

EAST OUACHITA MIDDLE SCHOOL

2024



2025

Student/Parent Handbook

...where the pride resides

Pride

Respect

Inclusion

Dedication

Excellence

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East Ouachita Middle School

A Message From the Principal

Dear Students and Parents

Welcome to East Ouachita Middle School (EOMS). Time seems to be moving at a brisk pace. It is hard to believe that we have already completed four school years in our new building. It is extremely important to make sure we continue with great enthusiasm, excitement, and high levels of expectations for all involved. We remain committed to providing innovative and thought-provoking lessons to our students, while incorporating technology that meets the needs of the 21st century learner. It is our mission to see that every child has a safe, engaging, and relevant learning environment that challenges them to succeed beyond their own expectations.

This handbook has been prepared to familiarize you and your child with the policies, procedures, and expectations of EOMS. Our handbook is also located online at <http://eom.opsb.net/>. To view the handbook, **hover** over **Administration**, and **click** on **Forms and Handbook**. Please keep in mind that this handbook is subject to change and will be updated as needed. The faculty and staff at EOMS are committed to providing an education that ensures the development of the total child so that he/she may function successfully in our society. Please discuss the contents of this handbook with your child and make sure he/she understands what is expected.

Home and school partnerships are an integral part to your child's success at EOMS. Our staff encourages you to visit our beautiful school and see that we are a school committed to our students. We also encourage you to become an active partner in your child's education, by staying in contact with your child's teachers and with the school staff. It is our expectation that by working as a team, EOMS will establish a tradition of excellence and that all faculty members, students, and parents will accept the challenge of making our beautiful school a premier school in Louisiana.

Educationally yours

Nathan Randall

Nathan Randall
Principal

East Ouachita Middle School

Vision Statement

Pride ♦ Respect ♦ Inclusion ♦ Dedication ♦ Excellence

Mission Statement

The mission of East Ouachita Middle School is to see that every child has a safe, engaging, and relevant learning environment that challenges them to succeed beyond their own expectations.

School Colors

Cardinal and Gray

School Mascot

LIONS

Statement of Beliefs

East Ouachita Middle School operates on the premise that all children have the potential to learn. It is recognized that learning varies among individual children in interest, abilities, and the rate in which they grow and learn. EOMS' educational program offers experiences so that each student can make the most of himself/herself as an individual, as well as a worthwhile citizen in society. Special efforts are made to teach and maintain a desirable balance among activities designed to develop the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains.

We, the administration, faculty, and staff at EOMS, believe:

- **ALL** of our students can **learn** and **lead**!
- A quality education will help develop individuals who will be life-long learners.
- Our students should be given opportunities to learn independently as well as cooperatively.
- Our students are unique and will develop and learn at different rates and in different ways.
- Our students learn best through active participation in their own learning.
- **Parents are essential to the success of our children**
- The school should **create** and **maintain** a partnership with the home and the community in order for quality education to take place.
- The school, home, and community should **encourage** and **expect** students to become responsible, caring citizens.
- Teachers should plan with students in mind and create opportunities for students to be decision-makers in their learning.
- A variety of methods, materials, and activities that interest and challenge the student should be used to actively engage students in the education process.
- Ongoing assessment and progress monitoring should be provided to ensure students are receiving proper and individualized instruction.
- Technology that enhances learning should be regularly incorporated into the curriculum.
- **All** students should be **taught** and **expected** to exhibit skills that will prepare them to be college and career-ready upon leaving East Ouachita Middle School.

Our Desired Learner Outcomes

- Students will be highly engaged **DAILY** in discussions and classroom activities.
- Students will show respect for authority, themselves, and others.
- Students will **actively** contribute to the learning process by working to their maximum potential in **ALL** required activities.
- Students will acquire problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, and the ability to “*martial an argument*” (evidenced-based discussions) through activities in the classroom, specialized labs, and educational field trips.
- Students will strategically and efficiently use technology and digital media.
- Students will understand and respect other perspectives and cultures.

