

Code of Conduct

Progressive Discipline Plan

Worth County Middle School

2023-2024

At **Worth County Middle School (WCMS)** teachers encourage desirable behavior and deal with undesirable behavior through sound, acceptable, professional means. Students are expected to conduct themselves in compliance with school regulations and to exhibit courtesy and respect for authority at all times. Rules for student conduct apply while students are on school grounds at any time, off the school grounds at a school activity function or event, enroute to and from school on a school transportation vehicle, or on school transportation or private vehicle used to transport students to a school-sponsored function, and at school bus stops.

Students will at all times show proper respect toward fellow students, staff, and faculty members. Corrective action will be taken against any student who willfully disobeys faculty members. Penalties will depend upon the degree and intent of the disobedience, as well as the number of similar incidents of inappropriate behavior. Continued willful disobedience may bring suspension and possible expulsion from school.

At **WCMS**, the techniques of discipline management used or penalties imposed range from:

1. Student participation in conference with parent/guardian and teacher
2. Counseling
3. Restriction from school programs and assemblies
4. Participation in the cleaning/repair of any damages caused to the school-related environment
5. Lunch or morning detention
6. In-School Suspension
7. Suspension from school
8. Financial restitution for the repair of any damage caused to the school environment
9. Corporal punishment
10. Disciplinary Hearing/Hearing Officer
11. Referral to Law Enforcement or Department of Juvenile Justice

The following are specific violations of the Code of Conduct and the disposition for each. The administration reserves the right to apply dispositions on an individual basis. **Dispositions may be increased or decreased as warranted by circumstances.**

Violation	Disposition
Acts of physical violence: against a teacher, school bus driver, or other school official or employee.	Suspension pending hearing within 10 days, complaint filed with law enforcement and parents notified.
Alcohol or substances represented as drugs Possession, use, under the influence, or transmission of these on the school grounds, at any school function or on any school vehicle.	Suspension, pending hearing within 10 days. Parents and law enforcement notified. Minimum one semester assignment to alternative school recommended.
Arson	Suspension pending hearing within 10 days. Parents notified. Restitution for damages, notification to fire department. Law enforcement notified.
Assault/Battery: With significant provocation	1st Offense: Parents notified -5 days home suspension with arrest by Police and SST referral 2nd Offense: 10 days home suspension, pending hearing. Law enforcement notified. Recommendation-Expulsion
Assault/Battery: Without significant provocation	Suspension, pending hearing within 10 days. Parents notified. Minimum one year alternative school assignment recommended.
Body Piercing (refer to dress code for allowed piercings)	1st Offense: Teacher/administrator warning and parents notified. Violation may require correction before student is permitted to resume normal school activities. 2nd Offense: 1 day ISS/parent notified. 3rd Offense: 3 days ISS/parent notified 4th Offense: 5 days ISS/Required parent conference; behavior contract dependent upon severity (administrative discretion).
Bomb Threat/Terroristic Threats	Suspension pending hearing within 10 days. Parents and law enforcement notified. Recommend one year expulsion.
Bullying: <i>Parents of accused and victim will be notified in all cases.</i>	1st Offense: 3 days home suspension. 2nd Offense: 5 days home suspension. Notify law enforcement. 3rd Offense: Suspension pending hearing within 10 days. Notify law enforcement. Finding of 3 rd

