



Hampton County High School

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March 25, 2024

Greetings Hampton County High School Families:

In an effort to maintain safe and orderly environments of learning for students and staff, the school district administration in partnership with the Board of Trustees has approved the revised fighting and vaping policy. These efforts are designed to minimize physical altercations and create a tobacco - free environment. As you know, physical altercations are disruptive to the learning environment and vapes are illegal for students. Now more than ever it is important that we maintain a solid partnership in our message to the students.

The revised policy and handbook amendments are attached and will go into effect Monday, April 8, 2024.

We do acknowledge that we are nearing the end of the current school year; however, due to the recent increase of offenses, the administration feels the need to implement the changes immediately. Your anticipated support of this decision is greatly appreciated.

Beyond working diligently, our caring staff is ready to assist students with conflict resolutions and vaping concerns. As always, we stand ready to work with you to ensure the best for our children.

It is the goal of HCSD to maintain a safe and secure environment for all students, staff and visitors. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any assistant principal at 803-943-3568.

Thank you for your support!

Respectfully,


Cassandra B. Williams, Principal

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

HCHS Handbook Amendment: The changes will go into effect on March 25, 2024

FIGHTING

*****This offense is now a Level 3 offense:**

337. ***Fighting. (Sec Glossary) (PS Code 009)

1st-- Up to 3 days suspension and may receive 45 days in alternative school.

NOTE: **A district hearing may be requested; however, it must be done in writing clearly stating the grounds for the request. Upon receiving the request, the district hearing officer will review the incident and all the evidence gathered to determine if a hearing will be granted.

2nd—Student will be assigned to alternative school for the remainder of the year.

NOTE: If there are less than 30 days left in the school year when the incident occurs, the student will serve the remaining 45 days of the next school year in Alternative School. Graduating seniors will serve whatever time is left in the school year and forfeit the right to all senior privileges including graduation.

3rd -- Recommendation for expulsion

NOTE: *The principal or his/her designee has the right to administer consequences that are adjusted for any student involved. Adjustments will be made based on the consideration of all the facts and circumstances of the particular situation and may consider, but will not be limited to, verbal and/or written statements of admission; witness statements from others; video surveillance, et al.**

NOTE: (For 7th-12th Grade) At the SRO's discretion, the student may be escorted off of campus to the Sheriff's Office or Department of Juvenile Justice- Hampton Office. Parents will be contacted by Law Enforcement or DJJ.

NOTE: **Depending upon circumstances, the student could be assigned to Acellus to complete his/her assignments.

VAPING

This offense has been classified on Level 2 as well as Level 3

221. ***Possession, transfer, or use of vapes (e-cigarettes), vape cartridges, any paraphernalia related to a vape (e-cigarette), or dab pens that contain tobacco, etc. (004/230) Since the purchase of a vape (e-cigarette) is illegal by minors, possession will constitute a violation of this section. This includes being present on District/school property or at any school-sponsored event after using, possessing, or transferring any of the aforementioned items. (See Note 2), (See Glossary), (PS Code 004/230)

1st – 3 Days OSS and 45 Day Probation

NOTE: Probation will be administered at the school level.

2nd – 3 Days OSS and the student will be assigned to alternative school for 45 days and mandatory participation in the TEP (Tobacco Education Program) offered by The New Life Center. Parents will be responsible for the fee and transportation. Administrators will be responsible for following up to determine if the student has completed their sessions. Failure to complete the program within three weeks of the start date of the TEP session, will result in automatic alternative school for the remainder of the school year.

3rd – 5 Days and DAH recommendation for expulsion

336. ***Possession, transfer, or use of vapes (e-cigarettes), vape cartridges, any paraphernalia related to a vape (e-cigarette), or dab pens that contains marijuana or any other substance that is considered illegal, etc. (004/230) Since the purchase of a vape (e-cigarette) is illegal by minors, possession will constitute a violation of this section. This includes being present on District/school property or at any school-sponsored event after using, possessing, or transferring any of the aforementioned items. (See Note 2), (See Glossary), (PS Code 004/230)

1st– 3 Days OSS and mandatory participation in the TEP (Tobacco Education Program) offered by The New Life Center. Parents will be responsible for the fee and transportation. Administrators will be responsible for following up to determine if the student has completed their sessions. Failure to complete the program within three weeks from the start date of the TEP session, will result in automatic alternative school for 45 days.

2nd—3 Days OSS and Alternative school for the remainder of the school year. If the student is not already in alternative school, they will be assigned 45 Days in the alternative setting.

NOTE: If there are less than 30 days left in the school year when the incident occurs, the student will serve the remaining 45 days of the next school year in Alternative School. Graduating seniors will serve whatever time is left in the school year and forfeit the right to all senior privileges including graduation.

3rd – 5 Days OSS and DAH with recommendation for expulsion

NOTE: Any student who has already had a vaping violation this school term and is caught again will automatically be sent to Alternative School for 45 days and will be required to attend TEP.