2024 - 2025 OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL CALENDAR

Board Approved March 14, 2024

AUGUST 1 (Thursday) 11, 10½, 10, 9½ MONTH EMPLOYEES BEGIN

AUGUST 5-9 (Monday-Friday) TEACHERS & PARAPROFESSIONALS BEGIN
MANDATORY EMPLOYEE INSERVICE DAYS

AUGUST 12 (Monday).....GRADES 1-12 STUDENTS BEGIN FULL DAYS
(PreK Testing Day / Kindergarten Registration)

AUGUST 14 (Wednesday).....PRE-K & K GIRLS ATTEND / ALL GRADES 1-12 ATTEND

AUGUST 15 (Thursday).....PRE-K & K BOYS ATTEND / ALL GRADES 1-12 ATTEND

AUGUST 16 (Friday).....ALL STUDENTS / ALL GRADES ATTEND

SEPTEMBER 2 (Monday) {Holiday} LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 23 (Monday) {No Students}.....MANDATORY EMPLOYEE INSERVICE DAY

OCTOBER 14-18 (Monday-Friday) {Holiday} FALL BREAK

OCTOBER 21 (Monday) MANDATORY TEACHER WORKDAY / STUDENT REMOTE/VIRTUAL DAY

NOVEMBER 5 (Tuesday) {Holiday} ELECTION DAY / VETERANS' DAY OBSERVED

NOVEMBER 25-29 (Monday-Friday) {Holiday} THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER 13 (Friday) {No Students}..... MANDATORY EMPLOYEE INSERVICE HALF-DAY

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 3 (Monday-Friday) {Holiday} CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

JANUARY 20 (Monday) {Holiday}..... MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

JANUARY 21 (Tuesday) MANDATORY TEACHER WORKDAY / STUDENT REMOTE/VIRTUAL DAY

FEBRUARY 17 (Monday) {Holiday} PRESIDENTS' DAY

FEBRUARY 18 (Tuesday) {No Students} MANDATORY EMPLOYEE INSERVICE
(Paraprofessionals do not attend)

MARCH 24-28 (Monday-Friday) {Holiday} SPRING BREAK

APRIL 18-21 (Friday-Monday) {Holiday} EASTER BREAK

MAY 1 (Thursday)..... SENIORS LAST DAY

MAY 5-8 (Monday-Thursday).....GRADUATIONS

MAY 22 (Thursday).....STUDENTS / PARAPROFESSIONALS LAST DAY

MAY 23 (Friday).....TEACHERS LAST DAY

MAY 26 (Monday) {Holiday} MEMORIAL DAY

JULY 4 (Friday) {Holiday}.....INDEPENDENCE DAY

End of Marking Periods / Report Card Dates	
1: 10-10-24 / 10-25-24	3: 3-12-25 / 3-19-25
2: 1-8-25 / 1-15-25	4: 5-22-25 / TBA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS (8)

REMOTE/VIRTUAL STUDENT DAYS (2)

HOLIDAYS (33)

School Hours

7:30 - 7:50	Breakfast
7:50	First Bell
7:53	Tardy Bell/School Begins
3:10	School Day Ends

Note: Students are not to arrive at the school before 7:25 am. The faculty and staff will assume duty at 7:25 am.

Attendance

Regular attendance is important to success in school. Middle school students shall be in attendance a **MINIMUM OF 159 DAYS A SCHOOL YEAR** in order to be eligible to receive grades. **Any student missing more than ten (10) days do not meet requirements for passing to the next grade.** Exceptions can be made only in the event of extended personal illness with a verified signature of a licensed physician or other extenuating circumstances approved by the Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance of the Ouachita Parish Board. Excuses by the physician must be submitted within **2 (two)** school days of the student's return to school.

This program allows a school to seek court interventions for ungovernable or truant children. Every parent or guardian who violates RS 17: 221 (attendance compulsory ages) can be fined or jailed for each occurrence.

See Ouachita Parish School System Attendance Requirement on page 28.