	offense in school year results in assignment to alternative school.
<p>Bus Misconduct:</p> <p><i>{Fighting on the School Bus carries the consequences outlined under "Fighting" in this handbook, in addition to the loss of bus riding privileges as follows:</i></p> <p>1st Offense: 5-10 days bus suspension 2nd Offense: 10-15 days bus suspension 3rd Offense: 30 day minimum bus suspension + minimum 5 days OSS and consideration of placement in the Worth County Achievement Center</p> <p><i>*In all discipline cases (including on the bus) the administration has the discretion to impose consequences which it deems appropriate</i></p>	<p>Administrator discretion depending on severity of the offense.</p> <p>1st Offense: Warning 2nd Offense: Parent Contacted and bus behavior contract signed. 3rd Offense: 1-3 days bus suspension 4th Offense: 5 days bus suspension 5th Offense: 10 days bus suspension.</p> <p>Subsequent Offenses: Administrator discretion. Recommendation that bus riding privileges be suspended for the remainder of the year.</p>
<p>Bus Violations: Using mirrors, lasers, flash cameras or any other lights or reflective devices in a manner that might interfere with the bus driver's operation of school bus. <i>Items (devices) confiscated will not be returned to the student or parent.</i></p>	<p>1st Offense: Warning/Parent Conference 2nd Offense: 5-10 days bus suspension 3rd Offense: 20 days suspension from bus 4th Offense: Suspension for the remainder of year.</p>
<p>Campus/Classroom Disturbance: Inappropriate student demeanor.</p>	<p>1st Offense: 3 days ISS. Parents notified 2nd Offense: 5 days ISS. Parents notified. 3rd Offense: 3 days home suspension 4th Offense: 5 days home suspension</p> <p>Subsequent Offenses: 10 days pending hearing. Minimum one year assignment to alternative school recommended.</p>
<p>Cell Phones and Electronic Communication Device Use: A student may possess a cell phone or other electronic device (this includes smart watches and wireless earbuds) on school property or during school activities; however, the device may not be visible or in use during instructional time, including the use Bluetooth devices. Students may use in common areas when not in class. The administration has the authority to scroll/search a cell phones contents including its pictures, video, voice and text messages, address books, incoming/outgoing calls, calendars, e-mail and instant messages if the administrator has "reasonable suspicion" that there is student misconduct.</p>	<p>The school is not responsible for theft, loss or damage to electronic devices brought to school.</p> <p>For WCMS, the instructional school day begins at 7:30 AM and ends at 3:30 PM.</p> <p>For WCHS, the instructional school day begins at 7:52 AM and ends at 3:14 PM.</p> <p>Students who use an electronic device during the school day without permission from a school authority will be subjected to:</p>

<p><u>Note: Additional punishment will be issued if cell phone is used for purposes such as inappropriate pictures, cheating violations, or student's refusal to turn over cell phone. If student refuses to turn cell phone over, it is considered a campus disturbance and law enforcement may be notified. Habitual Violators of this policy are also subject to additional punishment</u></p> <p>*Teachers should not ask students to use their personal device (especially phones) for in-class assignments. WCSD provides access to classroom sets of electronic devices to all teachers. These devices should be used for in-class assignments.</p>	<p>1st Offense: Device is confiscated and turned in to the front office. Student may pick up the device at the end of school day.</p> <p>2nd Offense: Device is confiscated and parent must schedule a conference to have the device returned to parent.</p> <p>3rd Offense: Device is confiscated and turned in to the front office. Phone contract signed.</p>
<p>Computer/Internet Misuse:</p>	<p>Parents notified. When appropriate, legal action.</p> <p>1st Offense: 1 day ISS</p> <p>2nd Offense: 3 days ISS</p> <p>3rd Offense: 5 days ISS</p> <p>Subsequent Offense: Home suspension</p> <p><u>Consequences if misuse includes pornography:</u></p> <p>1st Offense: 3 day OSS</p> <p>2nd Offense: 5 days OSS</p> <p>3rd Offense: 10 days OSS</p>
<p>Destruction of Personal or School Property (Vandalism) disposition may depend on value of the vandalized property.</p>	<p>Up to 10-day suspension, pending hearing, restitution made. Parents notified. Law enforcement may be notified.</p>
<p>Displays of Affection</p>	<p>1st Offense: Warning</p> <p>2nd Offense: 1 day ISS-Parents notified</p> <p>3rd Offense: 3 days ISS</p> <p>4th Offense: Home suspension pending parent conference to sign behavior contract.</p>
<p>Dress Code Violation</p>	<p>1st Offense: Teacher/administrator warning and parents notified. Violation may require correction before student is permitted to resume normal school activities.</p> <p>2nd Offense: 1 day ISS/parent notified.</p>

