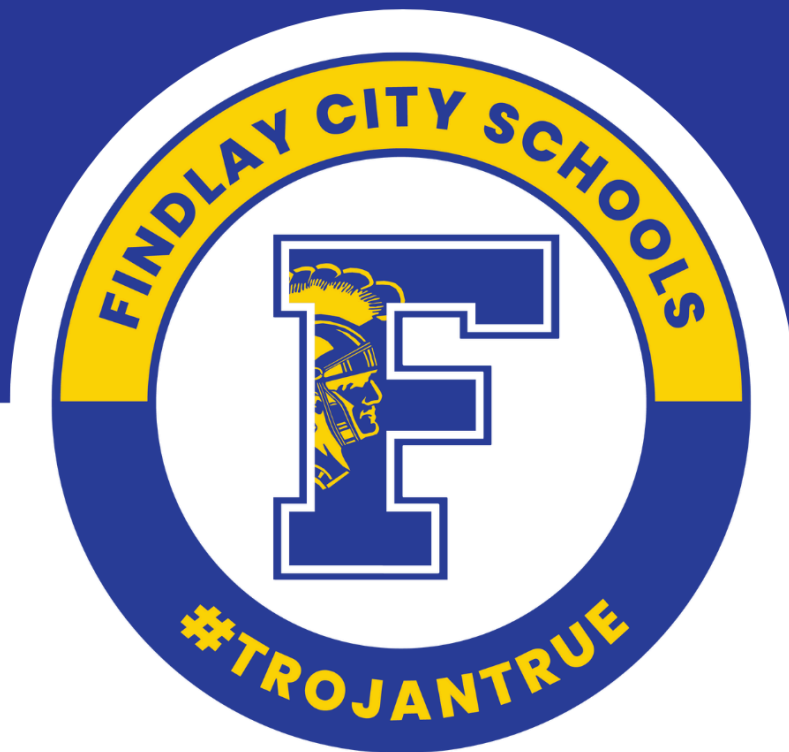


DONNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL
STUDENT
HANDBOOK



WELCOME TO DONNELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

The administrators and staff of Donnell Middle School welcome you to what we hope will be an exciting year. During your years in middle school, you will grow and change in many ways, and our entire staff is committed to helping you become a mature, responsible citizen. Changes and new experiences are sources of questions. Remember that our staff has your best interest at heart; feel free to ask questions and take advantage of all the help that is available to you. In addition, you may be given a set of classroom rules from each teacher. Read your handbook so that you can do your part to maintain a healthy and safe learning environment at Donnell Middle School.

FINDLAY CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

To unlock the dreams of all students through academic excellence, diverse opportunities, and true belonging.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

We have high expectations for Donnell students. Good citizenship involves being courteous and respectful to others and their property, being punctual, cooperative, orderly and following all guidelines and procedures. Students should understand that we are here to learn. Those who violate established rules and procedures will be treated fairly, firmly, and swiftly. The right to due process will be afforded to every student. These general guidelines for good citizenship have been established for Findlay students:

1. Incorporate the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People in their daily lives.
2. Appropriate behavior will be expected at all times: coming to school, during school, after school, and at school functions.
3. Maintain a positive attitude.
4. Follow classroom expectations.
5. Respect the rights of others, their property, and school property.
6. Proper language and dress will be expected of all students.

CITIZENSHIP

Findlay City Schools has developed nine virtues as the backbone of good citizenship. These virtues are responsibility, courage, compassion, perseverance, respect, appreciation for diversity, hope, integrity, and self-discipline. Donnell is committed to helping students achieve these virtues as well as the 7 Habits.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

In accordance with Ohio law, students are expected to be in school every day on time, unless with legitimate excuse. When a student is absent from school, the parent/guardian should call the child's school to report the absence the day of the absence. When a student returns to school after an absence, he/she must present a written statement certifying the reason for the absence from a parent/guardian or professional person within two (2) days. Written documentation is a request to excuse the absence. In cases of extended absence, a parent/guardian is required to notify the school of the doctor's orders requiring the student to be absent. The doctor's documentation explaining the requirement for the absence must be provided to the school, in writing, within 3 days of the first day of the doctor's order for the absence.

Auto Caller: As a part of our safe arrival process, a daily absence check is conducted by office staff. SafeArrival allows parents to report their child's absence quickly and conveniently in one of three ways:

1. Parents can call into an automated interactive telephone system via a toll free number (1-844-305-3755) through which absences can be reported.
2. Parents can log into a website, fcs.schoolconnects.com to authenticate their Portal account to report absences and update contact information.
3. Parents who have authenticated their accounts and have either an iOS or Android device can download an app that can be used to report absences.

A school day is 7 hours for grades 6- 8; 6.5 hours count towards attendance. Examples of excused absences include:

- A. Personal illness (a physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- B. Illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- C. Quarantine of the home
- D. Death in the family (funeral)
- E. Necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian (s)
- F. Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- G. Out-of-state travel (up to a maximum of four (4) days per school year) to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extracurricular activity
Any classroom assignment missed due to the absence may be completed by the student
- H. Such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent
- I. Medical/counseling/court appointments

Examples of unexcused absences include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Transportation (car trouble or missed the bus)
- B. Refusal to attend school
- C. Babysitting
- D. Waking up late / oversleeping
- E. Absences not verified in writing
- F. Shopping, haircut/beauty shop appointments, family errands, fishing, hunting, or similar activities

Attendance may not always be within Donnell. A student will be considered in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board. The Board may consider each student assigned to a program of other guided learning experiences to be in regular attendance when the student reports to assigned staff member(s) for guidance at the place in which the student is conducting study, and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE AND TRUANCY PROCEDURE

- Schools may send notice to the child and parent/guardian in writing the legal consequences of being truant once child has **15 or more hours of unexcused absences**, and notify them of their responsibility to cause the child to attend school immediately (ORC Sec. 3321.19)
- Schools may send notice to parent/guardian of child with **21 or more hours of unexcused absences** requiring the attendance of parent/guardian, and children grades 5-12, to attend parent education program (educational program's purpose is to encourage parental involvement in compelling the attendance of the child at school) (ORC Sec. 3321.19)
- Schools may notify parent or guardian of students with **25 or more hours of unexcused absences**, in writing, the legal consequences of being truant
- The child is considered a habitual truant when the child is absent without legitimate excuse for **30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in a school month, 72 or more hours in a school year**. When a student is considered to be a habitual truant the school district may implement an absence intervention plan (ORC Sec. 3321.19 and Sec. 3321.191).
- Filing complaints of truancy and contributing (ORC Sec. 3321.191 and Sec. 2151.27)

EXCESSIVE UNEXCUSED OR EXCUSED ABSENCE PROCEDURE

If a student accumulates **38 hours or more in one school month or 65 hours or more in a school year of excused or unexcused absences** the attendance officer may notify the guardian in writing within 7 business days after the date after the absence that triggered the notice requirement (ORC Sec. 3321.191). Once this criteria is met a student may be placed on **Attendance Watch** (excluding OSS).

The Attendance Watch program will closely monitor the student's attendance in an effort to minimize absences and provide assistance to the student and/or family. The student will be required to turn in a documented written excuse from medical, counseling, or other official personnel (other than parent written notes) that specifies the student's name, reason for the absence, and the date and times to be excused,

to the school within 2 days of the absence. Students who are ill may also be excused from school by the school nurse.