Tardies

According to the OPSB Policy, schools must identify students who are tardy for class. Students are expected to be in class by 7:53 am. After allowing an adequate period of time for students to learn their schedules, the following policy will be in effect for students who enter class after the tardy bell rings (7:53 am).

1st tardy	Student will receive a warning.
2nd tardy	Student's parent/guardian will be contacted.
3rd tardy	Student will be issued 1 day of detention and failure to complete will result in Saturday Seminar.
4th tardy	Student will be issued 2 days of detention (same failure to attend policy as above).
5th tardy	Student will be issued 3 days of detention (same failure to attend policy as above).
6th tardy	Student will be issued Saturday Seminar (failure to attend results in ISS).
7th tardy	Student will be issued ISD.
8th tardy	Student will be issued 1-3 days of suspension
9th tardy	Student will be issued 3 days of suspension
10th tardy	Student will be issued 5 days of suspension and will be recommended for Alternative Placement

Check-In/Check-Out Policies

A parent must come inside and sign the student in if arriving at school after 7:53 a.m.

Early Checkouts: Students MAY NOT leave the campus during school hours without being signed out in the main office. Students who are to be checked out prior to the close of the school day must be picked up by parents or their designee. We will not release your child to anyone who is not on the approved check out list. All persons (including parents) who check students out of school must come to the office, present a valid ID, and sign the student out.

Please keep in mind that **EACH** student is required to receive **365** instructional minutes **per** day. Students who are checked out **PRIOR** to evening dismissal will receive an **unexcused** (unless doctor's excuse is provided), **tardy** (less than half a day remains) and/or an **unexcused** (unless doctor's excuse is provided) **absence** (more than half a day remains). Parents who **habitually** check out their child(ren) will be **required** to meet with the principal and/or the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance.

After School Pickup

Students who do not ride the school bus **must be picked up from school by 3:35 pm each day**. Parents of students who are **habitually** picked up late will be required to meet with the principal and/or the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance.

Parent Volunteers

Parental involvement at East Ouachita Middle School is **ESSENTIAL** to the success of the total educational program. Parents are encouraged to help in all areas. Please call the school principal or classroom teacher if you have the time or skills to help make our school a better place for students to learn and grow.

Visitors

All visitors must sign in through the main office and receive a visitor's badge before proceeding to their designation. Parents are welcome to visit the classroom after arrangements have been made between administration and the teacher. Parents are asked not to go into the classroom without an appointment. Teachers will be happy to conference with parents before school and after school or during their planning period.

Special notice: Any student leaving between **8:00 a.m. and 3:15 pm** must be signed out at the office by a parent or designee. There will be NO checkouts after 2:45 pm.

After School Functions/Field Trips

Students should be on their best behavior at all times. Each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school. The same rules that apply at school, also apply at after school or outside of school events. If a student fails to comply with expected behaviors, the same consequences that apply during school, will apply at these events.

Students with out-of-school suspensions will not be allowed to attend pep rallies, dances, or after-school functions, field trips, etc. **Students who have been assigned to OPAL will not be allowed to attend any EOMS school function, including those after school.**

Field Trips: Students may participate in field trips throughout the school year. A field trip is any activity outside the routine school experience in which students and teachers leave school grounds. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a field trip if they have consistently demonstrated behavior that would reflect favorable on the school.

We must have your written permission for your child to participate. A deadline for field trip fees will be established and communicated to you. This is necessary so that the school can make pertinent arrangements prior to departure. If your child participates in field trips, we ask that you adhere to the established deadlines for payment of fees. Students who attend field trips will be required to wear appropriate school attire, as outlined in the EOMS dress code policy (page 21).

Students who have a history of disciplinary problems will be excluded from participation in field trips or any other special activities (entertainment programs, ball games, dances, carnivals, etc.). The administration will make this decision in consultation with the teachers and students involved.

Change of Address or Phone Number

If at any time during the school year a student moves to a different address, a parent/guardian must report this change to the school office and provide proof of new residence within fifteen days. Likewise, a change in telephone numbers should be reported to the office. It is important to have several phone numbers listed to locate parents in emergency situations.