	<p>3rd Offense: 3 days ISS</p> <p>4th Offense: 5 days ISS/Required parent conference; behavior contract dependent upon severity (administrative discretion).</p>
<p>Drugs: for example, but not limited to:</p> <p>Narcotics, Marijuana(THC/over the counter derivative of/edible forms of), Depressant, and Stimulant Drugs, or substances represented as drugs: Possession, use, under the influence, or transmission of these on the school grounds, at any school function or on any school vehicle.</p>	<p>Suspension, pending hearing within 10 days.</p> <p>Parents and law enforcement notified. Minimum one year assignment to alternative school recommended.</p>
Extortion	Suspension, pending hearing within 10 days, parents notified.
<p>Failure to comply with any reasonable directions, regulations, or rules (to include classroom assignments) by a teacher and/or adult</p>	<p>1st Offense: 1 day ISS</p> <p>2nd Offense: 3 days ISS</p> <p>3rd Offense: 5 days ISS/Parent conference to sign behavior contract</p> <p>4th Offense: 1 day home suspension</p>
<p>Falsification, Misrepresentation, Omission, Instances of alleged inappropriate behavior by a teacher, administrator, or other school employee toward a student</p>	Administrator discretion.
<p>Fighting {Includes fighting on the school bus and/or any school property and events}</p> <p><i>{Fighting on the School Bus carries the consequences outlined under "Fighting" in this handbook, in addition to the loss of bus riding privileges as follows:</i></p> <p>1st Offense: 5-10 days bus suspension</p> <p>2nd Offense: 10-15 days bus suspension</p> <p>3rd Offense: 30 day minimum bus suspension</p> <p><i>*In all discipline cases (including on the bus) the administration has the discretion to impose consequences which it deems appropriate</i></p>	<p>1st Offense: 3 days OSS/2 days ISS, notify law enforcement and charges may follow. Student also referred to counselor.</p> <p>2nd Offense: Suspension, pending hearing within 10 days. notify law enforcement and charges may follow. Minimum remainder of school year or one semester assignment to alternative school recommended.</p> <p>The recommended dispositions are minimums. The severity of the fight, to include cooperation with school staff will be considered.</p>
Gang Related Activity, including, but not limited to:	10 days OSS; Parents notified; referral to tribunal; law enforcement notified

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of gang related hand signs • Use of gang related handshakes • Display of gang signs, symbols, or insignia on personal belongings or placing/writing/drawing gang signs on Worth County School District property or the property of another student • Confirmed participation in a gang, with evidence of the commission, attempted commission, or conspiracy to commit a criminal offense • Conducting gang related business on campus or other Worth County School District property (recruitment, initiation, etc). 	
Habitual Offender/Chronic class or school disruption	<p>Parent conference to sign behavior contract. Guidelines outlined in behavior contract will be imposed.</p> <p>At 20 days of discipline (ISS/OSS and other discipline considered), the student will be recommended for a minimum of one semester at alternative school.</p>
Harassment	<p>1st Offense: 3 days ISS/Parents notified</p> <p>2nd Offense: 5 days ISS; Required parent conference to create behavior plan.</p> <p>3rd Offense: Begin disposition for 1st offense of Bullying (3 days home) as outlined in Code of Conduct as evidence of pervasive behavior.</p>
Inappropriate Student Demeanor (Minor) by Action or Words (including social media/electronic communications)	<p>1st Offense: 1 day ISS</p> <p>2nd Offense: 3 days ISS</p> <p>3rd Offense: 5 days ISS</p> <p>4th Offense: 3 day home suspension</p>
Inappropriate Student Demeanor (Major) by Action or Words (including social media/electronic communications)	<p>1st Offense: 3 days ISS</p> <p>2nd Offense: 5 days ISS</p> <p>3rd Offense: 3 days home suspension</p> <p>4th Offense: 5 to 10-day home suspension, pending disciplinary hearing, notify law enforcement.</p>
Leaving Campus without Permission	<p>1st Offense: 3 days ISS and parent conference</p> <p>2nd Offense: 5 days ISS and parent conference.</p> <p>3rd Offense: 3 to 5 days home suspension, pending disciplinary hearing.</p>