Students may be placed on Attendance Watch at the beginning of a school year based upon last year's attendance records or during the current school year when the student has 38 hours or more in one school month or 65 hours or more in a school year of excused or unexcused absences. The Principal/Assistant Principal, Attendance Case Manager, or counselor may meet with the student and develop a plan to improve school attendance. The attendance of students moving into the district will be reviewed using the same criteria for Attendance Watch.

The school may also take any appropriate action as an intervention strategy, such as:

1. Place the student on Attendance Watch
2. Provide counseling
3. Request or require the parent/guardian to attend a parent/guardian education or mediation program
4. Implement an absence intervention plan that will vary based on the individual needs of the student
5. Make community referrals to provide assistance as appropriate to the student and their families in reducing absences
6. Take legal action under section 2919.222, 3321.20, or 3321.38 of the ORC

A student cannot be out-of-school suspended, expelled, or removed from school solely because of truancy issues. Per Board of Education Policy 9.16, information regarding student attendance will be reported to the department of education.

APPLICATION FOR PLANNED EXTENDED ABSENCE

Those students whose parents/guardians request permission for them to miss school three or more days for the purpose of vacation, trips, etc., should complete the **Student Vacation** form. This application should be picked up from and returned to the attendance office a minimum of **one week** before the absence, so special arrangements can be made for make up work and to advise teachers of the dates the student will be absent. **The achievement tests will be given during the spring; therefore, we encourage you not to schedule vacations during this time.**

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

Students are not allowed in the building until 7:10 a.m. unless under teacher or administrative supervision. Students choosing to have breakfast are able to enter the building at 7:00 a.m. Walking students are not to come early! Early arrival is permissible with prior teacher approval or a note from a parent or guardian. At dismissal, **students are expected to be out of the building and off school property by 2:45 p.m.**, unless they are under the supervision of a teacher, coach, or administrator. All activity groups must have a teacher or administrator present. Once a student enters the building in the morning, they need to stay in the building.

ASSIGNMENTS DURING ABSENCES

If you are absent from school three (3) or more days, you may have your parent/guardian request assignments covering the absence or projected absence. They should call the school by **9:00 a.m** if they want to pick up the assignments later that day. Parents or guardians are asked to pick up their student's assignments between 2:45 and 3:15 p.m. in the main office. If such a request is made by the parent/guardian, the student should attempt to have those assignments completed prior to returning to class. Make-up work is the student's responsibility. Failure to assume this responsibility may result in failing grades for the incomplete work. The student must contact the teacher and arrange to complete work under the following guidelines.

One day's absence - make up the next day

Two day's absence - two days to make up

Three or more consecutive days - number of days absent equals the number of days to make up the work unless time is extended by the administration.

Any time a student knows he/she will be absent (ex: field trip, concert, etc.), arrangements to make up work should be made with teachers prior to the absence. Families with internet access, please check Progressbook daily to view homework assignments.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If severe weather makes it necessary to close schools, radio stations WFIN (1330 AM)/ WKXA (100.5 FM) or Toledo Television stations 11,12, and 13 will make the announcements early in the morning. Please listen to the radio and/or television channels. You may also visit the district website, www.findlaycityschools.org to sign up for text alerts. You may also find information at www.thecourier.com, as well as subscribing to social media platforms and monitoring emails from Finalforms. Please do not call the school or radio stations. All extra curricular and athletic programs are also cancelled at the middle school level when school is closed.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE AWARD

We believe that maintaining excellent attendance is a major factor in achieving academic success. Students who maintain perfect attendance (no absences and no tardies) will be honored and presented with an appropriate award at the end of the school year.

TARDINESS

If a student arrives late to school or leaves school early the student and/or their parent/guardian must sign in/out with the attendance office. Excessive tardiness may result in administrative discipline. If a student arrives to school within 30 minutes of the last bell ringing the student will be marked "tardy". If the student arrives 30 minutes or later after the last bell rings the absence will reflect either excused or unexcused hours, depending whether the attendance procedure stated above was followed (parent/guardian providing documentation explaining the absence).

If a student leaves school 30 minutes or less before the end of the school day, based on the dismissal time, the student will be marked as "early release". If the student leaves more than 30 minutes of the dismissal time the absence will reflect either excused or unexcused hours, depending whether the attendance stated above was followed (parent/guardian provided documentation explaining the absence).

TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL

If a student is planning to move, or for any other reason you must transfer to another school, contact the principal to find out what steps must be taken before you leave Donnell Middle School. It is essential that you follow proper procedures so that we may forward your school records to your new school. Students must return all textbook and school owned materials prior to the transfer to avoid fees.

HEALTH SERVICES

LICE

Students found with live lice will be dismissed with parent/guardian and excused for one additional day for lice treatment. Students are expected to return to school with a parent/guardian the next school day to be rechecked by school nurse or principal designee. Student will be readmitted to school if no live lice are found and a noticeable improvement is made on nit removal.

MEDICATIONS and SCHOOL NURSE

A registered nurse is in the building on a regular schedule. If the nurse is absent from the building and you become ill, check into the attendance office. Students are not permitted to carry any medications and/or pills/substances of any type at school. This includes over-the-counter medications and prescriptions. If you need to take prescribed medicine at school, it must be stored in the nurse's office. Please take the medicine to the attendance office when you arrive at school. Your

parent(s)/guardian(s)/physician will need to sign a consent form in order for the medication to be dispensed at school. In Final Forms, parents must also sign permission for students to take over the counter medications in the clinic. Students are not permitted to carry over the counter medications or distribute over the counter medications to other students. The Board of Education policy for medication at school is in accordance with the state law.

SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES

The counselors provide many services to the middle school students. The counselor's focus on three domains: Career, Personal-Social and Academic. If a student would like an appointment he/she may make the necessary appointment before or after school, during a class change, or by emailing with one of counselors. Individual appointments made during class time must be with the approval of classroom teachers, the counselor and/or administration. In addition to individual appointments, the counselors also present lessons in classrooms and provide groups that all help to improve student achievement. To obtain additional information and on resources of the counseling program visit the counselor's website, <http://counseling.fcs.org>.

Suicide Intervention Procedure: If a student is a serious threat to self, the school counselor will refer to appropriate psychiatric services. Upon this intervention the principal and parent or guardian will be notified. If parent or guardian objects to the recommendation of the appropriate psychiatric services, the principal may contact the appropriate public or private agency. It is incumbent upon the family to get their child evaluated/cleared to return to school, once an evaluation is requested.

PARENTS SEEKING ASSISTANCE

The Findlay City Schools have always maintained an open door policy to listen to your questions and concerns about your child's education. If you have a concern about classroom instruction or your child's academic achievement, you should first contact your child's classroom teacher. If further assistance is needed, the building principal or assistant principal should be contacted. If you have a social or emotional concern for your child, the building principal, assistant principal, or guidance counselor should be contacted. They will be able to assist you or direct you to the proper community agency. General questions or concerns regarding the School District should be directed to the Superintendent or the Assistant Superintendent. The home and school working together will enable your child to have a successful school experience. We encourage you to call us if you have a question or concern.