Emergency Closings

School closing is occasionally necessary. Should emergency situations require the closing of East Ouachita Middle School during the day, parents will be notified before students are dismissed by automated call out, radio, and television announcements. For this reason, it is imperative that telephone numbers on file are current and active.

Loss of Personal Property

Any articles found on the campus are to be turned in to the office. Lost items should be reported to any teacher and the office. East Ouachita is not liable for any lost property.

Registration

All students must have an enrollment form for the **CURRENT** school year on file in the office. Please make sure it is completed and returned within the first 5 school days.

Birth Certificate and Social Security Card: All students attending public schools must have a valid birth certificate and a social security card on file with the school. The school will not keep the original, but needs to see them when the child enters school for the first time. A copy will be made for the school and the original returned to the parent.

Student Health Information

All students entering any school within the public school system of the state of Louisiana for the first time, shall present satisfactory evidence of having been immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis and measles; or shall present evidence of an immunization program in progress. Acts 1972 and 3221.

Medication

It is the policy of the Ouachita Parish School Board that any student, who is required to take medication during the regular school day, must comply with state regulations. These regulations must include at least the following:

1. No drugs (aspirin, inhalers, cough drops, etc.) should be in the student's possession on the school grounds or on the bus.
2. Written orders are to be received from a physician detailing the name of the drug, dosage and time medication is to be taken.
3. Written request and permission from the parent or guardian of the student is needed requesting that the school district comply with the physician's order.
4. Medication must be brought to school by the parent in a container labeled appropriately by the pharmacy or physician.
5. Each medication given must be recorded on a medication log, which includes date, time, dosage, and signature of the person giving medications.

Breakfast and Lunch

Nutritious breakfasts and lunches are served daily. If a student chooses to bring his/her lunch, it must not be in restaurant packaging. **Breakfast and lunch should NOT be brought to the main office to be delivered to students. We will not call students out of class to give them breakfast or lunch.**

Cafeteria Rules

Student behavior in the cafeteria should be based on courtesy and cleanliness. This means leaving the cafeteria in the condition in which you would like to find it.

- Glass bottles or beverage cans are **NOT** allowed in the cafeteria.
- Food or drink shall **NOT** be taken from the cafeteria.

- The table should be cleared of all paper and trays before leaving.
- All students shall exit the cafeteria in an orderly manner.

School Fees

There will NOT be a school fee for the 2024-2025 School Year. Certain electives may have fees associated with them.

Art

\$15 Art fee used to purchase papers, canvases, paints, markers, colored pencils, oil pastels, pens, and other art supplies

Family and Consumer Science

\$15 fee for cooking and sewing supplies

Keyboarding/Keyboarding Applications (Computer) - 6th grade

\$10 class fee for paper, printer ink, flash drive, covers

PE (Girls & Boys)

\$20 Class Fee for PE shirt, shorts, and lock/locker rental, (\$5 if have PE uniform from last year)

Health

\$5 for CPR certification

***Band, Ensemble (Choir), Strings**

Supply and fee lists will be given first day of class

Report Cards

Report cards for every student are prepared and issued to parents each nine weeks. Letter grades and percentage grades will be shown on the report cards.

If you have any questions regarding your child's achievement, please contact your child's counselor to set up a parent-teacher conference. The teacher's conference time will be at a time when he/she is not engaged in teaching or when there are no students in the room. Conference times must be pre arranged between the parent and teacher/school counselor.

Grading Scale

Grading Scale	
100-90	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59-BELOW	F

Grading Periods

Nine Weeks/Report Card Distribution			
End of 1 st 9 Weeks: Report Cards to Students:	10/10/24 10/25/24	End of 2 nd 9 Weeks Report Cards to Students:	01/8/25 01/15/25
End of 3 rd 9 Weeks: Report Cards to Students:	03/12/25 03/19/25	End of 4 th 9 Weeks Report Cards to Students:	05/22/24 TBA

Parent Teacher Conference

Parent/teacher conferences are very important in the education of children. Your interest and support at home are important to your child and are appreciated by his/her teacher. Please make every effort to talk to your child's teacher during the school year.

