attention for immediate and confidential review.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Safe, Positive, and Receptive Learning Environment	
Students Rights	Student Responsibilities
- To feel safe in the school environment - To work in an environment free from disruptions - To have school personnel who are receptive to student needs and concerns - To expect courtesy, fairness, and respect from all members of the community - To be informed of all expectations and responsibilities - To take part in a variety of school activities - To have the right to due process	- To be caring and honest - To maintain behavior that enhances a positive learning environment - To treat all members of the community with full respect, fairness, and courtesy - To abide by all expectations of the school and a community - To have knowledge of the Code - To follow the guidelines set forth in the Code - To adhere to due process procedures
Attendance	
- To be informed of Board policies and school rules about absenteeism and tardiness - To appeal a decision about an absence - To request make-up work after an absence/suspension and to complete it in a reasonable amount of time	- To attend classes daily and be on time - To explain or document the reason for an absence - To make-up class work in a reasonable amount of time after an excused absence/suspension
Curriculum	
- To receive a teacher's grading standard at the beginning of the grading period - To receive course descriptions - To learn from competent teachers in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice - To take part in basic skills programs in elementary, middle, and high schools	- To request academic and extracurricular programs that are in line with ability - To ask for help from school personnel in choosing courses - To cooperate with teachers and contribute to an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice - To make every effort to master the basic skills
Free Speech/Expression	
- To express views through speaking and writing, but without being obscene, disruptive, abusive, or derogatory - To participate in patriotic observances, however, students have a right to not participate in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance	- To respect the right of others to express their views and refrain from using speech or expression that could substantially disrupt the learning environment or harm the health, safety, or welfare of others - To behave respectfully during patriotic observances

• To have one's religious beliefs respected • To assemble peaceably on school grounds while following federal, state, and local regulations • To help develop and distribute publications as part of the educational process • To be protected from sexual harassment	• To respect the religious beliefs of others and to refrain from activities that hold religious beliefs up to ridicule • To plan, get approval for and conduct activities that are in line 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 false or obscene material • To refrain from sexually harassing students, staff, and community members on Board property, school transportation, and/or at school activities.
Privacy and Property Rights	
• To have privacy of personal possessions unless school personnel have reason to believe a student has materials prohibited by law or Board policy; any individual on Board property, on school transportation, and/or at school activities is subject to search • To have personal property respected	• To keep materials prohibited by law or Board policy away from school or school activities • To respect others' personal property

Student Discrimination

Board Policy JB, Equal Educational Opportunities, defines discrimination as any conduct that deprives a student of the opportunity to engage in educational programs or activities based on race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or expression, spoken language, homelessness, or any other legally prohibited reason. All OSS students shall adhere to a single code that is uniformly applied. All OSS-sponsored activities, both curricular and extracurricular, must respect individual students and avoid disparaging or offending on the basis of discrimination. Students who believe they are victims of discrimination are urged to report the incident to school administration for investigation.

Title IX and Sex Discrimination

In alignment with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and Board Policy JB, Equal Educational Opportunities, OSS is dedicated to protecting students, employees, and applicants from sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on gender identity or non-conformity to gender stereotypes. OSS commits to a safe, equitable, and harassment-free environment, and will take disciplinary actions if allegations of discrimination are substantiated. Students alleging sex discrimination may utilize the school's grievance procedure or directly contact the Dean of Students.

Bullying and Harassment

Pursuant to Section 1006.147, Florida Statutes, Board Policy ADD, Safe Schools, and Board Policy JB, Equal Educational Opportunities, OSS is committed to protecting its community from bullying, harassment, or discrimination for any reason and of any type. OSS ensures a safe, equitable, and harassment-free environment for all. Substantiated claims of bullying, harassment, or discrimination will lead to disciplinary actions. Even if allegations of bullying and harassment are unconfirmed, they must be documented and reported to the Florida Department of Education via the School Environment and Incident Reporting (SESIR) system. Students reporting bullying or harassment may follow the school's grievance procedure or report directly to the Dean of Students.

CODE OF CIVILITY

The educational journey of a child is a collaborative effort involving the student, OSS faculty and staff, parents/guardians, the community, and district office personnel. This partnership thrives on shared responsibilities, effective communication, and active participation. While disagreements may arise, the strength of our partnership is demonstrated in how we manage these differences respectfully.

Civility is crucial in our interactions and is characterized not just by the absence of negative behaviors, but by the active promotion of mutual respect. It goes beyond mere politeness; it involves demonstrating respect through our actions, even towards those we may not know or agree with. Civility includes being truthful and kind, taking responsibility for one's actions, and avoiding blame.

To ensure a positive environment conducive to learning and community involvement, OSS requires all members of our community—students, faculty, staff, parents/guardians, and others—to adhere to the following principles:

1. Treat Each Other with Courtesy and Respect
 - Listen attentively and respectfully to differing opinions.
 - Express your own opinions and concerns without resorting to loud, offensive language, or gestures.
2. Show Kindness to One Another
 - Treat others as you wish to be treated.
 - Avoid any form of physical or verbal harm to others.
 - Refrain from bullying, belittling, or demeaning others.
3. Take Responsibility for Our Actions
 - Communicate honestly and transparently.
 - Manage emotions to avoid outbursts or disruptions.
 - Respect the functioning of school operations without interference.
4. Cooperate and Collaborate with Each Other
 - Follow school rules regarding access and visitation.
 - Respect others' time and obligations.
 - Share useful information that could impact our collective goals, including academic progress or safety concerns.
 - Be responsive and helpful when cooperation is requested.

Authority and Enforcement of the Code of Civility

The success of the Code of Civility at OSS relies on the individual and collective commitment of all community members—students, faculty, staff, parents/guardians, and community members. Understanding how to handle uncivil behavior is vital for maintaining a respectful learning environment. Below are the guidelines for reporting and responding to breaches of civility:

- **Students:** If a student feels that they have been treated in a manner that does not reflect the Code of Civility, they should report the behavior to a school administrator.
- **Parents/Guardians and Community Members:** Should report any uncivil behavior by staff to a school administrator.
- **Employees:** Should follow these protocols based on the situation:

- **Threats of Personal Harm:** Contact law enforcement immediately if personal harm is threatened.
- **Unauthorized Presence:** Individuals without authorization to be on OSS property should be asked to leave by an administrator or school resource officer. If they refuse, or if their behavior is disruptive or threatening, law enforcement should be contacted.
- **Inappropriate Communications:** In cases of demeaning, abusive, threatening, or obscene communications:
 - Do not engage with communication.
 - Save the message and report it to your immediate supervisor, the school resource officer, or the OSS District Police.
- **Verbal Abuse:**
 - Respond calmly and politely, requesting that the individual communicate in a civil manner.
 - If the abuse continues, terminate the meeting, conversation, or call, and if on school premises, request an administrator or authorized person to direct the individual to leave.
 - If the individual does not comply, an administrator or other authorized person should notify the school resource officer.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Students are required to wear the OSS uniform while on campus to uphold standards of cleanliness, neatness, and safety. School uniforms foster a sense of unity within the school community and allow students to focus more on their academics than their attire. Maintaining a professional appearance is integral to our educational environment and enhances student performance and morale.

Uniform Requirements

- **General Policy:** All students, including those who are dual-enrolled, must adhere to the uniform policy. This uniformity promotes a cohesive and unified appearance, fostering a sense of community within our school.
- **Exceptions:** Specific activities, such as physical education or other extracurricular events, may necessitate alternative attire. Once these activities conclude, students must revert to the standard uniform.

Administration and Compliance

- **Monitoring:** The school administration reserves the right to determine if certain modes of dress, grooming, or accessories conflict with the dress code's spirit or intent.
- **Purchasing Uniforms:** Uniforms must be purchased from Risse Brothers, our designated provider. This ensures consistency in quality and appearance across our student body. Visit [Risse Brothers School Uniforms](#) for more information. Gently used uniforms may also be available for purchase at the school.

Handling Violations

- **Immediate Action:** If students are found wearing inappropriate attire, they must change into the correct uniform and/or dress code. This may involve calling a parent or guardian to bring the appropriate clothing to school. Students will be sent to PASS until the violation can be corrected.
- **Classroom Re-entry:** Students may *not* return to class until they wear the appropriate uniform and/or dress code. If the student cannot change into proper attire promptly, alternative arrangements will be made. Depending on the situation, this might mean spending time in the PASS Room until the issue can be resolved.
- **Repeated Violations:** Multiple or repeated violations will be documented and treated as insubordination and a failure to comply with school rules and policies. Repeated violations will result in an official disciplinary referral, leading to further disciplinary actions as outlined in our school policies.

Communication

- **Updates:** The dress code policy is subject to modifications, which will be communicated promptly to students and parents by the school administration.

Uniform Policy in Detail

1. General Requirements:

- a. Wear complete and correct uniforms upon arrival and remain in uniform throughout the school day.
- b. Uniforms are required during club times and in dismissal and after-care areas.
- c. Students taking the bus must be in full uniform.

2. Top Options:

a. Knit (polo) Shirts:

- a. Fabric: Pique or jersey in school colors with visible OSS logo.
- b. Styles: Available in short or long sleeves, must always be tucked in.

b. Sweatshirts:

- a. Color and logo: Must match school colors with visible OSS logo.
- b. Additional requirements: Must be worn with a polo shirt underneath and cannot be worn around the waist. Should not have any writing or designs on it.

c. Vests and Sweaters

- a. Color and logo: School-appropriate color, embroidered with OSS logo.
- b. Restrictions: Must be worn with a polo shirt underneath and cannot be worn around the waist or neck.

d. Jackets and Hoodies

- a. Must be school-appropriate color and embroidered with the OSS school logo. Hoods of hoodies should not be worn indoors at any time. Should not have any writing or designs.
- b. Non-OSS hoodies are prohibited on the OSS campus, except during dress-down days if appropriate to the dress-down theme.

e. Spirit Tops

- a. School Spirit, team, or club t-shirts may be worn on Fridays or when the student's club or team has an event or competition.



2. Pants or Shorts

- a. Pants or shorts without belt loops are strictly prohibited. To comply with the dress code, all pants and shorts must have belt loops.
- b. Must be khaki, black, or navy blue with belt loops, worn with a belt.
- c. Pockets should be side seam in the front, sewn inside at the back.
- d. No outside or extra pockets, rivets, brads, split seams, flaps on pockets, or cargo shorts.
- e. Material should be 100% cotton or a cotton/polyester blend, wrinkle resistant.
- f. Bottoms with any form of writing, designs, rips, tears or frayed edges are not allowed.
- g. Must be worn properly at the waist; sagging is prohibited.
- h. Shorts must be longer than fingertip length when arms are at the side; no rolling up or folding.
- i. Physical Education shorts are allowed only during physical education periods.
- j. Shorts or bottoms that are excessively tight and form-fitting are not permitted.

3. Skirts:

- a. Must be khaki, black, or navy blue, not made from jean, suede, or corduroy material.
- b. No splits permitted; length must be longer than fingertip length when standing.
- c. Must not be rolled or folded at the waistband.
- d. **Appropriate Undergarments:** Leggings or shorts worn under skirts or skorts must always be covered completely by the skirt or skort. This ensures modesty and maintains a neat appearance. For additional modesty, students are permitted to wear long leggings under skirts. These leggings should be solid colored and align with the school's color palette (black, navy blue, or white).
- e. **Coverage Requirements:** Skirts or skorts should be long enough to ensure that the leggings or shorts are not visible beyond the hemline of the skirt or skort while standing, sitting, or engaging in school activities. This rule is designed to maintain the professional and modest appearance required in the school environment.

4. Shoes:

- a. Acceptable shoes include conservative dress shoes, sport/walking shoes, loafers, sneakers, and leather deck-type shoes.

- b. Colors must *primarily* be solid black, white, brown, gray, or navy blue. Socks must always be worn with shoes.
- c. Shoes must be closed-toed and appropriately tied, with buckles fastened and straps secured. Slippers, thin-soled shoes, flip-flops, and open-toed shoes are not allowed.
- d. Boots, Uggs, clog or slipper-style Crocs, roller shoes, and high-heeled shoes are prohibited.
- e. Athletic shoes with spikes or lugged soles are allowed only for physical education or school-sponsored athletic activities and not inside the school building.

5. Accessories:

a. Belts:

- **Mandatory with Belt Loops:** When wearing pants or shorts that feature belt loops, wearing a belt is mandatory. This requirement is essential for ensuring that the attire fits properly and maintains the neatness and professionalism expected within the school environment.
- **Acceptable Belt Styles:** Belts should be simple and functional without oversized buckles or flashy embellishments. Acceptable materials for belts include leather or durable fabric.
- **Color Coordination:** Belts should be in solid colors like black, brown, or navy, intended to coordinate with the standard school uniform.
- **Proper Fit:** Belts must be worn snugly to prevent pants or shorts from sagging, ensuring a tidy appearance throughout the school day. Belts also help in keeping the uniform in place during various school activities.

b. Socks, Stockings, Tights, or Hose:

- Should be solid black, khaki, or white; clear or skin-colored hose are also acceptable.

c. Jewelry and Other Accessories:

- Must be appropriate for school and not pose a safety risk. Jewelry should be kept simple and to a minimum to avoid distractions.

6. Miscellaneous Guidelines:

- a. Clothing must be clean, neat, and worn appropriately.
- b. Undergarments must not be visible.
- c. Hair, face, and body paint, as well as tattoos, are not permitted.
- d. Athletic outfits are only allowed in PE classes or on designated dress-down days.
- e. Cosmetics and/or make-up must be age-appropriate, appropriate for school, and not attract attention.
- f. Clothing with rips, tears, holes, or frayed edges is inappropriate for school.
- g. Jewelry and accessories must be appropriate for school and not pose a safety risk. For example, piercings other than earrings are prohibited, nose piercings are not allowed. Hair accessories must not draw attention or pose a danger.
- h. Extreme hairstyles, unnatural hair colors, or designs shaved into the hair are not allowed. Only natural hair colors and standard frosting or highlighting are acceptable.
- i. Hats, caps, curlers, headscarves, bandanas, doo-rags, combs, sweatbands, chains, sunglasses, tennis skirts, gloves, arm warmers, and coats are not allowed during school hours, even on dress-down days.
- j. Religious exemptions to the dress code can be granted if approved in advance.

Dress-Down Day Policy

Dress-down days allow students to express individuality while adhering to a relaxed yet respectful dress code. These days are designated for special events, such as a school or club fundraiser, or on a student's birthday. Students with birthdays during the summer can celebrate their dress-down day in May. On dress-down days, all apparel must be in good taste. Offensive or suggestive wording, illustrations, or advertisements for inappropriate items are not permitted.

1. General Dress-Down Day Guidelines:

- **Eligibility:** Students may participate in dress-down days on specified dates or events and may apply for a birthday dress-down pass at the front office.
- **Respectful Attire:** All clothing must be appropriate, respectful, and must not display offensive or suggestive messages. Clothing should fit properly and be in good condition without holes, or inappropriate modifications.

2. Tops

- **Allowed:** T-shirts, casual blouses, and sweatshirts without hoods worn overhead.
- **Prohibited:** Tank tops, halter tops, tops with spaghetti straps, low cut tops, or any tops that expose the midriff or shoulders.