Parents have the ability to check their student's progress and grades on-line. If you did not receive a password or have misplaced yours please go to your middle school website and click on Check Student Grades assistance, fill in the form for a request and submit. The parent access site is located at <https://parentaccess.noacsc.org/>. Further questions about grades in Progress Book should be directed to the student's teacher and/or counselor.

Teachers, administrators, counselors, and other school staff are here to help students who may have concerns. If you have any concern about school, please talk with your teacher or other school personnel.

Dr, Andy Hatton	Superintendent	425-8212
Mrs. Krista Miller	Asst. Supt.	425-8202
Mrs. Katie Abbott	Asst. Supt.	425-2569

<u>Glenwood</u>			<u>Donnell</u>		
Erica Cobb	Principal	429-8253	Drew Bauman	Principal	425-8240
Anthony Nugeness	Asst. Principal	425-8254	Matt Harp	Asst. Principal	425-8241
Tutsy Asmus	Counselor (A-K)	429-3748	Riley Delben	Counselor (A-K)	429-3708
Emily Fackler	Counselor (L-Z)	425-3759	Kristyn Bishop	Counselor (L-Z)	429-3703

NEED HELP FINDING HELP? Dial 2-1-1

2-1-1 is a free and confidential way to get and give help in your community. One call gives you easy access to information and referral 24 hours/7 days a week. 2-1-1 connects you with health and human services, such as food, shelter, childcare, physical and mental health services, support for seniors and persons with disabilities, assistance for immigrants and more! To speak with a professional dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-650-HELP (4357). Hearing impaired dial 7-1-1. www.hancockcounty2-1-1.org

**Do you or someone you know need help,
feeling stressed or
need to talk?**

Please call (24/7): 1-888-936-7116

This is a toll-free crisis hotline number that will listen and help!

GENERAL INFORMATION

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility or ineligibility of a student commences with the start of the fall sports season. A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible a student in grade 7 or 8 must be currently enrolled and must have been enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period. The student must receive passing grades during that grading period in 75% of those subjects in which the student received grades and must not have more than 1 "F". The student must have also earned a 1.5 GPA or higher.

Chemical Health Policy

Findlay City Schools believes that a chemical health policy is part of a comprehensive education on substance abuse for students (e.g. health curriculum, counseling services, red ribbon week, challenge day, etc.) and is complemented by the extra-curricular activities rules and eligibility policy 9.22. This policy also reemphasizes the Board of Education's support of student programs that assist students and parents in dealing with many of today's unique challenges.

Recognizing that observed and suspected use of alcohol and illicit drugs by school students is a serious concern, a program of deterrence will be instituted as a proactive approach to a drug free school. Likewise, students using drugs pose a threat to their own safety, as well as to that of other students.

The purpose of this program is fourfold:

1. To provide for the safety of all students;
2. To undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use illegal drugs;
3. To encourage students who use drugs to participate in drug treatment programs; and
4. To prevent the impact drug and alcohol use has on the learning centers of the brain allowing students to achieve their full academic potential while a student within Findlay City Schools.

Therefore, during each season, activity or school year when a student moves into the School District, all students wishing to participate in athletics, extra-curricular activities and/or clubs will be subject to urine testing for illicit or banned substances. Eligible students may be randomly tested anytime during the school year, or tested upon suspicion. Any student who refuses to submit to urine drug testing may not be permitted to participate in the Findlay City School District athletic related extra-curricular activities, nonathletic extra-curricular activities, or clubs for their career.

Please visit <http://www.findlaycityschools.org/board-policy.htm> for the complete Chemical Health Policy 9.23 or 9.23a for the complete Chemical Health procedures.

BICYCLES

Bicycle racks are provided for your convenience. For the safety of your bicycle, LOCK IT! In the event that your bicycle is stolen and/or damaged, **the school is not liable**. Students must walk their bicycle

to/from the bike racks while on school property.

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

Ohio's College Credit Plus can help students earn college and high school credits at the same time by taking college courses from colleges and/or universities. The purpose of this program is to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wide variety of options to college-ready students. Successful completion of a three or more credit-hour college course will result in 1.0 Carnegie unit earned at the high school. A two credit-hour college course will earn a student 2/3 of a high school credit and a 1 hour college credit course will convert to 1/3 of a high school credit. In many instances CCP is free, however students who fail a course will be responsible for associated costs of that course. If you choose to attend a private college or university, the student may be responsible for a portion of the costs. Responsibility for transportation rests with the student. Students will be expected to follow the rules and regulations set by the college/university as well as the school's expectations. FCS in grades 7-12 will be offering CCP courses at Findlay High School, depending on teacher credentialing and student requests. Students enrolled in college courses may still be required to take End of Course exams for certain courses. In some cases, the final grade may correspond with a point scale used for graduation requirements. Classes failed or withdrawn with an "F" will receive an "F" on the high school and college transcripts and will be computed into the high school and college GPA. If a passing grade is not received, the district may seek reimbursement for the amount of state funds paid to the college on your behalf for the course. The school district may withhold grades and credits received for high school courses taken until reimbursement has been made. Students must notify the district by April 1st of the previous school year to participate. Please see school counselors for any FAQ's and <https://www.ohiohighered.org/ccp> to learn more.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION/STUDENT RECORDS

Donnell makes directory information available upon a legitimate request unless a parent/guardian notifies the school in writing by October 1 of each school year that (s)he will not permit distribution of the following information. Under Ohio Law, directory information includes the following: Student's Name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participating in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, date of graduation and awards received. The right of confidentiality and protection from improper disclosure will be in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Uninterrupted Scholars Act of 2013.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

In the event that financial concerns arise that make it difficult to purchase school lunches, students should see their counselor and apply for free and/or reduced lunch. Federal Regulations require all schools to verify the income of applicants for free and reduced lunch. Parents or guardians must have their child pay or pack lunch until the Food Service office approves the application. Applications are available in the Main office.

INCOMPLETES

You must make up all incomplete work within two weeks after the end of the nine week period for which you received the "I". If you do not make up the required work within the two week period, the "I" will become an "F" on your grade card. Exceptions to this rule will be made in cases of extended serious illness which are validated by a physician.

To receive credit in any subject, a student must complete the course requirements by the end of the semester or school year. In cases of extended illness or other extenuating circumstances, a student may be allowed extra time to complete course requirements or modification of course requirements with the

approval of the teacher and appropriate principal.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker and the appropriate combination. Students should not share lockers with other students. The locker combination is private information. It is strictly advised that students **DO NOT** exchange locker combinations with each other. All lockers remain the property of the Board of Education and are not to be used for storing any illegal or inappropriate items. If there is reason to believe a locker is being used improperly or illegally, it **MAY** be searched. Report locker problems to the main office. Students **MUST** lock their school locker and their gym locker to provide security from theft.

LOST AND FOUND

All items found at school should be turned in to the attendance office immediately. Students may check in the office before or after school for lost items. It is important that students regularly check for items they have misplaced. It is suggested that students place some form of identification on their belongings. Purses and wallets will be searched to find proper identification in order to return the item back to the original owner. Items not claimed will be periodically donated to local agencies or discarded.

NEWS ARTICLES/PICTURES

From time to time, student's pictures may be taken by photographers and local newspapers to be used in school press releases and school publications. If you object to having your child's picture and name used, please notify the school in writing by October 1.