As parents, you play a very important role in your child's education. According to current research, educational benefits for children are increased when parents and teachers work together as a team. By working together as a team, we are able to identify approaching problems and solve them quicker.

Promotion and Retention

Guidelines outlined in the Ouachita Parish School System Pupil Progression Plan will be followed for grade promotion and retention.

Grades 6, 7, and 8: Must pass Language Arts, Math, and 2 other major subjects and 1 minor subject or 3 other major subjects.

8th grade students may not be promoted to the 9th grade until he or she scores at or above Basic achievement level on either the English/Language Arts or Mathematics component on the 8th grade LEAP 2025 and at the Approaching Basic achievement level on the other.

Major subjects: Language Arts, English, Math, Social Studies, Science

Minor Subjects: Art, Band, Choir, Family & Consumer Science, Health & PE, Keyboarding, etc.

Chromebook/Computer/Textbooks/ Library Books

Chromebooks will not be issued to students this school year at East Ouachita Middle School. There will be class sets of chromebooks that students will be using in class. The school will provide headphones in class for students to use. NO wireless headphones will be allowed in the school building.

Textbooks and library books will be available to students. It is important to note and understand that if those textbooks and library books have been damaged and/or lost, they **MUST** be paid for. If the book is damaged or lost, it MUST be paid for at the time in which it is reported to the teacher. Students will not be issued another book and will not be allowed to check out another library book until the lost or damaged book is paid for or returned. All materials must be checked out before leaving the library. Students should not loan their library books to other students.

[Chromebook Use Policy - Ouachita Parish Schools](#)

Homework/Studying

East Ouachita Middle School is committed to limiting the amount of work that students are to complete outside of school hours; however, that does not mean that students should not be reviewing/studying for tests. Home learning activities are **important** because they offer students extended time to master learning concepts and skills. These activities also communicate to parents the types of learning activities that take place during the school day.

Ways To Help Your Child

Parents frequently want to know how they can help their child at home. The following suggestions have been used with positive results:

1. Check Google Classroom because reviews, assignments, and tasks have been updated by the teacher daily. This way, you will know what students are working on in class.
2. Read to or with you child every day. Let your child see you read.
3. Find and use new words.
4. Keep a dictionary and other reference books handy – use them yourself and encourage your child to use them.
5. Buy and use standard watches and clocks.
6. Use mathematics to solve real-life problems. Ex. “How much gas did we use on our car trip?” Measure the sugar in a cookie recipe.
7. Reinforce what children are learning in school by having them teach you their newly learned skills.
8. Look over assignments after the teacher corrects them; make sure that your child understands his/her mistakes.

Daily homework in no way is to be viewed as punishment, but rather as a way of encouraging and extending learning.

Student Progress Center

School Messenger is available to all students/parents. It gives you access to teacher assignments and student grades. Teachers will update their page each week.

If you have any questions/concerns or need assistance setting up your account, please contact the school at 318-432-2150 and ask for the school technologist.

Parent Communication

Weekly Text Messages

- Please make sure your phone number is updated to receive the weekly text message

School Website

- <https://eom.opsb.net/>

Instagram

- EOMS_Lions

Twitter

- @eoms_lions
Facebook
- East Ouachita Middle School

Discipline

East Ouachita Middle School's administration, faculty, and staff strongly believe that creating and maintaining a safe, orderly, and nurturing environment is essential to our student's success as well as our school's success. We are committed to making the safety and welfare of our students our number one priority. In order to accomplish this, we need your help.

We believe all teachers have the right to teach and all students have the right to learn in a classroom free from disruptive behavior. To help provide this environment, please make sure you read over and discuss the following expectations with your child(ren):

- Listen carefully
- Interact with others appropriately
- Obey all school rules
- Notice the positives about others
- Strive for excellence

It is imperative that you as well as your child(ren) understand that there will be a **ZERO TOLERANCE** for the following:

- **Fighting**
- **Being disrespectful to ANY adult**
- **Interfering with the learning process of others**
- **Bringing a weapon to school**
- **Harassing, intimidating, and/or bullying others**

Discussing this information with your child(ren) will ensure that he/she is aware of the expectations that have been set forth. It is also important that he/she understands that there will be consequences for those who **CHOOSE** not to adhere to the expectations.