3. Bottoms

- **Allowed:** Jeans, casual pants, and shorts that come Mid-thigh length to knee length shorts
- **Prohibited:** Shorts or skirts shorter than fingertip length, sweatpants, pajamas, or lounge attire, and leggings or yoga pants worn as pants. (leggings are permitted under appropriate-length skirts and shorts).

4. Shoes

- **Allowed:** Sneakers, loafers, and other casual shoes.
- **Prohibited:** Flip-flops, slippers, Crocs, and open-toed shoes for safety reasons.

5. Accessories

- **Allowed:** Jewelry that is not a safety hazard; hats and sunglasses may be worn *outdoors*.
- **Prohibited:** Excessive or large jewelry that could be a safety issue during school activities.

6. Additional Considerations

- **Outerwear:** Non-OSS hoodies are allowed *if* they align with the day's theme.
- **Special Themed Dress-Down Days:** Specific guidelines will be provided for themed dress-down days, such as sports team day or decades day, ensuring that attire is appropriate to the theme without compromising the respectful environment of the school.

7. Compliance

- **Monitoring:** School staff will monitor compliance with the dress-down day guidelines. Non-compliant students will be asked to modify their attire or remain in PASS until corrected.
- **Communications:** Specific dress-down days and applicable themes will be communicated in advance through Microsoft Teams, school announcements, and parent newsletters.

STUDENT SAFETY

Safe Harbor

If a student has an object that is not allowed by the Code of Conduct, they can turn it into a school official or contracted personnel without being disciplined if no investigation has begun. If an investigation has started, the student may still turn in the object, but disciplinary action may be taken.

If students find illegal objects like drugs, weapons, or other contraband at school or during a school activity, they can report it to a school official or contracted personnel without violating the Code of Conduct. School officials will follow proper procedures for investigating the report, and law enforcement may be contacted for serious offenses like firearms, drugs, or explosives.

Please be aware that the Safe Harbor provisions do not apply to objects not allowed by the Code of Conduct and found during a search of a person, belongings, vehicle, or school lockers.

Participation in Extracurricular/Co-curricular Activities

At Orlando Science Schools (OSS), participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities, including after-school clubs and academic competitive teams, requires students to comply with Board policies, school-based code of conduct, and applicable laws. It's crucial for students to understand that OSS's behavioral expectations extend beyond the classroom and school premises, encompassing activities on social media and other off-campus behavior. Such behaviors, especially if they cause disruption to school operations or activities, may affect a student's eligibility to participate in these activities.

Under Section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, OSS has the authority to withhold participation privileges from students for certain disciplinary offenses or if their actions substantially disrupt the school environment or community. Additionally, any student formally charged with a felony or similar serious offense may be excluded from participating in these activities for at least one calendar year. Should the charges be dismissed, or the student found not guilty, they may resume participation upon presenting court documentation.

Specifically, students who commit a Level III or IV hazing offense are subject to exclusion from extracurricular and co-curricular activities for a minimum of one calendar year or for the remainder of their enrollment at OSS, respectively.

In conjunction with the Juvenile Justice System, OSS is committed to upholding behavior standards for all students. This commitment ensures that OSS maintains a productive, safe, and respectful environment conducive to student growth both in and out of the classroom. Further details about policies regarding extracurricular and co-curricular activities are outlined in Board Policy JJ, Extracurricular Activities.

Possession, Use, or Sale of Controlled Substances and/or Alcohol

Under state law and Board Policy JICH (Drug and Alcohol Use by Students), any student found unlawfully using, possessing, or selling controlled substances—as defined in Chapter 893 of the Florida Statutes—or alcohol on school property, in school transportation, or during school activities will face disciplinary actions, which may include suspension or expulsion. Additionally, such actions may attract criminal penalties.

Possession of Firearms, Weapons, and/or Destructive Devices on School Property

Under Chapter 790 of the Florida Statutes and Board Policy JIC1 (Firearms, Weapons, and Destructive Devices), the possession of any firearm, weapon, or destructive device ("weapons") by a student on Board property, in school transportation, or during school activities, is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to, the presence of a weapon on the student's person, in a vehicle, or within any container or conveyance.

Any student found in possession of a weapon in these contexts will face expulsion for no less than one full year from their regular school, with or without the provision of continuing educational services. Additionally, the student will be referred to appropriate mental health services as specified by OCPS under [Section 1012.584\(4\), Florida Statutes](#), and may also face criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. For more details on this policy, please refer to [Board Policy JICJ](#).

Simulated Weapons

A student will not be disciplined for simulating a firearm or weapon during play, nor for wearing clothing or accessories that depict a firearm or weapon, or for expressing opinions about Second Amendment rights, provided these actions do not substantially disrupt learning, cause bodily harm, or place others in reasonable fear of harm. Examples of permissible simulation include, but are not limited to:

- Brandishing a partially consumed pastry or other food item to simulate a firearm or weapon.
- Possessing a toy firearm or weapon that is two (2) inches or less in overall length.
- Possessing a toy firearm or weapon made of plastic snap-together building blocks.
- Using a finger or hand to simulate a firearm or weapon.
- Vocalizing an imaginary firearm or weapon.
- Drawing a picture, or possessing an image, of a firearm or weapon.
- Using a pencil, pen, or other writing or drawing utensil to simulate a firearm or weapon.

However, disciplinary action may be necessary if such simulations disrupt learning, cause bodily harm, or instill a reasonable fear of harm. The severity of consequences will be proportional to the severity of the offense and aligned with Board policies for similar offenses. In such cases, the Dean of Students will contact the student's parent or guardian.

Violence Against School Employees

OSS strictly prohibits any form of violence against school employees, contracted personnel, or volunteers. This policy ensures a safe and respectful environment for all members of our school community.

Zero Tolerance: Acts of aggression or physical violence against staff members are not tolerated and will lead to severe disciplinary actions, including expulsion.

Legal Consequences: Such acts may also result in criminal penalties, as they violate Section 784.081, Florida Statutes, which covers assault and battery against school employees.

Immediate Actions: Students accused of these offenses will be immediately removed from the classroom and placed in an alternative educational setting pending further investigation and disciplinary proceedings.

Threats or False Reports

Any student who makes a threat or false report involving school property, transportation, or a school-sponsored activity, as defined by Florida Statutes Sections [790.162](#), [790.163](#), and [836.10](#), will be expelled for a minimum of one full school year and referred to law enforcement, regardless of intent. This includes bomb threats, threats to use firearms in a violent manner, threats to kill or do bodily harm, and threats to conduct a mass shooting or act of terrorism. The Code of Conduct provides additional definitions for direct and indirect threats, with direct threats being straightforward and clear, while indirect threats may not state a specific victim or intend for the threat to be heard or seen by the victim. Additionally, if a student alludes to bringing a weapon to school on social media, they will be presumed to create a disruptive environment, leading to disciplinary action and potential criminal penalties, regardless of whether the weapon is brought.

Zero Tolerance for School-Related Violent Crime

In accordance with Section 1006.13, Florida Statutes, the intent of OSS is to promote a safe and supportive learning environment in schools, to protect students and staff from conduct that poses a threat to school safety. The Zero Tolerance Policy is not intended to be rigorously applied to petty acts of misconduct. The Zero Tolerance Policy must apply equally to all students regardless of their economic status, race, or disability. Zero Tolerance policies must require students found to have committed one of the following offenses to be expelled, with or without continuing education services, from the student's regular school for a period of not less than 1 full year, and to be referred to the criminal justice or juvenile justice system: a) bringing a firearm or weapon, as defined in Chapter 790, Florida Statutes, to school, to any school function, or onto any school -sponsored transportation or possessing a firearm at school, b) making a threat or false report, as defined by Sections 790.162, 790.163, Florida Statutes, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity.

Fighting and Self-Defense

Fighting is *strictly* prohibited on OSS property, during school transportation, and at school activities. According to the Florida Department of Education, fighting involves two or more individuals mutually engaging in physical violence that necessitates physical intervention or results in injury needing first aid or medical attention. Such incidents can escalate to a Level IV offense. In situations where a student *cannot* escape an impending attack, self-defense is permissible.

Self-defense actions are those necessary to protect oneself or others from serious harm and may involve seeking adult assistance, restraining or blocking an attacker, shielding oneself or others, or pushing to escape. *However*, retaliating through physical aggression like punching, slapping, kicking, or failing to leave the area when possible may be classified as fighting. Under Section 1006.13, Florida Statutes, there is a rebuttable presumption in disciplinary actions that a student's intervention, using only necessary force to prevent violence against others, was essential for maintaining safety.

CELL PHONE AND PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY

Policy Overview

This policy applies to all personal electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, smartwatches, speakers, and earbuds. While Orlando Science Schools (OSS) permits students to bring these devices to school, their use during school hours is prohibited.

Statutory Compliance and School Authority

In accordance with Section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, students are not permitted to use wireless communication devices during instructional time unless specifically directed by a teacher for educational purposes. The statute mandates that each district or school board adopt rules governing the use of such devices on school property or during school functions.

Designated Storage Area

OSS has determined that the designated area for storing electronic devices during instructional periods will be the students' lockers. This decision aligns with our authority to specify rules under the state statute, ensuring that devices do not interfere with the educational process.

Device Visibility and Usage

Devices must not be visible at *any* time during school hours, including when they are carried in pockets. Devices seen or heard outside of approved circumstances will be considered a policy violation and will be confiscated.

Usage During School Functions and After-School Activities

The same rules apply to all school functions and after-school activities. Parents are encouraged to contact the front office for urgent communications.

Legal and Privacy Concerns

Using devices to capture photos, send/receive messages, or record sessions without proper authorization is strictly prohibited. Such actions violate the privacy of students and staff and may contravene the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). Violations can lead to disciplinary actions, including suspension or expulsion, and may involve law enforcement.

Liability

At no time shall OSS be responsible for theft, loss or damage to cell phones or other electronic devices brought onto its property.

Enforcement and Non-Compliance

OSS staff members will be monitoring for any type of electronic device. If a device is visible or in use, staff will request the device *once*. If the student refuses to hand over the device, they will receive a minimum of a Level II disciplinary referral for Insubordination/Open Defiance. Confiscated devices will be stored at the front office and returned *only* to a parent/guardian. Shipping of devices requires prepayment of shipping charges by the parent/guardian.

SAFETY IN PRIVATE SPACES ACT

Pursuant to Section 553.865(9)(a), Florida Statutes, each educational institution shall, within its code of student conduct, establish disciplinary procedures for any student who willfully enters, for a purpose other than those listed below: a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex on the premises of the educational institution and refuses to depart when asked to do so by any instructional personnel as described in s. 1012.01(2), 212 administrative personnel as described in s. 1012.01(3), or a 213 safe-school officer as described in s. 1006.12(1)-(4).

For purposes of this section, pursuant to Section 553.865(6), Florida Statutes “a person may only enter a restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex under the following circumstances:

1. To accompany a person of the opposite sex for the purpose of assisting or chaperoning a child under the age of 12, an elderly person as defined in s. 825.101, or a person with a disability as defined in s. 760.22 or a developmental disability as defined in s. 393.063;
2. For law enforcement or governmental regulatory purposes;
3. For the purpose of rendering emergency medical assistance or to intervene in any other emergency situation where the health or safety of another person is at risk;
4. For custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes, provided that the restroom or changing facility is not in use; or
5. If the appropriate designated restroom or changing facility is out of order or under repair and the restroom or changing facility designated for the opposite sex contains no person of the opposite sex.”

The following definitions apply pursuant to Section 553.865(3), Florida Statutes:

- "Changing facility" means a room in which two or more persons may be in a state of undress in the presence of others, including, but not limited to, a dressing room, fitting room, locker room, changing room, or shower room."
- "Educational institution" means a K-12 educational institution or facility or a postsecondary educational institution or facility."
- "Female" means a person belonging, at birth, to the biological sex which has the specific reproductive role of producing eggs."
- "Male" means a person belonging, at birth, to the biological sex which has the specific reproductive role of producing sperm."
- "Restroom" means a room that includes one or more water closets. This term does not include a unisex restroom."
- "Sex" means the classification of a person as either female or male based on the organization of the body of such person for a specific reproductive role, as indicated by the person's sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, and internal and external genitalia present at birth."
- "Unisex changing facility" means a room intended for a single occupant or a family in which one or more persons may be in a state of undress, including, but not limited to, a dressing room, fitting room, locker room, changing room, or shower room that is enclosed by floor-to-ceiling walls and accessed by a full door with a secure lock that prevents another individual from entering while the changing facility is in use."
- "Unisex restroom" means a room that includes one or more water closets and that is intended for a single occupant or a family, is enclosed by floor-to-ceiling walls, and is accessed by a full door with a secure lock that prevents another individual from entering while the room is in use."
- "Water closet" means a toilet or urinal." Violations of the policy will result in disciplinary action pursuant to the Code.

Hate Speech

Pursuant to Board Policy JB, Equal Educational Opportunity, all students attending OSS “shall be treated according to a unitary code which applies equally regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or expression, language spoken, homelessness, or any other reason prohibited by law.” The use of hate speech will not be tolerated, and violations will be subject to this Code.

Sexting

In accordance with Section 847.0141, Florida Statutes, sexting is defined as using any computer or electronic device to send, forward, display, retain, store or post sexually explicit, lewd, indecent or pornographic photographs, images or messages. Sexting will not be tolerated. Participation in sexting:

- During school hours or school activities on or off campus.
- While on Board property or school transportation; or
- Beyond the hours of school operation if the behavior adversely affects the personal safety or well-being of school-related individuals, the governance, climate or efficient operation of the school, or the education process or experience shall be cause for disciplinary action pursuant to this Code.

Student Parking and School Locker Search

All OSS parking areas and lockers are the property of the school. School authorities have the right to inspect any student vehicle and/or lockers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students and school employees. This includes the use of K-9 detection dogs. Each student who uses OSS property to park a vehicle must sign a Student Parking Application and Consent to Search and Waiver of Liability acknowledging and agreeing to the conditions as a prerequisite to, and in consideration for, the issuance of a student parking decal. Student parked vehicles and/or locker searches will be conducted if school personnel have reasonable suspicion of violating the law or the Code of Conduct. A student is responsible for all objects found in the car the student drove on campus and/or found in the student’s locker. Routine locker clean-ups are not considered searches.

Search of an Individual

Any individual on OSS property, school transportation, and/or at a school activity is subject to search. To this end, OSS recognizes the need to respect the rights of individuals while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all students and school employees. The district has developed operational guidelines for random electronic scanning utilizing metal detectors and “hands-on” physical searches in schools as a means of helping to create and to maintain a safe educational environment. Students may have their classrooms randomly selected to be searched, including a search of the student’s person and/or belongings. Regarding student discipline investigations, school personnel are authorized to search a student and their property if reasonable suspicion of a violation of the law or Code of Conduct exists.

Hazing

In accordance with Section 1006.135, Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code R. 6A-1.0017) and Board Policy JIC, Code of Student Conduct, OSS is committed to protecting its students from any hazing activities at any time on Board property, on school transportation, at school activities, and/or off school property if the misconduct is connected to participation or membership of a club or organization of a school. Hazing will not be tolerated. Participation in hazing activities shall be cause for disciplinary action. Any person who has knowledge or engages in hazing is strongly encouraged to report it directly to the Principal or designee. Any act of hazing may be reported anonymously.