PARENT/STUDENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS and FINES

Students who are delinquent in paying fees/fines and other financial obligations (fundraisers, pictures, book fines, etc.) may have their school records withheld. Failure to meet financial obligations will follow the student each year. Permanent records and diplomas from Findlay High School may be withheld until all financial obligations have been met from kindergarten through twelfth grade. If there is a problem, the parent needs to contact the building principal.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The Findlay City Schools are **NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PERSONAL ITEMS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**; this includes, but is not limited to: musical instruments, clothing, bicycles, calculators, jewelry, cell phones, iPods, portable gaming systems, or personal electronic devices. The Donnell staff encourages students not to bring valuables to school.

PROMOTION / RETENTION OF STUDENTS

In grades 6, 7, and 8, a student must earn at least a "D" average in three of the four core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies). Students must earn three quality points in order to pass the course for the year. If a student fails the last two grading periods of the year, they will not earn credit for that course. Students who do not meet grade requirements for the year, may be considered for retention. A student may meet grade requirements by passing classes in summer school when offered. Final promotion/retention decisions may be determined by principals, teachers and parents.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

A special blanket policy is available with a cost to all students at the beginning of the school year.

SCHOOL PICTURES

All students will have their individual school pictures taken early in the school year. The students will have the option of purchasing these pictures.

SCHOOL SAFETY / DRILLS

School safety is very important to us. We need your help in ensuring the safety of everyone at Donnell

Middle School. Students are reminded that they are not to prop doors open, rig doors to stay open or place objects in doors to otherwise bypass door locks. Students who prop doors open, rig doors to stay open or place objects in doors to otherwise bypass door locks will be identified using building security resources and disciplined. All visitors must use the main entrance to enter.

When an announcement is made for any school safety drill such as a fire drill, a tornado drill, or a lockdown, all students, staff members, visitors and other people in the building are expected to follow the directions of school officials. Students must refrain from talking and go to the designated areas quickly, quietly and in an orderly manner. Any student in violation of these guidelines may receive disciplinary action.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please see your counselors or visit the office if you need assistance with locating supplies.

SIGN-POSTING POLICY

All signs must be approved by a principal prior to posting.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES/CONFLICTS

Students are encouraged to participate in numerous activities offered at Findlay. We offer athletics, academic organizations and music performing groups. All activities contribute to the social, athletic and cognitive growth of children. Conflicts between events sometimes occur when students are involved in multiple activities. Advisors and coaches are expected to work together to handle meeting and/or practice conflicts. In the event of competition conflicts, our school policy recognizes that priority will be given to academic-related competitions.

STUDENT GRADING SCALE

The following is the Findlay City School Board adopted grading scale:

A – 92 – 100%	(4pts)
B – 82 -- 91%	(3pts)
C – 72 – 81%	(2pts)
D – 62 – 71%	(1pts)
F – 61% or Below	(0pts)

STUDENT HELP SESSIONS

All teachers are available during their conference periods, home base periods and after school each day to help students. Some teachers have regularly scheduled help sessions each week.

STUDENT HONOR ROLLS

Distinguished Honor Roll - 3.5 to 4.0 average.

Merit Honor Roll - 3.0 to 3.49 average.

The list of honor roll students is published in the local newspaper.

Academic Letters - Students who maintain a 3.5 grade point average or higher will receive an academic letter. This is accumulative through the first three grading periods.

ANY STUDENT WHO RECEIVES A “D” OR “F” IN A COURSE WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR EITHER THE DISTINGUISHED OR MERIT HONOR ROLL.

TEXTBOOKS

The Findlay City Board of Education furnishes books to each student. You are responsible for books assigned to you. For your own protection, sign your name in ink in the place provided in each book when it is issued to you. If you lose, mutilate, or damage a book, you must pay for the damage or loss.

VISITORS

All visitors must be treated with respect. It is school policy not to permit student visitors from other schools at any time. Other visitors entering the school are to check in at the main office to sign in and obtain the required visitor pass. Parents are always welcome; however, prior arrangements are appreciated.

WORK PERMITS

According to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4109, minor students 14 through 17 years of age are required to have a work permit in order to be employed. Students needing a work permit can obtain an application in the Main Office. Once all parts of the application have been completed, students should take the application to the Main Office. The student's work permit application will then be submitted to a principal for approval, which may take up to five (5) business days. Following approval, the application will be filed on-line to the Ohio Department of Commerce and a copy will be given to the student to give to their employer. In order to have a work permit application approved, students must be in good standing in regards to enrollment in and attendance at school. Students who do not remain in good standing may have their permits revoked.

EXPECTATIONS and SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

BUSES

Riding a bus is a privilege extended to those who qualify to ride school buses to and from school. Once these students arrive at school by buses, they are not permitted to leave the school grounds from the time of arrival until their bus departs after dismissal. Students will be informed about rules governing their behavior on school buses by their drivers. **All school rules and procedures apply while students are being transported by school district vehicles. This includes field trips.** Bus Safety Rules are posted in ALL Findlay City School Buses: Observe classroom conduct; Be courteous, use no profane language; Do not eat or drink on the bus; Keep the bus clean; Cooperate with the driver and/or bus aide(s); Do not smoke; Do not damage or tamper with the bus or equipment; Stay in your seat; Keep head, hands, and feet inside the bus; Do not fight, push, or shove; Do not bring pets on the bus; Do not bring flammable material on the bus; The bus driver is authorized to assign seats; and Observe quiet at ALL railroad crossings. Students must follow safety rules and state regulations, avoid any behavior that may distract the driver, including following designated place of safety rules, keeping the aisles and exits clear, sitting with their back to the back of the seat and feet on the floor, school appropriate objects must be able to be held on student laps, and students must leave or board the bus at locations to which they are assigned (unless there is parent or administration authorization).

CAFETERIA EXPECTATIONS

It is expected that students will use the Donnell cafeteria in a respectful and responsible manner. This means that students will treat the cafeteria as they would treat their dining area at home or restaurant. Students are expected to clean their own areas. Rules are established by the cafeteria and/or recess monitors and are expected to be followed. Food and drink must remain in the cafeteria.

DETENTIONS

Teachers have the authority to detain a student for up to 60 minutes for a detention. If 24 hr. written notice cannot be obtained, then a teacher will contact a parent by phone. Detention appointments must be kept by the student prior to participation in school activities. Students may be assigned administrative detention(s) for various reasons. Administrative detentions are after school and last up to 50 minutes.

FIELD TRIPS

Students may not be permitted to attend field trips if any of the following four conditions exist:

1. Student fails the course during the previous nine weeks.
2. Student is currently failing the course.

3. Student was suspended during the grading period the field trip was to be taken.
4. Student has outstanding fees.

HALLS AND PASSES

Time is set aside for changing classes. If students move directly to the next class, there is plenty of time. Students are encouraged to stop at their lockers only before school, before or after lunch, and after school. Yelling, running, horseplay, or other behaviors that could result in injury, such as jumping down steps, is not permitted. Any time a student leaves a class, he/she must have a pass. Side trips to lockers, restrooms, or other places not designated on the pass are not permitted and could result in disciplinary action. Students must keep their hands and feet to themselves and move through the hallways in a safe manner. Passes and class change times may be amended or eliminated to address student behaviors.