Cell Phone/Telephone

CELL PHONE USE AT SCHOOL IS PROHIBITED. Cell phones must be OFF and put away. They will be confiscated if not in the student's backpack. Not bringing a backpack to school is NOT an excuse for having a cell phone out.

State Law:

Act 313 forbids possession of an electronic telecommunication device on a student's person during the instructional day, but then goes on to provide that electronic telecommunication devices must be turned off and properly stowed away during the instructional day or prohibited from being turned on and used during the instructional day.

ALL electronic devices (cellphones, smart watches, wireless headphones, etc.) must be OFF and put in backpack. They will be confiscated if not in the student's backpack. Not bringing a backpack to school is NOT an excuse for having electronic devices out.

	1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense	5th Offense
** With any <u>offense</u>, if parent and/or student refuse the parent pick up option, the student shall receive three days suspension and will be responsible for all course work. The parent and student will have a meeting with Child Welfare and Attendance and will be placed on contract. The student will no longer be allowed to have a cell phone at school for the remainder of the school year.	Parent called Cell phone taken Parent picks up phone prior to 3 PM Minor Infraction parent signs	Parent called Cell phone taken Parent picks up prior to 3 PM 1 day Saturday Seminar or In-School detention Minor Infraction parent signs	Parent called Cell phone taken Parent picks up prior to 3 PM 2 days Saturday Seminar or In-School detention Parent notified next cell phone infraction results in phone taken for 3 days	Parent called Cell phone taken for 3 days Parent picks up phone after 3 days prior to 3 PM 3 days suspension Loss of cell phone privileges at school for remainder of school year CWA meeting before returning to school	Parent called Recommended for alternative placement Loss of cell phone privileges at school for remainder of school year

*Students identified by Section 504 or Bulletin 108 will follow Special Education guidelines regarding suspension days. The student and parent must have a hearing with the school team and 504/1508 Supervisor.

Code of Conduct

Students are expected to and will:

- **Exercise self-control.**
 - Use courteous language
 - Resolve conflict in a mature manner
 - Be appropriately dressed and well-groomed
- **Demonstrate a positive attitude.**
 - Take a leadership role
 - Be polite
 - Be cooperative
- **Respect the rights and feelings of others.**
 - Behave in a manner that does not disturb others
 - Treat others with courtesy and respect
- **Take responsibility for school property.**
 - Respect the building, grounds, and property
 - Keep the campus free from trash and graffiti
- **Support the learning process.**
 - Attend all classes regularly and on time
 - Be prepared for class
 - Listen carefully to instructions
 - Participate in class activities

Show your **Lion PRIDE** at all times!

Discipline Consequence Definitions

Disciplinary actions at East Ouachita Middle School are guided by **Act R.S. 17:416 of the Louisiana Legislature and the Ouachita Parish School Board Policies and Procedures for Discipline and Attendance**. The following information outlines the definition of consequences for failure to comply with school rules.

Definitions

- **Warning** – Identify the problem. The teacher lets the student know that he/she means what he/she says and says what he/she means.
- **Conference** – The teacher and student discuss the facts that contribute to the misbehavior and the consequences that will result if disruptions continue.
- **Parent-Teacher Conference** – The teacher will contact (via phone call) the parents to advise them of the student's problem and request assistance from the parents dealing with the disruptive behavior. The teacher will **only** discuss the facts. The teacher has the option to discuss the disciplinary actions that will occur **if** the disruptive behavior continues.