“Hazing” is defined in Florida Administrative Code R. 6A-1.0017 as “any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any of grades 6-12 for purposes of, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any school-sanctioned organization. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, pressuring, coercing, or forcing a student to participate in illegal or dangerous behavior, or any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, or exposure to the elements.” Hazing does not include customary athletic events, other similar contests, competitions, or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

Teen Dating Violence and Abuse

Dating violence is defined as violence committed by a person who has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. Dating violence and/or abuse by any student is prohibited on school property, on school transportation, and/or during any school activity, and will be subject to disciplinary action and may result in criminal penalties.

Anyone who suspects dating violence and/or abuse is occurring is strongly encouraged to report the dating violence and/or abuse to the school administration for further investigation. The reporter may choose to remain anonymous. Any allegations of dating violence will be investigated in accordance with Board Policy JB, Equal Educational Opportunities.

Trafficking

Any form of trafficking, such as human trafficking or drug trafficking, is prohibited on all Board property, school transportation, and/or at school activities. Anyone who is a victim of trafficking or anyone who suspects trafficking is strongly encouraged to report the allegations to the school administration for further investigation. School administration should consult with the school resource officer or law enforcement officer if the school resource officer is unavailable before beginning an investigation. The reporter may choose to remain anonymous.

Tobacco/Vaping

Board Policy ADC, Tobacco Free Schools and Facilities, prohibits the use of all tobacco products, tobacco-related products, and electronic smoking devices on Board property, school transportation, and/or at school activities at all times. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, consuming, displaying, promoting, or selling/buying any tobacco product, tobacco-related product, electronic smoking device, or any item represented as such, at any time while on Board property, on school transportation, and/or at a school activity. This prohibition includes wearing clothing or using other items to advertise or promote tobacco products or electronic smoking devices.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS & CONSEQUENCES

Expulsion

Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes defines “expulsion” as the removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school under conditions set by OCPS, and for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one (1) additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed with or without continuing educational services and shall be reported accordingly. All Level IV Offenses may result in an expulsion pursuant to Section 1003.01 Florida Statutes, which may be up to “a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and 1 additional year of attendance.” Some level IV offenses require a mandatory expulsion as outlined in Florida Statutes and this Code. These offenses include firearms/weapons possession/use and or threats or false reports. Please note, the term “expulsion” is interchangeable with “full exclusion” and “expelled.”

Out-of-School Suspension

Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes, defines “suspension” as 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 or the principal’s designee, for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days and remanding of the student to the custody of the student’s parent/guardian with specific homework assignments for the student to complete. The Code has certain offenses that could result in out-of-school suspension. If a student receives out-of-school suspension, they are prohibited from attending school, any school-sponsored activity, or athletic program/event.

Positive Alternative to School Suspension

Section 1003.01, Florida Statutes defines “in-school suspension” as the temporary removal of a student from the student’s regular school program and placement in an alternative program under the supervision of OSS personnel, for a period not to exceed ten (10) days. The Positive Alternative to School Suspension (PASS) is a disciplinary option that provides a positive and supportive environment for students to reflect on their behavior and make positive choices. This formal disciplinary action can only be assigned by the OSS administrator and requires correspondence to parents.

Students assigned to PASS are required to attend in-school days and bring academic work or may be assigned work detail while serving. If necessary, in-school days of PASS may increase on successive occasions. Students assigned to PASS are not permitted to participate in after-school activities and must leave campus immediately upon dismissal. In some cases, a student may be sent to PASS while a disciplinary investigation is conducted.

Detention – Lunch/After-School/Multiple After School/Saturday

Detention may be assigned during school, club hours, or outside of normal school hours if deemed necessary by the Principal or Dean of Students. Written notice is typically given to the parent/legal guardian 24 hours before the start of the detention. However, in some cases, the student may serve detention on the same day as the offense, and the school will attempt to inform the parent by phone or OSS Connect.

If detention is assigned after school or during club time, it shall not exceed one hour for five consecutive school days unless otherwise agreed upon by the Principal/Dean of Students and parent/guardian. Transportation arrangements will be made by the Dean of Students for students who ride the school bus.

For Saturday detentions, the duration shall not exceed five hours unless otherwise agreed upon by the Principal/Dean of Students and parent/guardian. Prior transportation arrangements must be made before detention can be assigned on a non-school day.

Parent Conference

Our primary strategy for addressing misbehavior is to partner with parents. Open communication and shared responsibility are vital to promoting positive behavior and academic progress. A parent conference will be requested if simple phone calls are ineffective in correcting the behavior. These conferences may be held in person or virtually depending on the circumstances.

Withholding of Privileges

The student may be denied the opportunity to participate in school-related activities and events, such as field trips, social events, after-school clubs, or athletics, as determined appropriate by an administrator. This action may be taken if a student does not meet the necessary requirements or violates school policies or guidelines. In some cases, the club sponsor and school administration may remove the student from their club for a set time or indefinitely.

Work Detail

In most cases, a student serving PASS or detention will complete some work detail that the Dean of Students or PASS Coordinator assigns. Examples include picking up trash or cleaning a designated area. Additionally, any student serving PASS will complete work detail in addition to their studies.

Campaign Project

As part of the Positive Alternative to School Suspension (PASS), students may be assigned a Campaign Project, which provides an opportunity to promote positive behavior and address specific issues within the school community. Campaign Projects are typically related to the offense committed or a schoolwide initiative and may involve tasks such as writing and presenting a report or creating imagery to promote mental health awareness or reduce bullying. Our goal is to support students in making positive choices, and Campaign Projects provide a constructive way to engage and empower students to contribute to a safe and respectful school environment.

Behavior Contract

Students who repeatedly violate the Code of Conduct will be placed on a behavior contract. It is differentiated based on the needs of the school, student, and parent. All parties play a role in the contract's development and implementation. The contract documents behavior expectations and consequences, allowing for an extension of disciplinary consequences if necessary. Failure to agree to the contract does not prevent further disciplinary action. The contract includes specific behavioral expectations, consequences, and a plan for monitoring progress, as well as support services.

Restorative Practices

is a research-based approach to address school culture and climate. Restorative Practice is a preventative approach aimed at promoting inclusiveness, relationship-building, and problem-solving. Restorative Practices involve a continuum of interventions and strategies that are both proactive and responsive. OSS has implemented Restorative Practices to address the unique needs of students who have committed disciplinary offenses in violation of the Code. A trained school staff member (administrator, teacher, or counselor) facilitates Restorative Practices conflict resolution circles with the person harmed and the person causing harm. Some restorative methods include using affective statements, restorative questions, community-building circles, and conflict-resolution circles. Restorative Practices also aim to build a school culture that focuses on developing and maintaining relationships among educators and students. Through Restorative Practice, all voices are heard as problems are addressed and solved. Restorative Practices teach the skills necessary to manage and reduce conflict. Completing Restorative Practices may serve as an acceptable consequence in lieu of a suspension or other appropriate disciplinary response.

Court Orders and Felony Suspension/Expulsion

If a student is formally charged by a prosecuting attorney for a felony offense, or a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult, for an incident which allegedly occurred on property other than Board property, a felony suspension proceeding may be initiated against the student as permitted by Section 1006.09, Florida Statutes. Additional information can be found in Section VI of the Code. If a court determines that the student did commit a felony or delinquency act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, OCPS may expel the student, provided that expulsion does not affect the delivery of educational services to the student in any residential, nonresidential, alternative, daytime, or evening program outside of the regular school setting as permitted by Section 1006.09, Florida Statutes. Additional information can be found in Section VI of the Code. In addition, if a student has a no-contact order with other children or students, the student may be removed from their current school of enrollment and placed in another OCPS school or program. Additional information regarding no-contact orders and felony offenses can be found in Section 1006.13, Florida Statutes, and Board Policy JIC, Code of Student Conduct.

Consultation with Law Enforcement

Section 1006.13, Florida Statutes, and Board Policy JIC, Code of Student Conduct requires OSS employees to consult with the school resource officer (SRO), or law enforcement officer if the SRO is not available, for any act that poses a threat to school safety that occurs whenever or wherever students are in the jurisdiction of the district school board. OSS employees are not required to consult with law enforcement when a student commits a petty act of misconduct that is not a threat to school safety. A threat management team may use alternatives to expulsion or referral to law enforcement agencies to address disruptive behavior through restitution, civil citation, teen court, neighborhood restorative justice, or similar programs. The final determination of whether the SRO or law enforcement officer will issue a civil citation or pre-arrest diversion program rests solely with the SRO or law enforcement officer and does not exempt the student from receiving other forms of discipline interventions from the school. This recommendation cannot be made for certain offenses, which includes, but is not limited to, the following: felonies; threats to the school; and possession/use of a firearm or weapon.

Dual Enrollment/Postsecondary Notification

Students who participate in a dual-enrollment program are subject to both this Code and the participating postsecondary institution's Code of Student Conduct. Any disciplinary offenses that occur on OCPS campus will be reported to the participating postsecondary school where the student is dually enrolled and may result in the student being excused from the program. In addition, any disciplinary offenses that occur on the postsecondary institution's campus will be reported to OCPS for further investigation. Students who commit a verified Level IV offense pursuant to this Code may be unable to complete their dual enrollment program.

Failure to Attend Classes

If a student arrives at school and then leaves campus, has temporary absences from classes, or fails to attend specific classes, the school can take disciplinary action for skipping.

Corporal Punishment

The Board prohibits the administration of corporal punishment in the school district.

School Environment Safety Incident Report (SESIR)

Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017 requires school districts to correctly code data used to report incidents that are against the law or represent serious breaches of the Code of Student Conduct. This includes those incidents considered severe enough to require the involvement of a School Resource Officer “SRO” or incidents to be “Reported to Law Enforcement.” Those incidents that are required to be reported to SESIR and/or Law Enforcement are identified in the Code of Student Conduct with the three-letter code identifying SESIR incidents. When multiple incidents occur at the same time and place, the incident that caused the most injury or the highest loss of property or monetary cost should be the one reported. Any related elements to the SESIR incident must be reported. A related element includes those specified in Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017(8): alcohol, bullying, drug, gang, hate crime, hazing, injury, vaping, and weapon(s). “Reported to Law Enforcement,” means that an official action was taken by a School Resource Officer (SRO) or a local law enforcement officer such as: a case number was assigned, a report was filed, an affidavit was filed, a civil citation was issued, an investigation was conducted and found to be an incident reportable to SESIR, or an arrest was made.

REWARD SYSTEM

Students at OSS are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior. However, students will be recognized for “doing good” for going above and beyond the expected behavior. Some examples are, but not limited to:

- Assisting someone in need.
- Volunteering to do an unwanted task.
- Cleaning up after others.
- Consistently having a cooperative spirit.
- Exceeding requirements on an assigned task or assignment.

Commendations

A Commendation will be awarded to students who are observed exhibiting Commendation Cornerstones and going “above and beyond” expected behavior. Any OSS employee who observes a student engaged in this type of exceptional behavior can issue a Commendation. These Commendations will not be noted on a student’s permanent discipline transcript. However, they will be entered on OSS Connect for parental viewing and are a major factor in determining the student(s) of the Month.

COMMENDATION CORNERSTONES

ACTS OF KINDNESS • Helping another student with their schoolwork. • Picking up something another student dropped. • Comforting a student who seems upset.	RESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR • Listening attentively when others are speaking. • Using polite language and manners. • Treating school property with care.	ACTIVE PARTICIPATION • Participating actively in class discussions. • Asking thoughtful questions. • Contributing to group assignments.	POSITIVE ATTITUDE • Maintaining a positive attitude, even when faced with challenges. • Encouraging peers to stay positive. • Displaying enthusiasm for learning and school activities.	SCHOOL SPIRIT • Participating in school events and activities. • Showing pride in the school through positive conversations. • Wearing school colors or spirit wear.
RESPONSIBILITY • Completing assignments on time. • Remembering and following through on tasks without being reminded. • Taking ownership of mistakes and working to correct them.	INCLUSIVITY • Including all students in conversations and activities. • Standing up against bullying. • Showing respect for diverse viewpoints and backgrounds.	LEADERSHIP • Taking the initiative to lead group activities or projects. • Demonstrating problem-solving skills. • Acting as a positive role model for other students.	IMPROVEMENT & EFFORT • Showing noticeable improvement in a subject area. • Making a consistent effort, even in challenging subjects. • Trying new strategies to improve academic performance.	COLLABORATION • Working well in team assignments. • Sharing resources and ideas with teammates. • Resolving conflicts in a mature manner.

Schoolwide Rewards

Each school year different rewards are implemented to recognize and motivate students. These rewards can vary based on the unique initiatives and programs at each school. These are generally end-of-year awards given for academic excellence and celebrate students who have demonstrated outstanding performance in their studies throughout the year.

A system of rewards for students who reach a documented level of behavior has been put in place to recognize those students for their achievements. Eligibility for participating in each of these rewards differs - some are based on receiving Commendations, while others are based on good behavior. The School-Wide Rewards include, but are not limited to:

Dress-Down Days

Students will be offered both free and paid dress-down days. These dress-down days may occur once each month, alternating between paid and free. Eligibility for participating in the free Dress-Down Days is based on receiving no disciplinary events during the previous month, having fewer than four Conduct Points, AND having not served any Positive Alternative to School Suspensions (PASS) or out-of-school suspension (OSS) during the school year. Students who have received PASS will still be eligible for paid dress-down days. Students participating must follow the OSS guidelines listed under the section Dress Code. Students with outstanding financial balances may be ineligible to participate in Dress Down Days.

Student of the Month

The Student of the Month winners for each month will be given a signed certificate from the administration, have their picture taken with the Dean of Students, and have their pictures displayed on the hallway monitors for the month in which they won.

Orca Character Awards

Students and teachers will receive monthly awards for exemplifying the OSS ORCA Core Values: outreach towards the community, Respect and compassion for all, Celebration of diversity, Advocacy for a safe learning environment, and Striving for excellence within a stimulating environment.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

OSS recognizes two types of absences and tardiness: **excused** and **unexcused**. If a student has an excused absence, they must plan with their teacher to make up any missed homework, quizzes, or tests. On the other hand, unexcused absences can have consequences, so students are encouraged to make every effort to attend school and arrive on time.

Excused Absences

On occasion students might need to miss school for various reasons. However, only specific reasons can be acceptable. Parents or guardians must notify the school of the absence the morning their child does not attend classes. A written excuse to the school office must be submitted for any absences to ensure attendance records are current.

Doctor's Note Requirement

To qualify an absence as excused for illness, injury, or medical appointment, the following criteria must be strictly met:

A written note from a licensed healthcare provider must include:

- Provider's signature
- Student's name
- Date(s) of excused absence
- Medical reason for absence
- Date student may return to school

Notes lacking any of the above elements including provider signature and duration will not be accepted. Absent such documentation, the absence may be classified as unexcused.

For absences of 3 consecutive days or more due to illness or injury, a healthcare provider note is mandatory to qualify as excused.