LIBRARY

The library are open for student use during the school day. For the benefit of others, all students are urged to return checked-out materials on time. If for some reason checked-out materials are lost, etc., and cannot be returned, the librarian should be informed immediately.

Acceptable Student Use: 1. Students may only access the district network and/or Internet by using their assigned network account. Use of another person's account/password is prohibited. Students may not allow other users to utilize their passwords. 2. Students may not intentionally seek or suggest to other students to seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, data or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the network. 3. Students may not upload, download, create or transmit confidential information, a computer virus, worm, Trojan horse, or other harmful components or corrupted data, or vandalize the property of another. Vandalism includes any malicious attempt to hack, alter, harm or destroy software, hardware, data of another user, other Network resources, or the use of the Network to destroy anything on the Internet or outside Networks. 4. Students may not purposely engage in computer activities that degrade or disrupt the operation of the Network or that waste limited resources. For example, do not waste toner or paper in printers, and do not send chain letters, even for non-commercial or apparently "harmless" purposes, as these, like "junk email", use up limited Network capacity resources. 5. Students are encouraged to save and store their work in their server account, understanding that school staff may review computer files or messages that are created by the student. Material may be reviewed for grading and appropriate content. Additionally, files may be reviewed for any harassing or threatening material, and/or any vulgar or obscene content. 6. Students are not to modify or remove any identifying labels on computer equipment. 7. Students are permitted to use networked software and school-supplied software. Programs written by the student which are part of an assignment in a school's course of study may be run, as required, for that course of study's requirements, with teacher supervision. 8. Students may not install or delete programs on the school's desktop computers. Students may download school appropriate apps/programs from the Internet to install on their Chromebook in accordance with the Findlay City Schools 1:1 Handbook for Students and Parents. 9. Students may not remove, alter or copy Network software for their own personal use or for the use of others. 10. All electronic communication between students and teachers should take place through their district assigned accounts. 11. Students are asked to advise school staff when they observe any violation of the school's policy for the use of the school's computers. 12. Students are asked to advise their teacher when a computer malfunctions in any way. 13. Students may not use the District's computers or network to offer for sale any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by law or the Student Discipline Code. 14. Students may not create, copy, view, transmit, download, upload, or seek, sexually explicit, obscene or pornographic materials. 15. Students may not create, copy, view, transmit, download, or upload any materials that include the design or detailed information for the purposes of creating an explosive device, materials in furtherance of criminal activities or terrorist acts, threatening materials or any other materials that violates or encourages others to violate the law or the Student Discipline Code. 16. Students may not upload, download, copy, redistribute or republish copyrighted materials without

permission from the owner of the copyright. Even if materials on the Network are not marked with the copyright symbol, students should assume that they are protected under copyright laws unless there is explicit permission on the materials to use them. **17.** Students are prohibited from using proxy applications to get around internet filters on personal devices such as: android phones, iPhones, iPods, etc. in order to access content prohibited by the school. Students are prohibited from using a proxy to view, download or seek materials, files, information, software or other content that may be offensive, defamatory, misleading, infringing, or illegal, or to view or access content or information unrelated to the curriculum. **18.** Students may not post or distribute inappropriate photos or media (pornography, dangerous, or hate-related media of any kind). This includes cyberbullying or harassing another individual (student or employee) or posting/transmitting information of any kind about another person without their consent, including, but not limited to video, images, audio, text, or any other media. Example: Any material, images/media taken from within the district or its property cannot be used for defamatory, inaccurate, obscene, sexually explicit, lewd, hateful, harassing, discriminatory, violent, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, threatening, profane, pornographic, offensive, or terroristic purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, disseminating electronically (email/Instant Messaging) or posting this type of information about another student or employee on an outside communication site such as Facebook, etc.

Exceptions to any of the above rules are permitted only under direct teacher supervision. Violations of these rules may result in disciplinary action, including, but not limited to, termination of access to the school's computers, detention and/or suspension. Violations also may be referred to the appropriate legal authorities and/or other legal action may be pursued. Any parent/guardian of a student under the age of 18 may direct that the student not be given access to the Internet. An "opt out" form for this purpose may be obtained from any school office in the school district. **The complete acceptable use policy is available online at**

http://www.findlaycityschools.org/policies/9pol/9-21_Student_Acceptable_Use_Policy.pdf

RESTROOMS

Restroom facilities should be used before or after school, or at lunch. Students who must be excused from class to go to the restroom should have a pass signed by a teacher. Students should not be out of the classroom more than three to five minutes. Please help maintain restroom cleanliness by disposing of paper towels in the waste baskets, flushing toilets, etc. Students must be respectful of others and their privacy. If issues occur, the frequency and timing of restroom use may be monitored by staff.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ASSEMBLY

Verbal and Written Expression and Assembly

Schools, by their nature, must encourage free inquiry and free expression of ideas. In so expressing themselves, students maintain the responsibility to refrain from the use of slanderous, profane or obscene remarks and to conduct themselves in such a way as to allow all persons involved in discussion groups the opportunity to express themselves freely. Along with all other rights guaranteed by the Constitution, the right of individual citizens to assembly peacefully is subject to careful restriction where the exercise of this right would interfere with the rights and freedoms of other citizens. There is an appropriate time and place for the expression of opinions and beliefs. Demonstrations which interfere with the operation of the school or classrooms are prohibited. **Symbolic Expression and Related Activities** Symbolic expression is that type of expression which conveys the personal ideas, feelings, attitudes, and opinions of an individual in a manner more remote, but just as valid as verbal expression itself. A student may be free to determine his/her symbolic expression, as long as it does not endanger health or safety, damage property, disrupt the activities of others, or is not obscene.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

The following rules may apply to the search and seizure of school property assigned to a specific student and/or any items brought onto school property or to a school related activity.

- General searches of school property may be conducted at any time by school authorities and may be assisted by law enforcement authorities.
- The school will cooperate fully with police investigations, including but not limited to the use of canine

- patrol programs subject to Board of Education policy.
- Where it appears to school authorities that it is necessary to prevent immediate harm, either to a student himself or to others, a student, like any other citizen, may be questioned or searched. Any search of a person may be done in private.
 - There may be reasonable suspicion for school authorities to believe that the possession of certain items constitutes a rule violation.
 - Lockers are the property of the Board of Education and students are assigned lockers for storage of items. Searches may be conducted at any time.
 - Illegal items (firearms, weapons, smoke bombs) or other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or security of others may be seized by school authorities and the student and parents involved may be notified.
 - Items which are used to disrupt or interfere with the education process will be removed from the student's possession.

SURVEILLANCE CAMERA

Students are duly informed that behavior may be monitored on school and/or adjacent property by security cameras. In accordance with FERPA, access to surveillance camera tapes and material is prohibited.

TELEPHONES/CELLPHONES

Since the school office telephones are for business use only, they will be used by students in emergencies only. If a student must use the office phones during school hours, he/she must receive prior permission from a staff member. Personal cell phones may only be used ***before and after school***. Throughout the day, cell phones **must** be turned off and stored in your locker.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

Self-discipline is one of the most important lessons education should teach. Though it does not appear as a subject, discipline underlies the whole educational system and develops self-control, character, and orderliness. Self-discipline is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for other people.