- **Detention** – The student is assigned an alternate activity in the cafeteria during lunch and will sit separately from others and remain inside during lunch.
- **In-School Detention (ISD)** – The student is removed from his/her normal classroom setting. He/She is maintained under supervision within the school and given assignments from his classroom teachers. The student is monitored by school staff. The student's lunch is served. Students are allowed periodic bathroom breaks. Any student who fails to comply fully with the rules for ISD shall be subject to immediate suspension from school. Students are counted "present" for days spent in ISD.
- **Suspension** – A student is temporarily removed from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school-sponsored activities and remanded to the custody of his parents. Work/tests missed cannot be made up. With suspension grades, the students' grade cannot be lowered more than one letter grade (*The aforementioned information is per OPSB Pupil Progression Plan*).
- **Saturday Seminar** – Saturday Seminar guidelines are set forth by the Ouachita School Board Child Welfare and Attendance Office. This strategy for improving behavior can only be assigned to a student one time per semester. Any student who fails to comply fully with the rules for Saturday Seminar shall be subject to immediate suspension from school.

- **Recommendation for Expulsion** –

The Ouachita Parish School Board may expel a pupil from school if an offense committed by the pupil is serious enough to warrant such action or is in violation of state law. Upon the recommendation for expulsion of a pupil by the principal, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall conduct a hearing to determine the facts of the case and make a finding of whether or not the student is guilty of conduct warranting a recommendation of expulsion. Notification of the time, date, and place of the expulsion hearing shall be mailed to the parents. Following the hearing, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall notify the parents of the decision rendered.

At the hearing, the principal and/or teacher concerned may be represented by any person appointed by the Superintendent and the concerned teacher shall be permitted to attend and present any relevant information. Until the hearing, the pupil shall remain suspended.

Upon the conclusion of the hearing and upon finding the student guilty of conduct warranting expulsion, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall determine whether such student shall be expelled and the specified period of expulsion, or if other disciplinary action shall be taken. Unless otherwise stipulated by state statutes, the period of expulsion shall not be less than one school semester and may carry over into the next school year, if necessary. During an expulsion the Superintendent or his/her designee shall place the student in an alternative school or in an alternative educational placement.

The parent or tutor of the pupil may, within five (5) days after the decision to expel has been rendered, request the School Board to review the findings of the Superintendent or designee at a time set by the School Board. After reviewing the findings of the Superintendent or designee, the School Board may affirm, modify, or reverse the action of the Superintendent or designee.

School Bus Discipline Procedures

All students are expected to follow **ALL** school bus rules and regulations. The bus is an extension of the school and all issues will be handled as if they were in the classroom at school. Issues such as fighting, cursing, bullying (in any form), etc. will carry the same consequences as at school. The privilege of riding the bus is conditioned on the student's behavior and compliance of rules and regulations. **Improper behavior on the school bus WILL result in the loss of bus transportation privileges temporarily or for the remainder of the school year.**

In order for a student to ride another bus, he/she must have a written note from the parent giving permission. An administrator's signature is also required. All notes should be turned in to Mrs. Price in the front office **BEFORE** lunch, so they can verify that the parent has given permission for the student to ride another bus.

ALL school bus rules and expectations governing student behavior apply to conduct **on** the school bus as well as **at** the school bus stop. Due to the tremendous responsibility of the bus driver to safely operate the bus as well as monitor student behavior, it is imperative that your child refrains from causing distractions to the bus driver. Please be advised that the consequences for the following offenses will be **STRICTLY ENFORCED!**

Consequences for Failure to Comply to Bus Rules

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Written referral will be submitted to the principal or assistant principals. The student will be warned.	The student will be suspended from bus riding privileges for 1-3 days	The student will be suspended from bus riding privileges for 3-5 days	The student will be suspended from bus riding privileges for the remainder of the school year.

The administration reserves the right to alter the handbook/ disciplinary decisions to address situations that interfere with an appropriate educational environment as deemed necessary.

Dress Code

East Ouachita Middle School expects our students to take pride in their appearance. A student's outward appearance reflects his/her attitude toward school and self. All students are expected to groom and dress themselves appropriately and adhere to the following rules:

Acceptable Items:

General

- Belts and suspenders that are fastened as designed
- Hooded garments are discouraged but are allowed. Under no circumstances is the hood allowed to be on the student's head on school campus or on school bus.