Documentation must be submitted within two (2) school days of the student's return following an absence. Submission via written note or electronic upload is acceptable.

An excuse for absence from school may be approved for one or more of the following reasons or conditions:

- **Personal Illness:** Personal illness of the student or when attendance in school would endanger the health of the student or the health of others is excused. Upon the student's return to school, appropriate medical documentation is required within three days of the absence(s). Parents or guardian should call/email the school each morning the student stays home ill. Upon return to school, a student must bring an explanatory note from the parent or guardian, or it will be documented as an unexcused absence. The school may require a doctor's confirmation if the student has 3 or more medical excused absences.
- **Serious Illness or Death in the Family:** Serious illness or death in the student's immediate family necessitating the absence. In the case of serious illness, students must present medical documentation to validate the absence(s) as an excused absence within three days of the student's return to school. Parent or guardian must call/email the office to explain the situation and the estimated time of absence. Upon return to school, an explanatory note from a parent/guardian or doctor must be submitted in the front office.

- **Legal Requirements:** A court order by a governmental agency mandating the student's absence from school is excused. A parent or guardian must call/email the office to explain the situation and the estimated time of absence. Upon return to school, a copy of the court order documentation must be submitted to the front office.
- **Special or Recognized Religious Holidays:** Special or recognized religious holidays observed by the student's faith. Parent or guardian must call/email the office to explain the situation and the estimated time of absence. Upon return to school, an explanatory note from a parent/guardian or doctor must be submitted in the front office.
- **Weather or Environmental Conditions:** Weather or environmental conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to the student's health or safety may be excused. Parent or guardian must call/email the office to explain the situation and the estimated time of absence. Upon return to school, a copy of the court order documentation must be submitted to the front office.
- **Other Conditions:** Other absences to be determined by, and at the discretion of, the Principal may be excused.

Pre-Notified Extended Absences

Students who will be absent for an extended period that is pre-notified before the absence must fill out a "Pre-Notification of Extended Absence Form." This form must be filled out 5 days before the absence. Forms may be picked up from the front desk. An extended period is noted as three days or more.

If the extended absence occurs at the beginning of a semester, your parent or guardian should contact the campus registrar to confirm the dates will not conflict with enrollment requirements. Failure to be in attendance during certain periods of the school year can result in automatic withdrawal from the school.

Unexcused Absences

An unexcused absence is a part of a student's school record. Students will be marked for an unexcused absence for:

- **Failure to Attend School:** Failure to attend school, with or without the knowledge of the parent/legal guardian, for reasons other than those specifically outlined as excused absences will be considered unexcused absences.
- **Out-of-School Suspension:** School days missed due to an out-of-school suspension shall not be counted as unexcused to determine truancy. OSS allows students who miss school for an out-of-school suspension to make up any work missed (refer to the section Make-up Work for Excused Absences).

School Tardy

Students are considered tardy when they arrive at school after the official start of the school day or are outside their assigned class at the beginning of the class period. However, we want to emphasize that students eligible for bus transportation and riding the bus to school will not be considered tardy if the bus arrives late to school. Parents or guardians may be asked to sign in for their child if they arrive after 7:45 a.m.

If students drive to school, they must sign themselves in if they arrive after 7:45 a.m. We kindly ask that all students arrive by 7:30 a.m. to ensure they have enough time to get to their first class. We also want to remind students that idling in the hallway or purposefully reporting late to the first period will result in disciplinary consequences.

- **Excused Tardy:** If a student arrives late to school due to excused absences or events outside their control, such as weather, transportation delays, health emergencies, power outages, or court orders, they will be excused if they follow the sign-in procedure. For students who don't take the school bus, their parent/guardian or carpool driver must sign them in as tardy after 7:45 a.m. Once signed in, students will receive a "late slip" for admittance to class. Students arriving after the start of first period and signed in by a parent/guardian will be given a tardy pass and must be in class within 5 minutes of the posted time to avoid being marked as skipping.
- **Unexcused Tardy:** Arriving late without a valid excuse, such as oversleeping, missing the bus, car problems, traffic, babysitting, athletic workouts, or socializing, is considered unexcused. Students arriving after the start of first period must follow the sign-in procedure and receive a tardy pass. Students must be in class within 5 minutes of the posted time to avoid being marked as skipping.

Habitual School Tardy

If a student is unexcused tardy more than ten (10) times in a calendar month or twenty-five (25) times in a 90-calendar day period, we will refer them to the school counselor or school attendance clerk. We want to provide the necessary support to help students get to school on time. Refer to the Truancy section for more information regarding excessive tardies and absences.

Class Tardy

Students are given five minutes of class transition time, with warning bells, to get to each class during the school day. We expect all students to be seated in their assigned seats when the class bell rings. If a student is tardy, they must get a special pass from the designated staff to be allowed into the classroom. If a student has checked in late through the front office, they should have an admit slip to class from the front office. We understand that sometimes tardiness might be unavoidable, but we want to ensure that students make every effort to be on time. Repetitive tardiness may result in disciplinary consequences based on our Minor Offense cycle.

Class Cuts/Skipping

A "class cut" occurs when a student is absent from class for more than 5 minutes without permission from the teacher or authorization from the office. If a student needs to leave class for any reason, they should first report to class, obtain permission to be excused, and receive a pass from the teacher.

If a student is too ill to report to the office, they should have another person (student or staff) notify the office immediately to give appropriate attention to the student. If a student is sick, they should report to the front desk/clinic and use the school phone to notify a parent or guardian.

Make-up Work for Absences – Excused or Unexcused

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or unexcused, students are responsible for completing all the work missed during their absence. To ensure that students have adequate time to catch up on missed work, they will be given the same number of days as their absence to complete assignments.

To have an absence excused, students must submit a note to the school office within three days of returning to school. All assignments can be accessed through the OSS-Connect website, which is available 24 hours a day. If students require additional materials for an assignment, they may request them upon returning to school. Parents should contact the teachers through email and follow the teachers' make-up work procedures as outlined in their syllabi.

The student must find out what work they missed and when it is due upon returning to school. Failure to do so may result in a zero for each missed assignment. Make-up tests for students who were absent will be scheduled at a time designated by the teacher, and it is the student's responsibility to take the test at that time. Failure to make up a test without making other arrangements may result in the teacher not being obligated to set another time for the make-up.

Students participating in out-of-state competitions will be excused from assignments given on competition days.

Early Checkouts

If a student is removed from classes or leaves the school before the official end of the school day with a parent or legal guardian, this is considered an early checkout. A photo ID is required to check out a student, and only persons previously approved by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and officially recorded on the student's records at school will be allowed to check out a student.

To be considered "in attendance" for a school day, a student must be present for at least half of the school day, excluding the lunch period. If students leave school before meeting this requirement, they will be considered absent for the day.

Parents are not permitted to check their students out of school after 2:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and 1:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Truancy

Ensuring consistent attendance is crucial for maintaining a quality education, and we take truancy very seriously. A habitual truant is defined as a student who has had at least 5 unexcused absences, or absences for which the reasons are unknown, in a calendar month or 10 unexcused absences, or absences for which the causes are unknown, within a 90-calendar-day period. When a student is truant, this demonstrates a disregard for their education, and immediate consequences will follow. No credit will be recorded for any work missed due to truancy.

- **After 3 unexcused absences:** The parent/legal guardian will be requested to have a conference with the school administrator. If the school cannot reach the parent/guardian after two reasonable attempts, a notice will be sent by certified mail, and a return receipt will be requested.
- **After 7 unexcused absences:** The school administrator will notify the parent/legal guardian that the student has only three unexcused absences remaining before violating the state attendance requirements.
- **After 10 unexcused absences:** The school administrator will send a letter to the parent/legal guardian regarding attendance, and a referral will be made to the school social worker.

Excessive Excused Absences

Excessive excused absences can also impact the educational program. After 5 absences, the school will attempt to contact the parent/legal guardian. After 7 absences, a letter will be sent regarding attendance, and consultation with the school social worker may occur. After 10 absences, the school may take action, and a truancy petition may be filed according to state attendance laws.

Perfect Attendance

Students are recognized if they maintain perfect attendance. Perfect attendance is considered as zero absences and zero tardiness to school and zero absences and zero tardiness to each assigned class. Whether the absence/tardy is excused or unexcused is not a consideration.

Withdrawals

Withdrawal requests must be placed with the campus registrar and will be processed within 48 hours. Same-day withdrawals are not available. All account balances must be brought current, devices and other school-issued materials (e.g., library and textbooks) must be returned, and any other outstanding elements must be reconciled prior to finalizing the withdrawal.

STUDENT DRIVER POLICY

At Orlando Science Schools, parking privileges are offered to eligible juniors and seniors. Parking is a convenience and a privilege, not a right. The following comprehensive policy governs the issuance and use of parking decals, ensuring safety, accountability, and fairness in our parking facilities.

Application and Payment Process

1. Application Submission:

- Applications for parking decals must be submitted electronically via Microsoft Forms. The link to the form will be provided on the school's website and communicated via school communication.
- All required documents must be uploaded to the form, including a valid Florida Driver's License, vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and student schedules.

2. Payment:

- The parking decal fee must be paid through School Pay. Details and instructions for payment will be provided in the application form.
- Payment and application are accepted during the summer preceding the school year.
- Decal fees are non-refundable.

3. Decal Collection:

- Approved decals can be picked up from the front office during pre-planning between August 5 and August 9. Students must bring a photo ID and School Pay receipt to collect their decals.

Parking Rules and Expectations

Upon arrival, students must exit their vehicles immediately to ensure no loitering occurs. This rule also prohibits eating in vehicles and returning to parked cars during school hours for any reason, including retrieving items. These measures are in place to keep the parking lot secure and minimize distractions during school hours.

Students who are not participating in after-school activities must leave campus promptly after their last class or the end of the 7th period. This is important to manage traffic flow and ensure the safety of all.

Violations of these rules will be addressed through a progressive discipline system to help students correct their behavior:

- The **first violation** will result in a verbal warning, informing the student of their infraction and reminding them of the parking policies.
- A **second violation** escalates to a written warning, which includes notifying the parents about the student's non-compliance.
- A **third violation** may lead to the suspension of parking privileges. The duration of the suspension depends on the specific rule violated and the student's previous conduct. Serious violations such as decal transfer could additionally result in the forfeiture of the decal, requiring the purchase of a new one at full price.

Policy on Reckless and Dangerous Driving:

Any instances of reckless or dangerous driving, such as speeding, ignoring stop signs, or performing stunts in the parking lot, are strictly prohibited and will be taken very seriously. This behavior poses a significant risk to everyone in the area and will not be tolerated.

Consequences for Violations:

- **Immediate Action:** Any documented case of reckless or dangerous driving will result in an immediate, indefinite revocation of parking privileges, pending a review.

- **Review Process:** The students involved may appeal the decision by meeting with the school administration. During this review, the circumstances of the violation will be considered, and a final decision will be made regarding the reinstatement of parking privileges, which may include additional conditions or restrictions if privileges are restored.

CODE OF CONDUCT

This section outlines the disciplinary offenses and potential consequences for OSS students regarding their behavior on school property, transportation, and during activities such as distance learning, field trips, and athletic functions. The offenses are categorized into four levels:

- **Level I (Minor Offenses):** Result in Conduct Points.
- **More Severe Offenses:** Result in disciplinary referrals and progressive consequences.

When offenses violate state or federal laws, law enforcement may be consulted.

Responsibility for Individual Actions and Choices

It is important to note that neither OSS employees nor the Governing Board assume any liability for harm caused by any student to another individual or their possessions. However, we are committed to working together to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment for everyone.

The schoolwide disciplinary system aims to instill responsibility and self-discipline through firm, fair guidelines rooted in mutual respect and cooperation. The school has a zero-tolerance policy for weapons, drugs, and gang activity and will report any violations to the police. These rules apply to all students and school-sponsored activities. Students who continually disregard the Code of Conduct may be recommended for expulsion by OCPS.

General Student Behavioral Expectations

Setting	Expectations
Classroom	• Be on time and prepared. • Begin working on bell work assignments while the teacher records attendance. • Stay in assigned seat and only stand when given permission. • Track the speaker during lectures or presentations. • Use appropriate language. • Respect others and school property. • Participate respectfully and complete assignments.
Hallway	• Walk calmly and swiftly. • Keep hands and feet to self. • Use appropriate language. • Respect others and school property. • Be punctual.
Cafeteria	• Only attend assigned lunch period. • No backpacks should be in the cafeteria during lunch periods. • Remain seated once you have gathered or warmed up food. • Raise hand and get permission to move or use the restroom. • Only one student should be in the restroom at a time. • Keep tables, chairs, and floors clean. • Refrain from getting too loud. • Dispose of trash and help keep the cafeteria clean. • Only one student at each Microwave at a time, no crowding around
Clubs, Tutoring, and Extracurricular Activities	• Be at designated location on time and before the bell rings. • Remain in designated location for the entirety of the session or until dismissed. • Do not attend sessions or activities unregistered for. • Do not wander the hallways; report to the dismissal area when not in a club, tutoring, or extracurricular activity.

Common Interventions

Teachers may establish their own classroom rules, expectations, and procedures, but they also utilize several school-wide interventions to address disruptive behavior and minor offenses. These interventions are part of a broader strategy that includes Conduct Points and Commendations aimed at fostering positive relationships between students, teachers, and staff and promoting effective communication with students' families. By employing these strategies, teachers and staff can help prevent misbehavior before it occurs and create a supportive learning environment for all students. These interventions are designed to be collaborative and proactive, helping students develop the skills and behaviors necessary for academic and social success.

Reteach Expectations & Procedures

When a student commits a minor offense, teachers may take the time to reteach expectations and procedures, providing a friendly reminder of the classroom rules and guidelines. This proactive approach helps correct problematic behavior before it escalates to the need for formal consequences.

One-on-One Meeting

If reteaching expectations does not resolve the issues, or if the behavior is recurrent, teachers may opt for a one-on-one meeting with the student. This meeting could occur outside of regular class hours, or the teacher might arrange for administrative support to cover the class briefly, allowing focused time to address the behavior directly.

Parent Contact

Should the behavior persist beyond reteaching and one-on-one meetings, the next step typically involves contacting the student's parent or guardian. This communication, which can be via phone or email, keeps parents informed about their child's behavior, and invites them to collaborate in supporting the student's improvement. It's important to note that this differs from a Parent Conference, which is a more formal, in-depth meeting that may occur in person or virtually.

Restorative Circle

When disruptive behavior affects the broader classroom community or when harm needs to be repaired, teachers or staff may initiate a restorative circle. This process is designed to manage conflict, repair harm, and restore relationships effectively. It promotes accountability, understanding, and healing for all parties involved, aiming to create a positive and inclusive learning environment.

Progressive Discipline

Orlando Science School follows the OCPs Student Code of Conduct. To ensure consistent classroom management and promote transparency and communication with students and parents, we have established a system of common interventions and progressive consequences for Minor Offenses. A progressive discipline cycle is a system of disciplinary consequences that are progressively more severe for repeated or more serious violations of school policies or rules. The progressive discipline cycle aims to provide a structured approach to managing student behavior while promoting accountability, responsibility, and positive decision-making. This system allows for corrective action and improvement while also ensuring that school policies and rules are enforced fairly and consistently.