Approved disciplinary action may include a verbal or written warning, referral to a school counselor, mediations, parent/guardian contact or conference, closed lunch, detentions, Weeknight School, In-School Assignment (ISA), Out-of-School Suspension (OSS), emergency removal, and/or expulsion. All students will be disciplined in a fair and consistent manner. The following rules of conduct apply whenever a student is on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, or otherwise subject to the authority of school officials. These rules also apply off school property, if the misconduct is directed at a district official or employee or the property of a district official or employee.

Violations of the student discipline code are classified according to the seriousness of the offense. Certain violations require immediate suspension and/or recommendation for expulsion. Other violations may result in the discipline listed above, and/or loss of extracurricular activities (ex: pep rallies, dances, attendance at sporting events, and/or other school rewards). ISA assignments count as an excused absence which means students may make up work missed during the assigned time. OSS also count as excused absences. A student with OSS will be permitted to make up assignments, tests, quizzes missed during the absence for credit. When an OSS is imposed, the student may not attend school or extracurricular activities and class work may be made-up for credit or partial credit at the discretion of the appropriate principal. Note: a student who is expelled or suspended out-of-school may not set foot on any Findlay City School property during the suspension/expulsion. Weeknight school lasts from 2:35 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Failure to attend may result in a suspension. The superintendent, principal or assistant principal may suspend a student from school for a period up to 10 days for violation(s) of the Code of Conduct. The superintendent may expel a student from school for up to 80 days and in some cases for an entire year.

Suspension/No Participation Guideline – Extracurricular activities and school events (such as dances, assemblies, pep rallies) are privileges not rights. Extracurricular activities are reserved for students who behave appropriately in school. Any student who is issued a suspension for inappropriate behavior may not be able to participate in Findlay extracurricular activities for any length of time as determined by the building administration. The building principal will determine eligibility for all students under this provision. Findlay City Schools Training Rules will be followed for all athletes in addition to the above guidelines.

Code of Conduct

1. Academic Dishonesty

A student may not engage in academic misconduct, including cheating, unauthorized access or use of computers, copyright infringement, and plagiarism. To use the ideas or words of another person or entity (artificial intelligence, including, but not limited to ChatGPT) without proper documentation is a form of literary stealing called plagiarism. Students in violation of this policy may receive a zero for the work in question, required to complete another assignment, in addition to other disciplinary consequences that may be imposed.

2. Altered or Forged Passes/Documents

All students must promptly, upon request, correctly identify themselves to school authorities. A student may not alter, forge, or use a fraudulent document. A student shall not forge the name of another person or falsify times, dates, grades, addresses, or any other information whether orally or in writing.

3. Bullying and Hazing

A student may not bully or haze students or other persons. Hazing means doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any student or other organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person. Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once. The intentional act also includes violence within a dating relationship. The behavior causes mental or physical harm to the other student and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. This behavior is prohibited on school property, on a school bus or at a school-sponsored activity. School publications, including photos, are protected by copyright and the use of photos without written permission is strictly prohibited. Students who engage in bullying behavior, including cyber bullying, may face consequences up to and including school suspension. Students who fear harassment or retaliation after a report of bullying is made should consult with their assistant principal or school counselor. Students may report incidents of bullying to any school employee, and may be made anonymously. Students may also call 419-429-8994 to leave a report of bullying. Students may also go onto the FHS webpage and submit a report that goes directly to an administrator's email. Students who make false reports of bullying and may be disciplined up to a school suspension.

4. Damage to Private Property

A student may not cause, incite, or attempt to cause damage to private property (including school personnel's private property on or off school premises or at any school activity). Fees may be assessed to replace or repair damaged property in addition to school consequences.

5. Damage to School Property

A student may not cause, incite, or attempt to cause damage to school property, including buildings, grounds, equipment, or materials. Fees may be assessed to replace or repair damaged property in addition to school consequences.

6. Dangerous Activities, Weapons and Instruments

A student may not engage in any activity which threatens, endangers or tends to threaten or endanger the health or safety of students, teachers or other school personnel. A student may not possess, handle, transmit or conceal any object, which might be considered a weapon or instrument of violence. A look-alike weapon will be treated as a real weapon.

The definition of a firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of

any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer or any destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C.A. Section 921) that includes any explosive, incendiary or poisonous gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine or device similar to any of the devices described above. A knife is defined as a cutting instrument having a sharp blade that is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

Students are prohibited from possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school vehicle if both of the following apply.

1. The object is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired.
2. The person indicates that the person possesses the object and that it is a firearm, or the person displays or brandishes the object and indicates that it is a firearm.

As defined by State law and for purposes of this policy, an "object that is indistinguishable from a firearm" means an object made, constructed or altered so that, to a reasonable person without specialized training in firearms, the object appears to be a firearm.

-This policy applies to bringing any of the above on school property, in a school vehicle, or to an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other program or activity sponsored by the District.

-Examples of such activities may include: tampering with fire alarm, fire extinguishers, AED machines, SafeDefend boxes, breaching safety or security measures, or any other item that may violate a local or federal law.

7. Disruption of School

A student may not, by use of action, words, gestures, pictures, technology, violence, force, coercion, threat, harassment, insubordination, or repeated lack of cooperation, cause disruption or obstruction to the educational process, including all curricular, co-curricular, athletic and extracurricular activities. Students are only permitted to enter academic areas of the building, such as classrooms, and are expected to leave school promptly at the end of the school day unless they are involved in a legitimate school-related activity. Disruption of school includes failure to abide by other rules that may be established from time to time by the board, superintendent or principal.

8. Dress, Appearance

Findlay High School supports equitable educational access and the safe and healthy expression of student individuality. Students shall dress in a manner that ensures the health, welfare, and safety of the student body and enhances a respectful, positive, and nonviolent image of our students. Therefore, the following expectations shall be followed to maximize the learning environment and safety conditions at the high school:

- Clothing and accessories shall not allude to or encourage drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, gangs, profanity, violence, or be offensive to ethnic, cultural, religious, racial, or legally protected groups.
- Clothing and accessories shall not create a safety concern (including items that can be used as a weapon).
- Clothing and accessories must cover the chest, stomach, back, and buttocks. Tank tops & cut-off shirts are only permitted when/if all undergarments, back, chest & sides are covered. Any article of clothing that reveals an excessive amount of skin will be deemed inappropriate for the school environment.
- Shoes/sandals must be worn at all times.
- Hats and other headwear (unless required by a specific student's religion) must allow the face to be clearly visible and must not interfere with anyone's line of sight.

Sunglasses and hoods are not permitted to be worn unless given specific permission from school administration.

- Spiked bracelets or necklaces or long linked chains as decorative apparel.
- Costume wear such as but not limited to face paint, cat ears, eye patches, or masks are not permitted unless approved by administration
- Any clothing and accessories that create a reasonable risk of substantial interference with the educational process (including costumes, facial paint, etc) are not permitted. Exceptions for certain special events may be permitted by school administration.
- Students may be asked to cover, change, or remove inappropriate clothing or return home to change into appropriate clothing. Violation of the dress code may result in school discipline and/or placement in ISAP for the remainder of the school day.
- Book bags, briefcases, duffel bags, laptop/computer bags, or other similar items, including purses used to carry school books, are not to be taken to classrooms or carried in the hallways other than when entering or leaving the building.
- All dress code rules must be followed during spirit week/dress up days unless approved by an administrator.
- Any other apparel deemed as inappropriate by the administration.