	<p>4th Offense: 5 days home school suspension; parent conference</p> <p>5th Offense: 10 days home suspension; parent conference; Referral to Tribunal.</p>
Leaving Class without Permission	<p>1st Offense: 1 days ISS</p> <p>2nd Offense: 3 days ISS, required parent conference to sign behavior contract.</p> <p>3rd Offense: 5 days OSS</p> <p>4th Offense: 3 days OSS</p> <p>5th Offense: 5 days OSS; referral to tribunal; parent conference.</p>
Misconduct while in ISS	<p>Student sent home for the remainder of the day. ISS will resume upon return to school.</p> <p><u>Students must complete the entire ISS term assigned to them.</u></p>
Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs	<p>Parents must sign a Medication Consent Form before any medication will be issued at school. Students are not permitted to bring any medication to or from school.</p> <p>1st Offense: Medication turned over to school nurse and parent contacted for conference.</p> <p>2nd Offense: 3 days ISS</p> <p>3rd Offense: 2 day OSS</p>
Sending false alarms (fire alarm, bomb threat)	<p>Suspension pending hearing within 10 days. Parents and law enforcement notified.</p>
Sexual misconduct/inappropriate sexual behavior (see definition)	<p>5-10 days suspension pending hearing within 10 days. Law enforcement notified. Depends on severity; administration discretion</p>
<p>Skipping Class:</p> <p><i>{Includes leaving class without permission}</i></p>	<p>1st Offense: 3 days ISS</p> <p>2nd Offense: 5 days ISS/Required parent conference to sign behavior contract.</p> <p>3rd Offense: 3 days OSS</p> <p>4th Offense: 5 days OSS</p>
<p>Tardy to Class: Tardies and punishment will start over at beginning of the new semester</p>	<p>1st and 2nd tardy handled by teacher (noted in grade book)</p> <p>1st Offense/3rd tardy to class: 1 day ISS/required parent contact</p>

	<p>2nd Offense/4th tardy to class: 2 days ISS (2nd referral)</p> <p>3rd Offense/5th tardy to class: 3 days ISS (3rd referral)</p> <p>4th Offense: 5 days ISS/required parent conference to sign behavior contract.</p> <p>5th Offense: 3 days OSS</p> <p>Subsequent Offenses: 3 days OSS</p>
Theft (*disposition may depend on value of stolen item(s)).	<p>1st Offense: 5 days ISS/Administrator's discretion*</p> <p>2nd Offense: 3 days home suspension</p> <p>3rd Offense: 10 days home suspension pending hearing, possible criminal charges and restitution for any offense. Administrator's discretion.</p>
<p>Threat: Any Verbal or Written Statement Toward Bodily Harm</p> <p>WCSD reviews all threats with the utmost seriousness. Any significant threat that is credible or viable will be reported to law enforcement.</p>	Administrative Discretion.
Tobacco Use and/or Possession , including but not limited to cigarettes, dip, snuff,	<p>1st offense: 1 day OSS</p> <p>2nd offense: 3 days OSS and behavior contract</p> <p>3rd offense: 5 days OSS</p> <p>4th offense: 10 days OSS pending hearing</p> <p><u>*All tobacco and associated paraphernalia will be confiscated by administration and not returned.</u></p>
Trespassing	Suspension pending hearing within 10 days. Parents notified. Law enforcement may be notified.

<p>Vape (Nicotine or Non-Nicotine)</p> <p>Use and/or possession of a vape. This includes possession of or use of corresponding accessories (pods, chargers, etc.)</p>	<p>1st offense: 3 days OSS</p> <p>2nd offense: 5 days OSS</p> <p>3rd offense: 10 days OSS pending hearing recommending placement in WCAC.</p> <p><u>*All vape devices and associated paraphernalia will be confiscated by administration and not returned.</u></p>
<p>Vape (CBD or derivative)</p> <p>Use of or possession of a vape containing CBD, hemp or derivative thereof. This includes possession of or use of corresponding accessories (pods, chargers, etc.)</p>	<p>OSS, pending hearing within 10 days.</p> <p>Parents and law enforcement notified. Minimum one semester assignment to alternative school recommended.</p>
<p>Vape (THC)</p> <p>Use of or possession of a vape containing more than 3% THC (standard for an over the counter CBD pen). This includes possession of or use of corresponding accessories (pods, chargers, etc.)</p>	<p>OSS, pending hearing within 10 days.</p> <p>Parents and law enforcement notified. Minimum one school-year assignment to alternative school recommended.</p>
<p>Use of any electronic device for the purposes of photographing, filming (video), audio recording, circulating and/or posting inappropriate behavior to any website on the internet.</p>	<p>Parent notified. ISS to Suspension up to 10 days per administrator's discretion. May include hearing & referral to law enforcement.</p>
<p>Weapons: A student may not, possess, handle, use or transmit a dangerous instrument or weapon on school property, at school functions or on school bus. Weapons may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any handgun, firearm, rifle, shotgun or similar weapon; any explosive compound or incendiary device; or, any other dangerous weapon as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-21, including a rocket launcher, bazooka, recoilless rifle, mortar, or hand grenade. 	<p>Students who possess any weapon described in paragraph 1 in violation of this policy will be subject to a minimum of a one calendar year expulsion and reported to law enforcement. The Superintendent may either before or after the student is referred for a tribunal hearing reduce the mandated one-year expulsion under circumstances where the one-year expulsion appears excessive to the superintendent. The tribunal shall also have the authority to modify such expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis in determining the appropriate punishment.</p> <p>Students who possess other weapons or hazardous objects as described in paragraph 2 will be subject to discipline as determined by the principal to be appropriate, which may include in-school suspension, out of school suspension, or a tribunal referral, depending on the seriousness</p>