Minor Offenses

These offenses within the Code of Conduct are considered less severe and should be corrected the *first* time a staff member addresses them. Minor Offenses are assigned a Conduct Point value, which reflects their severity and is used to track a student's behavior over time. When a Minor Offense occurs, the staff member addressing it will assign the appropriate Conduct Point value and document it in OSS Connect, where parents will be notified the same day. This notification allows parents to discuss the behavior with their child and work collaboratively with school staff to correct the issue.

Code	Offense	Description	Point Value
MO-C	Unauthorized Personal Items and Consumption	Carrying backpacks or similar items into classrooms or specified areas where they are prohibited, consuming food / beverages / snacks in classrooms / bathrooms / hallways is prohibited. Gum should never be brought on campus.	1
MO-H	Unnatural Hair Color	Displaying hair colors that are not naturally occurring human hair colors. This includes but is not limited to, bright colors like blue, pink, green, purple, bright red, and any fluorescent or neon colors.	1
MO-T	Tardy to Class	Arriving late to a scheduled class period.	2
MO-N	Academic Disengagement and Device Misuse	Includes sleeping in class, lack of preparation, resistance to teacher feedback, apathy towards material, and misuse of school-issued devices such as playing games or engaging in non-academic activities during instructional time.	2
MO-U	Uniform Dress Code Violation Correctable & Uncorrectable	Wearing or not wearing attire that does not adhere to the OSS uniform and dress code guidelines. All instances are documented to track repeated offenses. If non-correctable student will be sent to PASS until it can be fixed.	2
MO-A	Unauthorized Area Violation	Accessing areas of the campus without permission, including using restrooms on different floors or wandering hallways unnecessarily.	2
MO-Q	Personal Electronic Device Violation	Possession of a personal electronic device (including cell phones, Air Pods, headphones) that is visible during instructional hours, regardless of usage. Confiscation follows with mandatory parent retrieval. If a student refuses to hand over the device upon request, they will receive a level III referral for insubordination.	3
MO-D	Disruptive Conduct	Engaging in any behavior that disrupts the orderly operation of the school environment, whether in classrooms, hallways, or other common areas. Examples include excessive talking, making loud noises, yelling, throwing objects, horseplaying, or leaving messes.	3
MO-P	Disrespectful and Inappropriate Communication Towards Students/Adult	Engaging in disrespectful behaviors, using socially unacceptable language (including profanity), or making inappropriate gestures, whether verbally, in writing, or through physical gestures. This encompasses any form of communication that is not conducive to a respectful and professional educational environment. This does <i>not</i> include threatening or intimidating language.	3
MO-F	Failure to Follow Directions	Includes not abiding by school, classroom, teachers or school personal directives, procedures and guidelines.	3

Minor Offense Cycle

Parents will receive a notification via OSS Connect on the same day their child receives a Conduct Point for Minor Offenses and/or a Minor Consequence.

Conduct Points reset weekly, encouraging students to improve their behavior:

Conduct Point Range	Minor Offense Cycle Step 1 (1-3 instances of 4 or more points in a week)	Minor Offense Cycle Step 2 (4-6 instances of 4 or more points in a week)	Minor Offense Cycle Step 3 (7-9 instances of 4 or more points in a week)	Minor Offense Cycle Step 4 (10 + instances of 4 or more points in a week)
1 - 3 Conduct Points/week	No Consequence Assigned	No Consequence Assigned	No Consequence Assigned	No Consequence Assigned
4 - 6 Conduct Points/week	Lunch Detention Parent Contact	After-School Detention Parent Contact	PASS (1 Day – Level 2 Referral)	PASS (2 Days – Level 2 Referral)
7 - 9 Conduct Points/week	After-School Detention Parent Contact	Multiple After School Detentions/Work Detail/Saturday Detention Parent Contact	PASS (2 Days – Level 2 Referral)	Pass (3 Days – Level 2 Referral)
10 - 12 Conduct Points/week	Multiple After School Detentions/Work Detail/Saturday Detention Parent Contact	PASS (1 Day – Level 2 Referral)	Pass (3 Days – Level 2 Referral)	OSS (1 to 3 Days – Level 3 Referral)
13 or More Conduct Points/ Week	PASS (1 Day Level 2 Referral)	PASS (2 Days – Level 2 Referral)	OSS (1-3 Days – Level 3 Referral)	OSS (3 to 5 Days – Level 3 Referral)

Minor Consequence Cycle Steps

Students who violate a Minor Offense will be assigned a corresponding Conduct Point Value. Students who accumulate more than three Conduct Points within a week will be subject to Minor Consequences, such as Lunch Detention, After-School Detention, Work Detail, or Saturday Detention. If a student continues to violate Minor Offenses and receives Minor Consequences, they will move up the progressive cycle.

The Minor Consequence Cycle steps will continue throughout the school year and does not reset, only the weekly points reset.

MAJOR OFFENSES

Major Offenses (Level I-IV) in the Student Code of Conduct will result in a disciplinary referral, which the school administration will investigate. Referral consequences will be assigned as soon as the investigation concludes. Parents will be notified of the referral and consequences through OSS Connect and/or a phone call. Referrals will go on student's permanent record.

Referral consequences are progressive, following a step cycle based on the frequency of the offense, like the Minor Consequence Cycle. When necessary, the school administration may assign additional consequences not listed in the Code of Conduct. School personnel may confiscate any item that is deemed hazardous, inappropriate, or unsafe.

Offenses not covered in the Code of Conduct will be handled by the school administration in accordance with federal and state laws consistent with the Charter Schools Act. When offenses violate state or federal laws, law enforcement may be involved.

OSS Follows the OCPS Code of Conduct With regard to level I – Level IV offenses with 2 exceptions that OSS has its own policy that differs from OCPS, PDA (public display of affection) and cheating are both at minimum level 2 offenses and will be coded as other serious misconduct on the OCPS referral.

Level I Offenses

Code	Offense	Description	PASS 1 day	PASS 2 days	PASS 3 days	OSS 1-3 days	OSS 3-5 days
1D	Disrespect	The willful or malicious destruction of school property, school transportation, or the property of others.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Steps 4-5
1B	Disrespect	Written or oral language, or gestures that lack regard, civility, politeness, and/or courteous consideration towards a student, OCPS employee, volunteer, or contracted personnel. <i>This offense may include, but is not limited to, speech or behavior that is insulting or rude, or profane language that is not directed at anyone. This section does not include threatening or intimidating language.</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
1G	False and/or Misleading Information	Intentionally providing false or misleading information to an OCPS employee, contracted personnel, or volunteer, which does not cause a disruption to the school environment.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
1KK	Electronic Device Violation	Electronic devices that are not being used for educational purposes. An electronic device may include, but is not limited to, tablets, laptops, handheld gaming devices, and other electronic devices. <i>This offense does not include cellphones, earbuds, smartphones, smart watches, or other devices included in the Cell Phone Policy of this Code.</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
1O	Unsubstantiated Bullying (UBL)	After an investigation, there is not enough evidence to demonstrate that the alleged “bullying” incident occurred.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5

		<i>This offense is for documentation purposes only as required by the Florida Department of Education; discipline consequences are not given.</i>					
1P	Unsubstantiated Harassment (UHR)	After an investigation, there is not enough evidence to demonstrate that the alleged "harassment" incident occurred. <i>This offense is for documentation purposes only as required by the Florida Department of Education; discipline consequences are not given.</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
1R	Horseplay	Any rough, uncontrolled play or prank by one or more students.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 3	Step 5
1T	Student Parking Violation *High School Students Only	Violation of the OCPS and/or school policy, regulation, rule, and/or conditions contained in the application for parking.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5

Level II Offenses

Level II offenses are more severe and may include repeated acts of misconduct or Minor Offenses, as well as acts directed towards people or property that do not pose a significant threat to the health and safety of others.

Code	Offense	Description	PASS 1 day	PASS 2 days	PASS 3 days	OSS 1-3 days	OSS 3-5 days
2A	Destruction of Property/Vandalism (under \$100)	The willful or malicious destruction of school property, school transportation, or the property of others.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Steps 4-5
2B	Disrespect	Repeated behavior that lacks regard, civility, politeness, and/or courteous consideration towards a student, school employee, volunteer, or contracted personnel. <i>This offense may include but is not limited to, inappropriate language directed towards another that is not profane.</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2C	Physical Altercation	Minor physical contact between two or more students, such as pushing, shoving, or an altercation that stops upon verbal command.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
2D	Forgery (non-criminal)	To create or reproduce the signature or document of another for fraudulent purposes. <i>This offense may include but is not limited to, signing a document with your parent's/guardian's signature without permission.</i>		Step 1	Step 2-5		

2E	Gambling Must Report to Law Enforcement	Any unlawful participation in games (or activities) of chance for money and/or other things of value.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2F	Insubordination/ Open Defiance	Verbal or non-verbal refusal to comply with school rules or directions from a school employee, contracted personnel, or volunteer without causing a disruption or committing any further acts.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2G	Threat/ Intimidation Must Report to Law Enforcement	“An incident where there was no physical contact between the offender and victim, but the victim reasonably believed that physical harm could have occurred based on verbal or non-verbal communication by the offender. This includes nonverbal threats and verbal threats of physical harm which are made in person, electronically or through any other means.” <u>Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017.</u> <i>This includes threats to hit, fight, or beat up another person without a plan and/or furtherance of action.</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2J	Stealing (under \$100)	Taking the property of another without permission of the person.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3-5	
2K	Unauthorized Assembly Publications, etc.	Demonstrations and/or petitions by students, or possession and/or distribution of unauthorized publications, including misuse of electronic messages or computers, which interfere with the orderly process of the school environment, a school function, or extracurricular/co-curricular activity.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2M	Other Serious Misconduct	Any other act of misconduct that is more serious, harmful, or is a more disruptive example of any of the offenses described in Level I, which may interfere with the orderly operation of the school, school transportation, or school activity and cannot be coded as another Level II offense.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2N	Gang Related	The possession, use, or display of items associated with gang activity that include, but is not limited to, clothing and accessories, gang related insignias, writings, signs, or symbols that promote gang affiliation and/or involvement.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2Q	Electronic Device Violation	The repeated misuse of electronic devices; unauthorized access to programs or files not expected or intended for student use on an electronic device or school network (i.e., gaming); sharing another person’s username and password; or intentionally providing access to another person to use the student’s device while the student is logged in.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2S	Horseplay	Any rough uncontrolled play or prank that involves two or more students and there is risk of injury because of the horseplay.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2T	Dress Code	Not following the OSS-established dress code.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5

2R	Repeated Misconduct of a Minor Offense	Repeated misconduct that tends to disrupt an orderly school environment or extracurricular/co-curricular program or activity.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2W	Unauthorized Absence	An unauthorized absence from class is defined as a student failing to attend or remain in a scheduled class without prior approval from a school authority or valid justification as outlined in the school's attendance policy. This includes leaving class without permission at any time during the period.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3-5		
2X	Over The Counter Medication	The first-time purchase, sale, or giving of any over-the-counter medication to another person. <i>If an excess amount of over-the-counter medication is taken or the over-the-counter medication is purchased, sold, or given for mood modifying purposes, then a Level 4F or 4U should be considered.</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3-5.		
2O	Offensive Language	Any disrespectful, discriminatory, or inappropriate conduct towards an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or disability. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to, derogatory comments or jokes, slurs, or stereotyping. It is important to note that a direct complainant is not required for the behavior to be considered offensive. <i>In cases where a complainant is recorded, a bullying and harassment investigation will be conducted, and a Level III Harassment referral may be issued.</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2Y	Contraband	The first-time a student possesses, and/or distributes materials or items, other than weapons or firearms (see 4H - Weapons) or other dangerous objects (see - 4K - Other Dangerous Objects), which are not allowed on school property, transportation, or at school-sponsored events. The parent/guardian will arrange to pick up the object from the school, if applicable. At no time shall OCPS be responsible for theft, loss or damage to contraband items brought onto its property. <i>This offense may include, but is not limited to, lighters, eyebrow trimmers, or concealed self-defense chemical spray containing two (2) ounces or less that is not used or threatened to be use</i>	Step 1		Step 2	Step 3-5	
2P	Public Display of Affection (PDA) (OSS)	Any physical contact that is deemed inappropriate or disruptive to the educational environment, including but not limited to hugging, kissing, or other forms of intimate physical contact. 2M other serious misconduct will be used for OCPS purposes.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
2Z	Student Parking Violation	Repeated violations of the OSS and/or school policy, regulation, rule, and/or conditions contained in the application for parking. <i>This offense should be used for 2-3 violations.</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step3	Step 4	Step 5
2AD	Academic Dishonesty (OSS)	Any act that involves misrepresentation or fraud in the pursuit of academic credit or advancement, including but not limited to cheating on exams or assignments, falsifying records or information, and plagiarism. 2M other serious misconduct will be used for OCPS purposes.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5

Level III Offenses

Level III offenses are serious acts of misconduct that disrupt the orderly operation of the school, school activities, or school transportation, and pose a significant threat to the health, safety, and property of others. These offenses may include repeated acts of misconduct from Level II. The misconduct must be reported right away to the school administrator, who may remove the student from the school or activity immediately.