9. **Failure to Serve Disciplinary Assignments**

A student may not fail to serve disciplinary assignments.

10. **False reporting**

A student may not make a false statement, a false accusation, or provide false information that in any way would lead to school personnel conducting an investigation or assigning disciplinary action. A student may not make a false report or issue false allegations that could or do result in law enforcement agencies being involved.

11. **Frightening, Degrading, or Disgraceful Acts/ Disrespectful Behavior**

A student may not engage in any act which frightens, degrades or tends to frighten, degrade, or disgrace teachers, students or other persons by written, verbal, visual, gestural, and/or technological means. A student may not be disrespectful toward a student, school personnel and school visitors

12. **Gang Activity**

Definition: A "gang" is any group of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts and/or displays or communication of any visible aspects of a gang or acts in violation of disciplinary rules. In order to insure a safe and violence-free school, gangs and gang activities are prohibited at Findlay High School according to the following:

- Wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other item that evidences or reflects membership in, affiliation with or suggests affiliation with, any gang.
- Engage in any act, either verbal or nonverbal, including gestures or handshakes, demonstration of membership, or affiliation with any gang.
- Engage in any act that furthers the interests of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to:
 - Soliciting any person to pay for "protection" or threatening any person, explicitly or implicitly, with any other illegal or prohibited act.
 - Painting, writing, tattooing or otherwise inscribing gang-related graffiti, messages, symbols, or signs on school property or personal property brought to school.
 - Engaging in violence, extortion or any other illegal act or other violation of school policy.
 - Soliciting any person to engage in physical violence against any other person.

13. **Insubordination/ Violations of Directions, Policies, Rules, Etc.**

A student may not disregard or refuse to obey reasonable directions given by school personnel. A student shall comply with directions, policies, rules, etc. of a teacher, student teacher, substitute teacher, teacher's aide, principal, or other authorized school personnel, during any period of time when the student is under the authority of any such school personnel.

14. **Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages, Caffeine Pills, Stimulant Drugs, Over the Counter or Prescription Medications, and Other Pills/Substances**

A student may not display, possess, sell, attempt to sell, be in the presence of, transmit, attempt to transmit, conceal, purchase, attempt to purchase, use or have used any steroid, narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, caffeine pill, barbiturate, marijuana (including vaping devices, liquids, or edibles), alcoholic beverage or beverage promoted as an alcohol substitute, inhalant, drug paraphernalia, other pills/substances, or any other mind-altering substance within any school building, on school property, during open lunch or while participating in or attending school or school-sponsored activities. This includes the possession, sale and/or distribution of prescription drugs and over the counter medications. A student may not use, possess, distribute, attempt to distribute, sell, purchase, attempt to purchase, or package any counterfeit or look-alike drug. Empty alcohol containers are also prohibited on school property. A counterfeit controlled substance is defined as:

- Any drug that bears, or whose container or label bears, a trademark, trade name, or identifying mark without authorization of the owner.
- Any substance that is represented as a controlled substance.
- Any substance other than controlled substance that a reasonable person would believe to be a controlled substance.

Consequences for violation of this policy will follow Board of Education Policy JFCH/JFCI and all other applicable discipline policies.

Over the Counter or Prescription Medications

Students shall not possess, use, transmit, sell, or conceal over-the-counter or prescription drugs. When a student needs to take prescribed medication at school, the parent/guardian needs to turn in a completed medical authorization form, signed by the doctor. Medications are registered and maintained in the school's main office.

15. **Out of Authorized Area/Truancy/Excessive Absence/Tardiness**

Out of Authorized Area / Truancy Students are expected to be in their assigned areas at all times throughout the school day. Intentionally skipping school or class for any part of the school day, including leaving class without permission. No student shall leave school property or an assigned educational location once he or she has come under the supervision of a school employee, prior to specified dismissal times, without official permission.

For truancy/excessive absences/tardiness the adopted board policies apply.

16. **Public Display of Affection**

A student may not commit any display of physical affection and/or inappropriate bodily contact while on the school premises, or while in the custody of the school, or in the course of a school-related activity.

17. **Sexual Harassment/Dating Violence**

Refer to board policy ACAA and regulation ACAA-R which are included at the end of this handbook.

A student may not participate in dating violence or sexting with students or other persons. Dating violence or relationship abuse is a pattern of behavior where a person uses or threatens physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control the person's dating partner.

18. **Technology**

Computer Technology and Network Guidelines

Students failing to follow the guidelines as stated in the handbook and/or board policy EDE and regulation EDE-R will lose the privilege to complete work in our labs, to access accounts, or to use the Internet. They also may subject themselves to additional disciplinary or legal action. Multiple violations could result in being banned from computer use for the remainder of the semester, school year, or a student's high school career. Any computer is subject to data search at any time for any reason. There is no right to privacy on a school computer at any time. Students identified as attempting to by-pass the Internet filter are subject to disciplinary action per the FCS technology agreement where a first offense could include termination of a student's

access to the computer network and internet and prohibition of bringing personal technology devices to school.

Cell Phone/Personal Communication Device

Cell Phone Policy-NEEDS ADDED

This is in accordance with recent amendments to Ohio House Bill 250 Sec. 3313.753

Sexting is defined as possessing, taking, disseminating, transferring or sharing of nude, obscene, pornographic, lewd or otherwise illegal images of photographs, whether by electronic data transfers or otherwise, which may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law and may be reported to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Dating Violence or sexting which occurs on school property, a school bus, at school-sponsored events, or interferes with the learning environment at school is prohibited.

19. **Theft**

A student may not take or attempt to take into possession the property or equipment of the school district or the property of another student, teacher, visitor, or employee of the school district.

20. **Threats**

A student may not make any threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat. Including but not limited to, bomb threats and threats of violence that could induce panic or cause mental, physical, and emotional harm.

21. **Threatening/Intimidation**

Causing another person to believe that physical harm may come to them (menacing). A student may not threaten with physical violence or coerce by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. A student shall not urge another student or person to threaten with physical violence or coerce by any means any student, teacher, or other school employee or visitor. Intimidation includes, but is not limited to threats used to extort money or any other item of value from another student or person. A student may not compel or attempt to compel any student, school employee or other person to give up anything of value by means of threat, harassment, intimidation, or injury to person, property, or reputation.

22. **Tobacco/Nicotine**

A student may not display, possess, sell, attempt to sell, be in the presence of, transmit, attempt to transmit, conceal, purchase, attempt to purchase, use or have used any substance or device that has contained tobacco/nicotine, or paraphernalia (including but not limited to e-cigarettes, e-liquids, pouches and vaping devices), in any area under the control of the school district or at any activity supervised by the school district.

Students serving as a "lookout" or aiding and abetting smokers will be disciplined as though they were violators of the no-smoking policy.

23. **Transportation**

School

All students shall obey all reasonable directions given by bus drivers and comply with basic safety regulations.

Student

Careless or Reckless Driving: Driving on school property, or in relation to a school event, in such a manner as to endanger persons or property. This includes but is not limited to cars, bicycles, mopeds, electric scooters, scooters, skateboards.