2. Any hazardous object, including any fake weapon(s), dirk, bowie knife, switchblade of two or more inches, straight-edge razor, razor blade, spring stick, knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material, blackjack, any bat, club, or other bludgeon-type weapon, or any flailing instrument consisting of two or more rigid parts connected in such a manner as to allow them to swing freely, which may be known as a nun chahka, nun chuck, nunchaku, shuriken, or fighting chain, or any disc, of whatever configuration, having at least two points or pointed blades which is designed to be thrown or propelled and which may be known as a throwing star or oriental dart, or any instrument of like kind, any nonlethal air gun, and any stun gun or taser. Such term shall not include any of these instruments used for classroom work authorized by the teacher.

of the offense, the age of the student and other relevant factors.

DRESS CODE

WORTH COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023-2024

Students should dress in an appropriate and reasonable manner that is not distracting to other students and teachers. **The administration, faculty and staff reserve the right to decide the suitability of any and all garments and accessories.** The following guidelines will be employed though they are not all-inclusive:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clothes with slits or holes that show skin above the knee are to be worn to school without wearing another layer under such items.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students may not wear any outer garments, accessories or clothes that have any printed words that might be considered suggestive, vulgar, degrading, violent or profane; or advertise and/or promote the use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco products; and/or show affiliation with any gang, group or social club not approved by the school administration. No gothic or “emo”-like appearance is allowed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No dresses or skirts are to be worn which are more than three inches above the knee. Shorts may not be more than four inches above the knee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dresses, blouses, sweaters and shirts must not be strapless, low-cut front and/or back, halter top or see-through fishnet or crotchet type material. Bare midriffs or tank tops are NOT allowed. Pants and jeans should fit around the waist and should be the proper length. No sleeveless shirts for boys are to be worn. All clothes must be worn as intended; not backwards, inside out, etc. No oversized shirts may be worn.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No wallet chains, vendor chains, biker chains, combs with exaggerated points or medallions (greater than 2” in length) are allowed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoes (except for medical reasons) must be worn at all times. No bedroom shoes are allowed. Appropriate footwear may be required for specific courses and/or specific areas. For example, flip flops or shower shoes may not be worn to school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No clothing such as spandex shorts, leggings, jeggings and tights unless outer clothing worn over it is no more than 3 inches above the knee. Items considered appropriate to wear over such clothing: shorts, skirts, dresses. This does not include coats/jackets. <u>Leggings</u> - The length of the dress or top worn over the leggings must fall below the fingertip length when arms are held loosely at the side.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pants made of soft material such as: yoga pants, sleepwear or swim suits are not acceptable as school apparel (any exception to this rule requires the explicit approval of the principal). See-through material allowing undergarments or skin to be visible is not permitted. No pajama pants, lounge pants or pajama-like clothing is allowed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hats, caps, head coverings of any type are not allowed (including hoods). Sunglasses are not to be worn inside the building. This includes sunglasses worn on top of the head.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For student safety, jewelry must not be worn during physical education. All PE attire must adhere to the dress code guidelines. For example, if a student wears basketball shorts in school, shorts may not be more than four inches above the knee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belts, suspenders and overalls will be buckled and/or buttoned. All clothing will be worn at the appropriate level and not below the waistline. If necessary, a belt will be worn to keep clothing at the appropriate waist level. No “sagging” is allowed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neatly trimmed mustaches and/or beards and sideburns are allowed. Hairstyles must not be unruly or unkempt.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No visual body piercing is allowed except for ear studs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will not be allowed to leave school to correct dress code violations. Administrator’s discretion will be used to the method to correct a violation.

***Regardless of personal taste in clothing, all clothing must meet the above requirements.**