Code	Offense	Description	PASS 3 days	OSS 1-3 days	OSS 3-5 days	OSS 5-8 days	OSS 10 days/OW
3A	Simple Battery PHA Must Report to Law Enforcement	An actual and intentional striking of another person against his or her will without injury. <u>Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017.</u> <i>*This section does not include injury that is a result of fighting if persons involved are mutual combatants.</i>		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3C	Destruction of Property/Vandalism (\$100 to \$999)	The willful or malicious destruction of Board property, school transportation, or the property of others.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3D	Disrespect	Conduct or behavior that lacks regard, civility, politeness, and/or courteous consideration towards a student, OSS employee, volunteer, or contracted personnel. This offense may include, but is not limited to, language and/or gestures that are abusive and/or profane directed towards another person.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3E	Extortion/Blackmail	The willful or malicious threat of harm, injury, or violence to the person, property, or reputation of another with the intent to obtain money, information, services, or items of material worth. <i>This offense may include, but is not limited to, threatening to accuse another of a Minor Offense or crime in order to obtain lunch money.</i>		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3F	Fighting FIT Must Report to Law Enforcement	When two or more people mutually participate in the use of force or physical violence that requires either physical intervention or results in injury requiring first aid or medical attention. <u>Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017.</u> <i>Note: If a student is unable to leave the area of a pending attack, a student may use self-defense. Self-defense is an action taken that is necessary to protect oneself or others from serious bodily harm. Self-defense may include asking an adult for help, restraining or blocking the attacker, shielding oneself or others from being hit, or pushing to get away from the attacker. However, retaliating by striking or hitting (i.e., punching, slapping, kicking) a person back or choosing not to leave after you are able to get away may be considered fighting.</i>		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3G	Firecrackers/ Fireworks	Unauthorized possession, sale, or storage of unlit fireworks or firecrackers on Board property, school transportation, and/or at a school activity.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3H	Gross Insubordination/ Open Defiance	Willful refusal to submit to or comply with authority; exhibiting contempt or open resistance to a direct order; challenging the authority of an OCPS employee, contracted personnel, or volunteer in the presence of others which causes a disruption.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5

3I	Illegal Organizations	Establishing or participating in a secret society on Board property, on school transportation, and/or at a school activity.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3J	Possession of Contraband Material	Possession, use, and/or distribution of materials or items, other than weapons or firearms, which are forbidden. The parent/guardian will make arrangements to pick up the object from the school, if applicable. At no time shall school be responsible for theft, loss or damage to contraband items brought onto its property.			Step 1	Step 2	Step 3-5
3L	Tobacco TBC Must Report to Law Enforcement	The possession or use of tobacco or nicotine products on school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or on school transportation. Tobacco incidents cannot be Drug-related. <u>Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017.</u> <i>This includes vaping nicotine products, items represented to be of said nature, and additional items which may include, but are not limited to, electronic cigarettes, CBD oil, Juuls, pods, vapors and hookah pens that do not contain THC or any other illegal controlled substance.</i>			Step 1	Step 2	Step 3-5
3M	Stealing (\$375 to \$749)	The taking of the property of another without the permission of the person.			Step 1	Step 2	Step 3-5
3N	Unauthorized Entrance to OCPS/ OSS Property	To enter or remain on school grounds/campus, school transportation, or at a school-sponsored event/off campus, without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. This applies only to incidents that did not have a prior official warning, did not result in an arrest, or did not involve students under suspension or expulsion.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3O	Violation of Curfew	Breaking of curfew regulations during an extracurricular/co-curricular activity.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3Q	Other Serious Misconduct	Any other act of misconduct that is more serious, harmful, or is a more disruptive example of any of the offenses described in Level II, which may interfere with the orderly operation of the school, school transportation, or school activity and cannot be coded as another Level III offense. <i>This offense may include, but is not limited to, body piercing; providing false/misleading information to staff members; or language intended or reasonably calculated to insult and/or incite another person. This does not include any misconduct that would be coded as a Level IV Disruption on Campus-Major</i>		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3T	Threat/Intimidation TRE Must Report to Law Enforcement	"An incident where there was no physical contact between the offender and victim, but the victim reasonably believed that physical harm could have occurred based on verbal or non-verbal communication by the offender. This includes nonverbal threats and verbal threats of physical harm which are made in person, electronically or through any other means." <u>Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017.</u> <i>This includes threats to hit, fight, or beat up another person with a plan and/or furtherance of action, or to kill another person without a plan and/or furtherance of action.</i>		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5

3U	Gang Related	Conduct or behavior that tends to promote gang activity, provoke violence, or seriously disrupt the orderly operation of the school program, any school activity or transportation services, including but not limited to the possession, use or displaying of gang paraphernalia, jewelry, tattoos, clothing, or other insignias and writings that promote gang affiliation/involvement/the use of gang related signs or symbols or any other gang associated behavior.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3V	Harassment HAR Must Report to Law Enforcement	Any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct that places an OSS student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits and has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school including any course of conduct directed at a specific person that causes substantial emotional distress in such a person and serves no legitimate purpose.		Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4-5
3Y	Electronic Device Violation	The continual misuse of electronic devices, which are not educational in nature; the unauthorized modification of software/hardware configuration on an electronic device (i.e., factory reset of school device); unauthorized access to programs and/or files not expected or intended for student use on an electronic device or OSS network. <i>This section does not include images, videos, messages, etc. that can be classified as another offense (i.e., threats, images/videos containing nudity).</i>	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
3AA	Horseplay	Any rough uncontrolled play or prank that involves two or more students with injury due to the horseplay. Any horseplay that results in serious injury where medical attention is needed may result in a Level IV offense.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
3CC	Disruptive Conduct	Conduct or behavior that interferes with or disrupts the orderly process of teaching/learning, school environment, a school function, or extracurricular/co-curricular activity. This does not include behavior that would amount to a Level IV-T, Other; Level IV-I, Disruption of Campus-Major, or Level IV-HH Interruption of Campus Operations.	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
3EE	Campus Security Violation	Intentionally allowing someone to have unauthorized access to the school campus or a specific classroom. <i>This offense includes, but is not limited to, propping open doors with the intent of allowing others on the campus who are not supposed to be there or providing a false identity. If the campus security violation results in a major campus disruption or injury to others, then a Level 4 offense should be considered.</i>					

3GG	Over-the-Counter Medication	The repeated purchase, sale, or giving of any over-the-counter medication to another person. <i>If an excess amount of over-the-counter medication is taken or the over-the-counter medication is purchased, sold, or given for mood modifying purposes, then a Level 4F or 4U should be considered.</i>					
3HH	Student Parking Violation	Repeated violations of the OCPS and/or school policy, regulation, rule, and/or conditions contained in the application for parking. <i>This offense should be used for four (4) or more violations.</i>					

Level IV Offenses

Level IV offenses are the most serious acts of misconduct and may result in expulsion. These offenses may include repeated acts of misconduct from Level III. All Level IV acts will result in a 10-day suspension, with a potential recommendation for expulsion. Major acts of misconduct must be reported immediately to the school administrator for investigation. The administrator will follow the designated OCPS procedure for Level IV violations and refer the matter to District personnel for further review. Students who commit a Level IV offense may be referred to local authorities for further investigation.

Code	Offense	Description
4A	Alcohol ALC Must Report to Law Enforcement	The possession, sale, purchase, distribution, or use of alcoholic beverages. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use, or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation. Alcohol incidents cannot be drug related.
4B	Arson ARS Must Report to Law Enforcement	To intentionally damage or cause to be damaged, by fire or explosion, any dwelling, structure, or conveyance, whether occupied or not, or its contents.
4C	Threat/Intimidation TRE Must Report to Law Enforcement	“An incident where there was no physical contact between the offender and victim, but the victim reasonably believed that physical harm could have occurred based on verbal or non-verbal communication by the offender. This includes non-verbal threats and verbal threats of physical harm which are made in person, electronically, or through any other means.” Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017. <i>This includes threats to kill with a plan and/or furtherance of action.</i>
4D	Aggravated Battery BAT Must Report to Law Enforcement	(intentional great bodily harm) A battery where the attacker intentionally or knowingly causes more serious injury such as great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement; uses a deadly weapon; or where the attacker knew or should have known the victim was pregnant. Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017 . <i>This offense includes injuries with substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, and protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.</i>
4E	Threats to the School DOC Must Report to Law Enforcement	Any direct or indirect threat that poses a serious threat to the school or may disrupt the function of the school campus or school sponsored activity including, but not limited to, threats made verbally or nonverbally by act, through social media, or by text. <i>Acts that pose a threat to school safety are deemed zero tolerance by Sections 1006.07 and 1006.13, Florida Statutes.</i>

4F	Drug Use/Possession DRU Must Report to Law Enforcement	Illegal drug possession or use. The use or possession of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any substance when used for chemical intoxication. Use means the person is caught in the act of using, admits to use, or is discovered to have used in the course of an investigation. Alcohol offenses are coded separately: Level IV-A, Alcohol.
4H	Weapons Possession WPO Must Report to Law Enforcement	The possession or control of any firearm or any instrument or object as defined by Section 790.001(6) and "Possession of a firearm or any instrument or object as defined by Section 790.001(6) and (13), Florida Statutes, that can inflict serious harm on another person or that can place the person in reasonable fear of serious harm." Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017.
4I	Disruption on Campus-Major DOC Must Report to Law Enforcement	Major disruption of all or a significant portion of campus activities, school-sponsored events, and school bus transportation. Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, or welfare of others. Examples of major disruptions including bomb threats, inciting a riot, or initiating a false alarm. <i>For offenses that disrupt campus activities, school-sponsored events, and school bus transportation but do not pose a serious threat to the learning environment: see Level IV-HH, Interruption of Campus Operations.</i>
4J	Grand Theft (\$750 or over) STL Must Report to Law Enforcement	The unauthorized taking of the property of another person or organization, including motor vehicles, valued at \$750 or more, without threat, violence, or bodily harm. Thefts of property of any value that involve a use of force, violence, assault, or putting the victim in fear must be reported as robbery. <i>This does not include a taking by violence, a threat of violence or assault, and putting the victim in fear (See 4M Robbery).</i>
4K	Other Dangerous Objects	The possession, sale, or control of any instrument or object, other than a firearm or weapon as defined under a Level IV-H, Weapons Possession offense, which could be used to inflict harm on another person or to intimidate any person. Threatening or attempting to use a dangerous object is a Level IV-C or IV -E offense. Using a dangerous object and causing injury is a Level IV-D or IV-Y offense. <i>This offense includes, but is not limited to, BB guns or pellet guns, air soft guns, paintball guns and replicas of any gun or weapon, water/gel bead gun, common pocket knives, chains, pipes, common household tools, razor blades, box cutter/utility knife, ice picks, other pointed instruments, nun chucks, Chinese stars, pepper spray, Taser, items used for self-defense (i.e. kubaton), ammunition, firearm clips, firearm cartridges. This offense also includes igniting fireworks/firecrackers.</i>
4L	Repeated Misconduct of a More Serious Nature	Repeated misconduct, which may substantially disrupt the orderly conduct of a classroom, school, school transportation, and/or school activity. Recommendations for expulsion relative to repeated misconduct must be based on documented referrals and a variety of intervention strategies.
4M	Robbery ROB Must Report to Law Enforcement	The taking or attempted taking of money or other property from the person or custody of another with the intent to permanently or temporarily deprive the person or owner of the money or other property under the confrontational circumstances of force, or threat of force, or violence, and/or by putting the victim in fear. A key difference in Grand Theft and Robbery is that robbery involves violence, a threat of violence or assault, and putting the victim in fear. <i>This includes using force to take something from another.</i>
4N	Sexual Battery SXB Must Report to Law Enforcement	Forced or attempted oral, anal, or vaginal penetration by using a sexual organ or an object simulating a sexual organ, or the anal or vaginal penetration of another by any body part or foreign object. Both males and females can be victims of sexual battery. This includes undesired sexual behavior.
4O	Sexual Harassment SXH Must Report to Law Enforcement	Unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, such as sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Harassing conduct can include verbal or non-verbal actions, including graphic and written statements, and may include statements made through computers, cell phones, and other devices connected to the internet. The conduct can be carried out by school employees, other students, and non-employee third parties. This includes undesired sexual behavior. Law Enforcement Must be Notified to Investigate.

4P	Sexual Offenses SXO Must Report to Law Enforcement	Other sexual contact, including intercourse without force or threat of force. Subjecting an individual to lewd sexual gestures, sexual activity, or exposing private body parts in a lewd manner, Law Enforcement Must be Notified to Investigate. <i>This includes lewdness, indecent exposure.</i>
4Q	Violation of Early Re-entry Plan	Any act or series of acts, which violates or has the practical effect of violating an early re- entry plan from full exclusion/expulsion.
4S	Criminal Mischief (\$1000 or over) VAN Must Report to Law Enforcement	Willfully and maliciously injuring or damaging by any means any real or personal property belonging to another, including, but not limited to, the placement of graffiti thereon or other acts of vandalism thereto.
4T	Other Major OMC Must Report to Law Enforcement	Any serious, harmful incident resulting in the need for law enforcement consultation not previously classified. This includes any drug or weapon found unattended and not linked to any individual; such incidents must be coded with the appropriate Related element (such as Drug-related or Weapon- related) and incident involvement must be reported as unknown.
4U	Drug Sale/Distribution, Excluding Alcohol DRD Must Report to Law Enforcement	The manufacture, cultivation, purchase, sale or distribution of any drug, narcotic, controlled substance, or any substance represented to be a drug, narcotic, or controlled substance. This includes illegal sale or distribution of drugs.
4V	Bullying BUL Must Report to Law Enforcement	Systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. Bullying includes instances of cyberbullying, as defined in Section 1006.147(3)(b), Florida Statutes. Bullying may include, but is not limited to, repetitive instances of teasing, social exclusion, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, harassment, public or private humiliation, or destruction of property. If the physical harm or psychological distress is not the result of systematic or chronic behavior, evaluate for Harassment. Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017. <i>*The bullying includes intimidating behaviors that are repeated, intentional, and involve a power imbalance.</i> <i>*Repeated discipline of another nature (such as repeated fights with the same person) may constitute bullying.</i>
4X	Hazing HAZ Must Report to Law Enforcement	Any action or situation that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student at a school with any of grades 6 through 12 for purposes of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any school-sanctioned organization. Hazing includes but is not limited to a) pressuring, coercing, or forcing a student to participate in illegal or dangerous behavior, or b) any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, or exposure to the elements.
4Y	Simple Battery PHA Must Report to Law Enforcement	An actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his/her will, or the intentional causing of bodily harm to an individual. This includes incidents that require immediate first aid or subsequent medical attention. <i>This does not include death or injuries with substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, and protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty. (See 4D Aggravated Battery)</i>
4Z	Sexual Assault SXA Must Report to Law Enforcement	An incident that includes fondling, indecent liberties, child molestation, or threatened rape. Both males and females can be victims of sexual assault.
4AA	Electronic Device Violation	Use of unauthorized access to programs and/or files not expected or intended for student use on an electronic device or OCPS network; or any use that violates Board policies, local, state, and/or federal laws and regulations. <i>This offense may include, but is not limited to, gaining access to the OCPS network with intent to do harm or alter records, or having images, videos, messages, etc., on a district issued device that are not shared with others (i.e. images/videos containing nudity).</i>

4CC	Burglary BRK Must Report to Law Enforcement	Unlawful entry into or remaining in a dwelling, structure, or conveyance with the intent to commit a crime therein.
4DD	Homicide HOM Must Report to Law Enforcement	The unjustified killing of one human being by another. This includes murder, manslaughter.
4EE	Kidnapping KID Must Report to Law Enforcement	Forcibly, secretly, or by threat, confining, abducting, or imprisoning another person against his/her will and without lawful authority. This includes abduction of an individual.
4FF	Tobacco/Vaping/Nicotine Selling/Buying/ Distribution Must Report to Law Enforcement	The sale, purchase, distribution of tobacco or nicotine products on school grounds, at school sponsored events, or on school transportation. Tobacco incidents cannot be Drug-related. Florida Administrative Code Rule 6A-1.0017. <i>This includes vaping nicotine products, items represented to be of said nature, and additional items which may include, but are not limited to, electronic cigarettes, CBD oil, Juuls, pods, vapors and hookah pens that do not contain THC or any other illegal controlled substance.</i>
4GG	Igniting	Fires that are not intentional, that are caused by accident, or do not cause damage.
4JJ	Trespassing TRS Must Report to Law Enforcement	To enter or remain on school grounds/campus, school transportation, or at a school sponsored event/off campus without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry. Only incidents involving a student currently under suspension or expulsion, or incidents where any offender (student or non-student) was previously issued an official trespass warning, or where any offender was arrested for trespass.

Regarding Technology Equipment in Computer Labs/Media Center

Students are allowed to only utilize school issued laptops, Chromebook and/or technology devices. Students must abide by the school's rules, policy and procedures regarding technology. Students are required to bring school issued laptops and/or Chromebook devices to school, class, fully charged and ready to use during instructional time. Students should treat all technological equipment with care and respect. Any mishandling or tampering with computers or school systems may result in the loss of computer privileges at school. Students that don't have their school issued device during instructional time will have to check out a laptop and/or Chromebook with the school designee personnel for the day. Students must return the loaned device back to the school designee personnel prior to dismissal or the end of instructional time of that day. Students that obtain a loaner device for the day or violate the school's technology rules, guidelines, policies and procedures can receive disciplinary actions such as conduct points, detentions, P.A.S.S and out of school suspensions.