24. **Unauthorized Bodily Contact**

The act of physically touching and/or hitting a student or employee of the school system or any person while on school property or while attending an event under the jurisdiction of the school. Students who urge the misconduct of others (including fighting) may be disciplined as though they were a violator of the no violence policy. A student involved in any of the following levels may be out of school suspended and/or recommended for expulsion.

- Level I—Unauthorized touching / contact (person to person or with an object), pushing, shoving, restraining to each other or other persons while under the jurisdiction of the school.
- Level II—Two or more students may not cause physical harm (fighting) or behave in such a manner which could threaten to cause physical harm to each other or other

- persons while under the jurisdiction of the school.
 - Level III— A student may not attempt or willingly attack another person [school staff, another student(s) with or without the intent to cause harm or physical injury, or behave in such a manner which could threaten to cause physical injury, while under the jurisdiction of the school.
- 25. **Unruly Behavior** – Unruly behaviors includes but is not limited to refusal to comply with reasonable requests from school personnel, or any other behaviors that result in classroom or other school disruptions.
- 26. **Use of Obscene or Discriminatory Language / Materials / Actions / Gestures**
Students shall not use obscene, vulgar, profane, or discriminatory language, make inappropriate gestures / actions or possess vulgar materials. Note: Discriminatory language is defined as verbal or written comments, jokes, and slurs that are derogatory towards an individual or group based on one or more of the following characteristics: race, color, national origin, citizenship status, economic status, marital status, pregnancy, sex (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, ancestry, or genetic information for the purpose of inciting and provoking bodily injury, intimidation, or harassment, poses a threat to the order and safety of our schools and has a negative effect on the learning environment in the schools. Other forms of ethnic intimidation might be fighting, vandalism, or threats and would be punishable under one or more sections of the Code of Conduct.
- 27. **Use of Profanity/Obscene Language/Swearing**
Profanity/obscene language will not be tolerated on school property. No material may be printed, distributed, or circulated if it contains obscene or defamatory material and/or would tend to disrupt the educational process and interfere with the rights of others to express or receive ideas or opinions.
- 28. **Food/Beverage/Gum Chewing/Non-school approved items (items that may cause a disruption or mess)** – Food and beverages shall only be consumed during breakfast or lunch periods in the cafeteria or other areas. Any special circumstances that teachers would like to provide food to students in classes must be approved by administrators. Gum chewing is not permitted on school property. Any unapproved food or beverages such as but not limited to energy drinks, specialty coffees (example: Starbucks), Icee or Speedy Freezes, or Slurpee’s are to be consumed and disposed of properly before entering the building. Students may not consumer energy drinks during school hours such as lunch. Students may only bring school approved items onto school property. Students will be asked to store it if unopened in their locker or dispose of anything that meets these requirements.
- 29. **Skipping a class** – Detention(s) or a weeknight school may be assigned. This rule also applies to skipping a study hall, trojan time/homeroom period, lunch period, or assembly
- 30. **Leaving school grounds without permission**– Permission to leave the school grounds during the school day can only be given by the principal or his/her designee.
- 31. **Sales – All fundraisers have to be affiliated with a school approved club/activity and approved by a principal. Students are only permitted to sell products that have been previously approved by a principal.** Students are financially responsible for all fundraiser materials receive and/or not turned in per the fundraiser guidelines. The Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 directed the USDA to establish nutrition standards for all foods and beverages sold to students in school during the school day, including foods sold through school fundraisers.

The new Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards will help schools to make the healthy choice the easy choice by offering students more of the foods and beverages we should be encouraging – whole grains, fruits and vegetables, leaner protein, lower-fat dairy – while limiting foods with too much sugar, fat and salt.

Applicability of the Smart Snacks Standards

- The Smart Snacks standards are applicable during the school day, which is defined as

the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day. If such programs are operated in the school during the school day, or if afterschool snacks or meals are provided within the 30 minute window after the end of the instructional day, any other food available **for sale** to students at that time must comply with the Smart Snacks requirements.

Early Warning Pre Court Conference

The referral process for students who continuously violate the student code of conduct involves teachers and school personnel identifying students displaying such behaviors and provide support and interventions to the student and family and make referrals for additional services as needed.

In cases where students and families fail to engage in recommended services despite multiple attempts, or when the behavior poses a significant risk to school safety, the school may initiate an Early Warning Pre Court Conference. Individual circumstances may warrant an earlier conference if the behavior is deemed highly concerning and out of character for the student. The ultimate goal of the Early Warning Pre Court Conference is to support students and parents in addressing their behavioral challenges, promote a positive and safe school environment, and provide necessary interventions and services to address underlying issues contributing to the behavior. The is follows guidelines noted in ORC 2919.24, 2151.02 B

Non-Violence Statement

Good conduct is based on the respect and consideration for the rights of others. Students will be expected to conduct themselves in such a way that the rights of others are not violated. The students of Donnell Middle School will conform to school regulations and accept directions from school personnel. A student who fails to comply with established school rules or any reasonable request made by school personnel on school property and/or at school related events will be dealt with according to approved student discipline regulations. Donnell Middle School will not tolerate violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior by its students and such behavior is prohibited as set forth in the Student code of Conduct. As a member of the Donnell Middle School community, I pledge to be respectful and kind to others, resolve conflicts peacefully, use appropriate language, and display safe and non-threatening behaviors. In order to assist me with the above, I am aware that the following resources are available to me: counselors, principal, teachers and other school employees, and mediations

Suspensions, Expulsions, and Removals – Due Process & Appeals

Due process for out-of-school suspensions, expulsions and removals will be in accordance with O.R.C. Section 3313.66. No due process guarantees are implied as to any in-school assignment. With respect to the suspension of any student from any particular extra-curricular activities, no due process guarantees beyond what appears in O.R.C. Section 3313.664 are implied. The Superintendent may prohibit a student from participating in a particular or all extra-curricular activities independent of or in lieu of other disciplinary actions for any violation of this policy or any other duly promulgated rule applicable to the activity or activities in question. Similarly, the Athletic Director, relevant coach, or director, may prohibit a student from any particular or all extra-curricular activities falling within such person's responsibility independent of or in lieu of other disciplinary action for any violation of this policy or any other duly promulgated rule applicable to the activity or activities in question. The period of such a suspension may not extend beyond one calendar year from the time the suspension is imposed. When out-of-school suspension is imposed the student may not attend school or extra-curricular activities and class work may be made-up for credit or partial credit at the discretion of the appropriate principal. Administration has the right to reschedule ISA or OSS at their discretion due to calamity days or unforeseen circumstances.

APPEALS: Suspensions may be appealed. If an assistant principal issued the suspension, the appeal is made to the principal. If the principal issued the suspension, the appeal is made to the superintendent or designee. The student will serve the suspension upon notification. If appeal reverses the suspension, the record will reflect the change, and the student may have the right to make up all work.

DISCLAIMER

School rules published in this handbook are subject to such changes as may be needed to ensure continued compliance with federal, state or local regulations and are subject to such review and alteration as becomes necessary for the routine operation of the school. Not all rules of behavior can be written and inserted in a guidebook; however, we expect students to follow reasonable rules and not violate the rights of others. The provisions of this handbook are in effect at school, on school property, at any school-sponsored activity, or otherwise subject to the authority of school officials. These rules apply off school property if the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned, in line of site of property owned, or controlled by the District. These rules also apply off school property, if the misconduct is directed at a District official or employee or the property of a District official or employee.