Please note that any damage to hardware or software requiring repair will result in financial charges assessed to the responsible party. To maintain the integrity of school and private property, including technology hardware and software, students must not alter or attempt to alter any property. Students may not bring computer software to campus to use on school computers without prior approval from the school administration. For the safety and security of our school systems, students are not allowed to use personal Instant Messaging or email, write blogs, or visit personal websites on school computers.

Lastly, we ask that students refrain from bringing food or beverages into the classroom setting to promote a clean and focused learning environment. Thank you for your cooperation in upholding these guidelines and respecting our technological equipment and property.

Emergency Drills

To prepare the school for an emergency, such as active assailant, fire, intruder, or severe weather, drills will be conducted at various times during the school year. It is important for students to follow their teachers' instructions and proceed to designated areas as quickly and calmly as possible.

During emergency drills, students must not talk, run, or push others, and should maintain an orderly and safe environment. A signal bell or announcement from the appropriate administrator will indicate when it is safe to return to class. Our top priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff, and we appreciate your cooperation during these drills. Students that fail to follow directions, horseplay or put others safety at risk, will result in disciplinary action.

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

OSS curriculum is guided by Orange County Public Schools and the FLDOE curriculum/guidelines. In order to provide an excellent school education, as outlined in our mission statement, OSS enhances the basic Orange County Public Schools curriculum whenever possible. If you have specific questions, please contact the Assistant Principal. Additional curriculum information can be found on our website: www.orlandoscience.org, under the “Academics” tab.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are deceptive choices made by students to misrepresent the student’s true knowledge of the subject material (cheating) or misrepresenting information as their own ideas/concepts/words by not giving proper credit to the original source (plagiarism).

All papers or projects submitted at OSS are required to be in the student’s own words unless stated in writing by the teacher otherwise. Therefore, any copying of information from the Internet or any other source (i.e., “cutting & pasting”, etc.) is considered plagiarism. However, drawings and/or pictures may be taken from an Internet or other source as long as they are properly cited in the document.

Cheating and plagiarism demonstrate a deliberate disregard for the educational program and are considered serious matters. Students who cheat or plagiarize will immediately be given a zero (0) on the assignment/project and referred to the administration using a Disciplinary Referral Form for disciplinary consequences.

Conferences

Parents and teachers should maintain a good working relationship to help students get the best possible education. Conferences are good communication tools. Our most important form of communication is the parent-teacher conference. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled at least once per semester – check the school calendar for the specific dates. Additional conferences may be requested at any time during the school year. If you would like to have a conference with any staff member, please contact the school’s front office and arrangements will be made.

OSS CONNECT

Parents can see their children’s academic progress, daily homework and assignments, projects, and discipline records through OSS Connect. At the beginning of each school year, parents will be provided a username and password, which will provide access to ONLY their student’s records. We strongly encourage parents to visit OSS Connect daily to stay informed of their student’s progress.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	AP/VCC	Honors	Regular	Definition
A	90-100	6	5	4	Outstanding Progress
B	80-89	5	4	3	Above Average Progress
C	70-79	4	3	2	Average Progress
D	60-69	1	1	1	Lowest Acceptable Progress
F	0-59	0	0	0	Failure
I	Incomplete	-	-	-	Course not completed
W	Withdrawal	-	-	-	Student withdrawn

Grading System & Reporting

Students receive progress reports every 5th week of each 9-week grading period and report cards every 9 weeks. Final grades for core academic courses are received at the end of each 9-week period. Parents should contact their child's teacher if there are any questions concerning grades recorded or information contained on the child's report card. The OSS Governing Board, in compliance with State Standards, approves the grading scale. Grades are reported numerically on all progress reports and report cards except the end of year report card. Letter grades are reported on end of year report cards. Any grade below 60 is failing.

Homework Policy

Homework is an essential part of your successful educational program at OSS. Completing homework will assist students in developing valuable skills such as good study habits, time management, responsibility, and perseverance. Teachers assign homework that will foster individual learning and growth, and that is appropriate for the subject area. Homework is part of all students' regular evaluations. It is each student's responsibility to complete and turn in homework on time – if it is not, a grade of zero may be given at the discretion of the teacher. In case of conflict regarding homework assignments the teacher's record is final. If students or their parents have questions about homework, immediately contact the teacher who assigned it. Teacher e-mail addresses are available, and daily assignments are posted on OSS Connect which can be accessed via the school website.

Preparedness for Class

Students must bring the needed materials, described in the course/teacher syllabus, to class each day. Failure to do so may result in Conduct Points. Students who repeatedly receive Conduct Points for unpreparedness for class will be given appropriate consequence within the discipline cycle and may receive an *Office Referral Form* for failure to follow school rules.

Note: Students who have lost their textbook will be permitted to use a text during classroom instruction however, they will not be permitted to take the text home for homework purposes (refer to *TEXTBOOKS* section).

Promotion

At the end of each academic year students who have made satisfactory progress in academic subjects are promoted to the next grade level. OSS will follow Orange County Public Schools Student Progression Plan for Middle/High Schools.

Recognition

Students are recognized on a regular basis and rewarded for accomplishments. Outstanding student achievement will be recognized each semester in three distinct categories:

- Principal's Honor Roll - students achieving a weighted academic average of 95 or above in all subjects.
- Honor Roll - students achieving a weighted academic average of 90 to 94.9 in all subjects.
- Achievement Roll - students achieving a weighted academic average of 80 to 89.9 in all subjects.

Calculations are carried out up to one decimal point, and standard rounding rules are applied. Connection classes and core classes have different weights.

Schedule Changes

Each student's schedule is carefully planned and developed based on the student's academic history and demonstrated abilities. Modifications to the students' schedule can only be made if requested within the first two weeks of the beginning of the school year through the guidance department. Any requests made after this time may be deemed as disruptive to the regular routine already established, and therefore, may not be honored. Written permission from the parent is required for the change. The final decision will be made by the administration. Please check your student's schedule carefully during the first week of school to ensure the best placement for your student.

Textbooks

Textbooks for pupils are furnished by OSS. Restitution for lost and/or damaged textbooks or related materials and supplies will be required BEFORE a second text or additional materials will be made available to a student. Students who owe money for lost or damaged texts or materials will be permitted to use a text during classroom instruction; however, they will not be permitted to take the text or materials home for homework purposes. Report cards and FSA score cards may also be withheld until textbooks fees are collected.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

After School Activities

A number of extra-curricular clubs and/or enrichment activities are offered for students. A brochure describing these activities is available in the school office. Nominal fees may be charged for participation to cover the cost of materials and/or supplies. There is no better way for students to enrich their education than by taking part in clubs and after-school activities or through working with a teacher. These opportunities will allow you to explore things you already enjoy and to try other areas that sound interesting.

To participate in any after-school extracurricular activity, including music performances, plays, etc., students must arrive in time to be counted present during the school day. In addition, any student who has demonstrated an inability to follow rules may be prohibited from participating. Specific disciplinary, tardiness, financial, and GPA requirements are provided when an event is announced. Requirements may include periods prior to event announcement. Students staying for after school activities will be expected to adhere to the following rules or they may be banned from all after school activities:

- Report to dismissal, after school club or activity by 2:35 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; and 1:40 p.m. on Wednesday.
- May not stay after school to wait for another student.
- Must be with a teacher or other staff member at all times.
- Must abide by the OSS Code of Conduct while participating in the activity.
- School activity privileges will be cancelled if discipline becomes a problem.
- Must clear the school building immediately following school activities by using the front door.
- Must arrange for your own transportation to arrive promptly at the end of the activity.
- Written permission is required for the use of OSS facilities. Students are not allowed on campus after 2:35 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; and 1:40 p.m. on Wednesday unless supervised by a school employee or club sponsor.
- Students with outstanding lunch or after school care balance will not be allowed to participate in any type of fund-required extracurricular academic or non-academic activities/events (including field trips, competitions, clubs, and afterschool events.)

Signing up for after school activities is required for each semester to be eligible to participate.

After School Care Program

The After School Care Program (ASCP) is a private program that operates outside the hours of regular school operations to accommodate parents who cannot pick up their students at the end of the club period. Only students who are registered in the program may participate. Any student not registered in the program must be picked up during regular dismissal hours which run daily until 4:00pm, or 3:00pm on Wednesdays. [Pricing and registration information can be obtained from the school Business Department.](#)

The ASCP program is provided until 6:00 p.m. every day. Regardless of the situation, we will call the local authorities and give them custody of the student after 6:15 p.m. Neither OSS nor the teacher assumes any responsibility for the welfare of the student. OSS doesn't offer before-school care. School opens and supervision starts at 7:15 a.m.

Communications Between School & Home

Every effort will be made to ensure good communication between the home and the school. Parents may communicate directly with the school's staff members via e-mail, voice mail, written request, or by accessing the school's web page. OSS utilizes the following communication tools to inform parents/guardians and students about updates, changes, and revisions to policies and procedures, events, and more. At any time, new communication may be added. Please follow them closely: Student Handbook, Curriculum Guide, OSS Website, electronic Newsletter, Email, Phone Blast, social media.

Field Trips

Field Trips offer exciting ways to learn. OSS students will have the opportunity to go on field trips at various times throughout the school year. Grade level and/or team sponsored day field trips are offered to most students. Students who have received an out-of-school suspension (OSS) during the school year will not be eligible to participate in any overnight field trips for the rest of the school year and any fees or deposits already paid are non-refundable. In addition, any student who has demonstrated an inability to follow rules may be prohibited from participating. Specific disciplinary, tardiness, financial, and GPA requirements are listed on each field trip form. Any fees or deposits already paid are non-refundable. For all field trips, you will be expected to follow these rules:

- You must abide by the OSS Code of Conduct and Discipline Plan while on the field trip.
- You must follow the OSS Dress Code, wearing the uniform unless otherwise specified.
- You must bring to school the Field Trip Permission Slip, signed by your parent/r guardian, by the specified date. No phone calls or e-mails will be accepted as permission.

Lunch/Nutrition Program

Students may purchase a nutritional lunch in the school cafeteria or may bring their lunch from home. The cost for student lunch, as well as the application for Free/Reduced lunch, is available on the OCPS Food & Nutrition website. To adhere to food safety regulations, breakfast and lunch can only be served during specified timeframes, without exception. Breakfast is served daily from 7:30am – 8:00am only. For lunch times, please refer to the grade level schedule.

Home Visits

Research shows that home visits help with both academic and behavioral performance. The overall goal of home visiting is to help strengthen relationships between parents and teachers. Home visiting programs are an effective way for teachers to get parents involved in their child's education and to let parents and children know how much they care. Therefore, OSS encourages teachers to visit their students at their homes. If you are interested in hosting a teacher or administrator, please reach out at any time.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

The purpose of the student support team (MTSS) is to identify and plan alternative instructional strategies for students who are experiencing academic, social, or behavioral concerns. The student support team is a committee consisting of the referring teacher, the chairperson, and at least one other participant. Parents are invited to attend the MTSS process regarding their child. The MTSS process provides problem-solving strategies and instructional support for teachers and parents. Questions concerning the referral process should be referred to an administrator.

Behavioral Leadership Team

The purpose of the behavioral leadership team is to identify and plan alternative instructional strategies for students who are experiencing academic, social, or behavioral problems. The student support team (SST) is a committee consisting of the referring teacher, the chairperson, and at least one other participant. Parents are invited to attend the SST process regarding their child. The SST process provides problem-solving strategies and instructional support for teachers and parents. Questions concerning the referral process should be referred to an administrator.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

Orlando Science Schools employs a Staffing Specialist to provide consultation services to classroom teachers who serve special education students, as needed. OSS shall comply with federal and state law to ensure that all students with disabilities will be provided with a free appropriate education (FAPE).

School Pictures

A contracted photographer will photograph students in the school during the fall and spring semesters. Parents may purchase the entire package of photos or a partial packet. Students must adhere to Dress Code policy for their school pictures to have their photo included in the school yearbook and/or other school publications.

School Resource Officer

The campus police officer protects the students and the school from theft and criminal trespass, acts as a resource person for student concerns, assists in the investigation of student problems, serves as a guest lecturer on a variety of legal subjects, and functions as a liaison between the student and law enforcement agencies. In cases where students violate school rules that also violate criminal law, criminal charges may be filed in addition to disciplinary consequences.

School Sponsored Activities

From time to time, OSS administration may organize or sponsor off-campus activities. Unless otherwise specified by the administration, all school rules are in effect in any such school sponsored activity. Eligibility to participate in such programs and specific policies will be determined and announced by the administration as needed.

School Accident Insurance Policy

The school maintains a Student Accident Insurance Policy covering injuries sustained during school-sponsored activities. This policy is supplemental to family personal health insurance; it does not replace it. Parents/guardians are hereby informed of the policy's existence and may request full details including coverage limitations, claim procedures, by contacting the school.

TRANSPORTATION

Car Riders

Students who are transported in cars should be dropped off in the designated area of the school. The earliest drop off time is 7:15 a.m.

OSS takes no responsibility for students who are dropped off before 7:15 a.m. Automobiles must not drive through or park in any bus loading areas. When picking a student up at dismissal time, please follow the established path. OSS employs a designated person or a police officer to direct the traffic. Your cooperation with this person is expected in order to make arrival/dismissal as safe and efficient as possible. The campus speed limit is 5 mph (miles per hour).

Walkers

OSS takes no responsibility for student walkers. Due to limited sidewalks and high-volume traffic in the immediate area, walking is strongly discouraged. Parents/Guardians who desire for their child to walk or ride the bus, to or from school, must submit a written request to the OSS administration for consideration. Walkers must exit the building and leave campus immediately after dismissal, or if they attended club, immediately after club. Walkers should not be in the cafeteria or roaming hallways for any reason.

Skateboards, Roller Blades, and Scooters

Skateboards, roller blades, and/or scooters, are not permitted on school property.

Health and Safety

As needed, additional Health and Safety Procedures will be published at the beginning of the school year based on recommendations from the CDC, FDH, OCPS, and FDOE.

Illness and Injury

OSS will have part-time school clinic personnel or a first-aid trained professional available to discuss or assist with medical problems or concerns. If clinic personnel are not available, students should report to the front office. If students do not inform the office and simply miss class, it is an unexcused absence.

Emergency Contact Forms

OCPS required Emergency Contact Forms are due at the beginning of every school year and are included as part of the Enrollment and annual ReEnrollment forms. If updates need to be made to these forms, the campus registrar should be contacted.

Medication Policy

Medication should not be brought to school unless it is essential to the health of the student. If a student must take medicine at school, these procedures must be followed. Any referenced forms may be requested from the front office.

The medication to be administered by designated school personnel must be sent directly from the pharmacy or physician's office *or* brought to school by the student's parent/guardian. The school must receive an In-Program Medication Administration Form signed by the student's physician and parent/guardian.

The following information must be printed clearly on the medication container:

- Student's Name
- Name of the medication
- Dosage

- Time the medication must be taken.
- Expiration Date

Bring in only the amount of medication that is needed for a school day. In the case of prolonged need, send in the amount for a clearly specified period such as one week or one month. Extra medication will not be sent home with a student. All medication will be kept in a secure location in the clinic.

Self-Administration of Medication:

As a general rule, students are not allowed to carry any medication with them in school. However, students may carry and administer their medication if both of the following conditions are met:

- It is warranted by a potentially life-threatening condition and advised by their physician AND
- A Medical Self-Carry Form is on file in the office signed by the student's parent, the physician, and the county nurse. These are items such as an inhaler, epi pens, and diabetic equipment.

Over-the-Counter Medications

Aspirin, Tylenol, cough drops, and other patient over-the-counter drugs are not available through school. Should you wish for your child to have access to these medications, you must sign a waiver and leave a supply with the school clinician or the front office. Students are prohibited from carrying any type of medication or herbal supplement on them.

Wellness Policy

In accordance with federal guidelines for schools providing the *Federal Free & Reduced Lunch Program*, OSS has established a Wellness Policy which is designed to promote daily awareness regarding good nutrition and physical health. School employees, parents and students are required to comply with this policy when considering special events, parties, field trips and other activities involving students and refreshments.

GUIDANCE

Graduation Information: Students Entering Grade 9

Diploma Options

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

State Assessment Requirements

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 ELA
(or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) or (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Students must participate in the EOC assessments, and the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade. These assessments are in the following subjects:
 - Algebra I*
 - Biology I
 - Geometry
 - U.S. History
- Special Note: 30% not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC.

Credit Acceleration Program (CAP)

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an advanced placement (AP) Examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Biology I
- Algebra II

Graduation Requirements: Students with Disabilities

Two options are available only to students with disabilities. Both require the 24 credits listed in the table and both allow students to substitute a career and technical (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA IV, mathematics, science, and social studies (excluding Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I and U.S. History).

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least .5 credit via paid employment.

24-Credit Standard Diploma Requirements

4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)
• ELA I, II III, IV • ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement
4 Credits Mathematics
• One of which must be Algebra I and one of which must be Geometry • Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry)
3 Credits Science
• One of which must be Biology I, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses • Two of the three required credits must have a laboratory component • An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I) • An identified rigorous Computer Science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I)
3 Credits Social Studies
• 1 credit in World History • 1 credit in U.S. History • .5 credit in U.S. Government • .5 credit in Economics with Financial Literacy
1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts*
1 Credit Physical Education*
• To include the integration of health
*Eligible courses and eligible course substitutions are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory at http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD .
8 Elective Credits
Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Standard Diploma Designation Requirements

Scholar Diploma Designation

In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must

- Earn 1 credit in Algebra II (must pass EOC);
- Pass the Geometry EOC;
- Earn 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course;
- Pass the Biology I EOC;
- Earn 1 credit in chemistry or physics;
- Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics;
- Pass the U.S. History EOC;
- Earn 2 credits in the same world language; and
- Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.

A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student.

- Takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and
- Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.

Industry Scholar Designation (formerly known as Merit Diploma Designation)

Meet the standard high school diploma requirements.

- Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per section 1003.492, Florida Statutes).

Public Postsecondary Options

State University System

Admission into Florida's public universities is competitive. Prospective students should complete a rigorous curriculum in high school and apply to more than one university to increase their chance for acceptance. To qualify to enter one of Florida's public universities, a first-time-in-college student must meet the following minimum requirements:

- High school graduation with a standard diploma
- Admission test scores
- 16 Credits of approved college preparatory academic courses - 4 English (3 with substantial writing)
- 4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)
- 3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)
- 3 Social Science
- 2 World Language (sequential, in the same language)
- 2 Approved electives <http://www.flbog.edu/forstudents/planning>

The Florida College System

The 28 state colleges offer career-related certificates and two-year associate degrees that prepare students to transfer to a bachelor's degree program or to enter jobs requiring specific skills. Many also offer baccalaureate degrees in high-demand fields. Florida College System institutions have an open-door policy. This means that students who have earned a standard high school diploma, have earned a high school equivalency diploma, or have demonstrated success in postsecondary coursework will be admitted to an associate degree program.
<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/index.shtml>

Career and Technical Centers

Florida also offers students 46 accredited career and technical centers throughout the state, which provide the education and certification necessary to work in a particular career or technical field. Programs are flexible for students and provide industry-specific education and training for a wide variety of occupations. Career and Technical Directors:

<http://data.fldoe.org/workforce/contacts/default.cfm?action=showList&ListID=8>

24-credit Program: Graduate Early

A student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.

Distinction Between 18-Credit ACCEL Option and 24-Credit Option

3 elective credits instead of 8; Physical Education is not required; Online course is not required. All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.).\

Bright Futures Scholarships

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, visit <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>.

Financial Aid Information

The Office of Student Financial Assistance State Programs administers a variety of postsecondary educational state funded grants and scholarships. To learn more, visit <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/>

Useful Websites and Links for Parents and Students

A. **College Board:** www.collegeboard.com

Information and registration for AP and SAT tests, and College Planning and Career Search College Search: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

B. **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>

The Office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or technical school, offering more than \$150 billion each year to help millions of students pay for higher education.

C. **Florida Virtual School:** www.FLVS.net

OSHS may, but is not required, to provide virtual instruction through a limited number of Florida Virtual School (FLVS) “seats” which, if available, may be reviewed and distributed on a limited basis by grade level, application request, and course selection. Only certain limited courses will be permitted to be completed through FLVS.

D. **Naviance:** <https://connection.naviance.com/family-connection/auth/login/?hsid=ossmhcs>

Naviance is a web-portal that provides a unique experience to our students and guides them towards a career path and college readiness. Naviance Succeed is used by more than 4,200 schools and 100,000 educators in 72 countries.

Students and families are provided with access to Family Connection. Using the tools provided, students map their own path starting with assessments to learn more about themselves, progressing to goal setting and career exploration, and then setting a plan to achieve their goals.

E. **Common App:** www.commonapp.org

Today, Common App® is a non-profit membership organization representing more than 1,000 diverse institutions of higher education. It connects applicants and those who support them to a wide array of public and private colleges and universities across all 50 U.S. states and 20 countries.

F. **Project Lead the Way:** <https://my.pltw.org>

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the nation’s leading provider of K-12 STEM programs. The curriculum and high-quality teacher professional development model, combined with an engaged network of educators and corporate and community partners, help students develop the skills necessary to succeed. This year, we are implementing PLTW - Pathway to Engineering and Biomedical Science Academy. Students can access with their login information to PLTW Online Learning Management System and see the instructor’s assignments and projects and their grades.

Scholarship Search Resources:

1. OCPS Scholarship Bulletin
2. www.Collegeboard.com
3. www.Fastweb.com
4. www.Scholarships.com

5. www.CollegeNet.com
6. www.ScholarshipMonkey.com
7. www.unigo.com
8. www.Cappex.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Announcements

Official announcements are provided in our weekly newsletter. As a common practice, announcements made by the administration, which affect the school community, are made through both the newsletter and email. OSS encourages parent(s)/guardian(s) to check their email on a regular basis and review the newsletter each week. The Governing Board, administration, teachers, and staff at OSS are dedicated to keeping our community informed.

Book Bags, Backpacks, Pencil Bags, Roller Bags and Purses

Students may use book bags to transport only school materials to and from school. During the school day, however, OSS requires that all book bags and large bags remain in students' lockers, or classroom cubby. Roller bags are NOT ALLOWED to be used in the building. All bags must be small enough to fit easily inside the locker or cubby. Only handheld pencil bags are permitted – pencil bags worn on the back (or any bag worn on the back or shoulder) must remain in students' lockers or cubbies. Only handheld purses are permitted – purses with straps or purses worn on the back or shoulder must remain in the student's lockers/cubbies during the school. Backpacks and large bags will not be allowed in classrooms during club/tutoring.

Classroom Observations

OSS values the concept of parents as partners in education. Parent and community support and assistance are vital in all facets of the school program. Parents of currently enrolled students may wish to observe the classroom setting or perhaps volunteer to serve as an instructional partner in the classroom. To minimize disruption of the classroom environment, all classroom observations are limited to one per semester and must be scheduled one week in advance with the Principal.

Corrections and/or Modifications to This Handbook

OSS reserves the right to make changes or modifications to this handbook as needed throughout the school year. Changes or modifications made during the school year will be announced in the weekly newsletter. The latest version will always be available on our website at www.Orlandoscience.org.

Definitions and/or Interpretations Used in This Handbook

For purposes of clarity, many terms and situations have been defined or explained in an effort to explicitly determine the exact meaning or context. The OSS administration will determine and apply specific definitions and interpretations where necessary to provide maximum security, safety, and educational opportunities for OSS students. No other definition or interpretation, nor any other source may be used or applied to terms or situations described within this handbook.

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker for his/her individual use at OSS middle and high school campuses. This locker is for storing books, coats, and personal items necessary for school. Students should not bring valuable items from home. OSS will not be liable for personal items left in lockers or brought to school. To ensure the safety of school items, it is strongly advised the locker combination to be kept in a safe and private location. Lockers should not be traded with other students. Lockers must never be shared. It is student's responsibility to see that their locker is kept locked and in order at all times. Students should report any damage, vandalism, or the inoperable condition of their locker to the office. If vandalism, damage, or the inoperable condition of a locker is not reported, the student will be held responsible for it. Students locker is school property and always remains under the control of the school. Students, however, have full responsibility for the security of their locker and what is in it. Lockers must be kept neat at all times. School officials may make inspections. No item considered dangerous by the administration may be kept in the lockers and will be removed if found there. This includes glass or any other objects that may be potentially

dangerous. Students attending OSS should not expect privacy regarding the contents of their lockers, desks, or other school property. Due to the small size of OSS's lockers, book bags must be small enough to fit within the locker - extra-large book bags are not advised. The cost of renting a school locker will be determined and announced on orientation day.

Lost and Found

Personal items that are found should be turned in to the designated Lost and Found area. Students should check the area for lost articles. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity every month after students are informed about the deadlines to check lost and found items. OSS is not responsible for items in Lost and Found. The Lost and Found is cleaned out monthly.

Metal Detectors & Scans

In accordance with OCPS procedure, periodic scans with a metal detector may be conducted throughout the school. A plan will be established prior to the scanning to ensure randomness. A report of the scanning process will be documented and submitted to the Principal.

Materials Distribution

OSS has a "closed forum" relative to the distribution of materials or posting such materials on school grounds or property. It is for this reason that flyers, brochures and/or other materials may not be handed out on campus prior to, during, or following the school day. Unless it is approved by the administration, distribution, selling, ordering, and consuming external food items or goods are prohibited, and will be confiscated.

Missing Items

When an item is missing, students should report the missing item to the Administration. At that time, the student should complete a *Missing Items Form* which will permit the item to be returned to the owner should it be found or located. Should the owner find the item themselves or it be returned directly to them, they should notify the Assistant Principal as soon as the item has been located.

Parking and Traffic Circulation

Parents, guardians, and students should follow the rules of OSS Pick-Up/Drop-Off Agreement and designated personnel's directions in the drop off and dismissal area. Student parking permits are contingent on disciplinary actions, tardiness, and GPA. Please refer to student parking pass forms for detailed requirements. Student parking passes may be suspended and revoked due to the failure of adherence to school rules and requirements.

Parent Participation

There are several opportunities at OSS which a parent can volunteer. Among these are jobs as library assistants, cafeteria aides, clinic volunteers, room representatives, and instructional partners. Contact the office for more information about being a volunteer at OSS. Each volunteer must be registered and approved by the OCPS volunteer system, ADDitions.

Payments

Parents may take care of monetary obligations by check or SchoolPay®. Checks should be made payable to OSS. There will be a \$25 additional charge for any check returned to the school. Parents are encouraged to make their payments through SchoolPay accounts. More information about SchoolPay® option may be found on the school website.

Recording Devices – Audio or Video

OSS prohibits the use of audio or video recording equipment by anyone other than OSS staff or personnel on the OSS campus, within the school building, or at school sponsored events (on or off campus) without express written permission from the OSS Administration. Students found in violation will have their recording device confiscated and be given a *Disciplinary Referral Form* for unauthorized recording. Parents or non-OSS personnel found in violation will immediately be required to leave - if uncooperative, appropriate law enforcement authorities will be contacted to have them removed from the premises.

Social Media

Social media use by students is a personal responsibility, and OSS is not responsible for student's use of social media. However, if the use of social media disrupts the educational process of any student, disciplinary action will be taken. Misuse of social media that is considered any threat or harassment to students, staff, or school will be referred to law enforcement.

Student I.D. Cards

Student I.D. cards are issued to all students for security and identification purposes. Should the safety and security of our students be compromised in any way, a "LOCK DOWN" scenario would occur where outside law enforcement authorities may be required to enter and secure the building – all OSS staff and students must be able to show proper identification. All students must have their Student I.D. Card with them at all times and present it immediately when requested by school personnel or law enforcement authorities. Additionally, students need to present their Student I.D. Card in the Library to check out books or other reference materials. The Student I.D. Card will be issued at the beginning of the school year to each child for a fee. A replacement cost will be required for lost or damaged cards. It is recommended that all students maintain their Student I.D. Card in their wallet, purse or attached to a lanyard.

Telephone Calls

Students may not be called from class to talk on the telephone during school hours, nor are they allowed to make outgoing calls except in the most necessary circumstances. As part of an effort to teach responsibility, students are discouraged from calling home for forgotten items. Students may not use any phone at school other than an office phone – classroom phones are prohibited from use by students at any time. The school does not have sufficient phone lines to accommodate student phone calls at the end of the school day. All arrangements regarding after-school activities must be made before the student leaves home in the morning. Calls of an emergency nature, that may involve the interruption of a class to deliver a message to a child, must be directed to the Principal or Assistant Principal for approval. Students must have permission from an administrator stating a reason in order to use the office phones between 7:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. We ask that all students please come to school in the morning clearly knowing whether their parents expect them to ride the bus or be picked up by car in the afternoon. We also ask that parents please know whether or not their children are planning to stay for an after-school activity.

Video or Audio Surveillance

OSS may use video or audio surveillance to monitor halls, classrooms, and common areas, to ensure student and faculty safety. Additionally, this video or audio surveillance may be used for evidence in disciplinary situations, as well as remote viewing or monitoring of various school activities, school entrances and school parking areas. Parents may request a viewing if any recording is used as evidence in a discipline case. Viewing requests by parents may be refused or limited where viewing would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's personal privacy, would give rise to a concern for a third party's safety, or on any other grounds recognized in the Privacy Act. No other request of viewing may be honored. Approved viewings must be done in the presence of the Principal or designee.

Visitors to the Building

All visitors must enter through the front door, first report to, and sign in at the main office, and wear a visitor's badge before going to other parts of the building. Any visitor in the building without a badge will be asked to report back to the front office. Parents, guardians, or other visitors may be permitted to have lunch with their student. Parents must be

registered and approved by OCPS Volunteer System, ADDitions. Parents must also be approved by ADDitions to volunteer or attend field trips.