Bottoms

- Bottoms worn at waist level
- Shorts and skirts not more than three (3) inches above the middle of the kneecap
- Spandex based pants that fit like leggings must only be worn under appropriate length dresses or skirts

Tops

- Tops that fully cover midriff, back, cleavage, and shoulders

Shoes

- All footwear must have a back
- Footwear must be worn at all times
- Socks must be worn at all times

Hairstyles

- Hairstyles are required to be clean and neat.
- Please avoid hairstyles that cause a disturbance or attract negative attention.

Unacceptable Items:

General

- Earrings for boys
- Nose rings for all students
- Bandanas
- Clothing advertising alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, etc.
- Clothing with suggestive words or pictures
- Combs, picks, sharp pointed items (ex. metal combs)
- Full-length jackets/coats such as those commonly referred to as "trench" coats
- Hats, caps, or other headwear
- Heavy chains, wallet chains, spike necklaces, or other inappropriate types of jewelry
- Pajamas
- Sunglasses inside the school building

Bottoms

- Bottoms with holes and/or tears with skin showing
- Sagging bottoms (bottoms that sit below the waist)
- Shorts or skirts more than four (4) inches above the middle of the kneecap
- Spandex based pants that fit like leggings without appropriate dress or skirt worn over

Tops

- Sleeveless shirts with large, oversize arm openings
- Off the shoulder tops
- Hoods on heads

Shoes

- House shoes or house slippers
- Heels (No heels higher than 2 inches in height)
- Shoes with wheels.

Consequences for Failure to Comply to Dress Code

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
In School Detention	1-2 Days Suspension	3 Days Suspension Visit to Child Welfare & Attendance	5 Days Suspension Recommend Alternative Placement Hearing at CWA

The administration reserves the right to alter and announce changes in the dress code guidelines to address situations that interfere with an appropriate educational environment.

Prohibited Items List

In the interest of protecting the health, safety, and educational opportunity of **ALL** students, the following items are prohibited from East Ouachita Middle School without prior written permission from building administration:

- Wireless headphones including Beats, Airpods, et. al.
- Spinners, Slime
- Gambling devices: dice, playing cards, etc.
- Drugs, vapes, alcoholic beverages, narcotics, cigarettes, inhalants, cigarette lighters, matches, tobacco products, and nicotine products in ANY form..
- Explosive devices, including firecrackers, fireballs, cherry bombs, stink bombs, etc. (See School Safety and Discipline policy).
- Weapons, look-a-like weapons, guns, knives, screwdrivers and/or other dangerous items.
- Gang identification paraphernalia, such as beepers, rags/bandannas, plastic hands, etc.
- Animals, pets, etc.
- Medications or pills of any kind are prohibited without written permission of parents/guardians for students in grades K-6. (See Dispensing of Medications policy).
- Beverage containers (ex. Stanley cups), perfume, etc.
- Blankets, stuffed animals
- Any items that disturb the educational process
- Sunglasses

**Ouachita Parish School District and Louisiana State Policies
are listed on the following pages.**



**POLICY STATEMENT
Section 504 Compliance**

The policy of the Ouachita Parish School System is to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to each student within its jurisdiction, including students with disabilities, regardless of the nature or severity of the disability.

It is the responsibility of the Ouachita Parish School System to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

Due process rights of students with disabilities and their parents under Section 504 will be enforced.



Information Regarding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

FROM: Barry Johnson, Section 504 District Coordinator

DATE: August 2, 2021

SUBJECT: Section 504 Student Referral Process

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a civil rights statute that prohibits discrimination against students with disabilities in any program receiving federal financial assistance. It is our school district's responsibility to identify, evaluate, and determine eligibility for access to appropriate educational services. This process in the Ouachita Parish School System is handled through the School Building Level Committee (SBLC).

Section 504 protects any student who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities. These major life activities were expanded through the ADA Amendments Act that was signed into law by President George W. Bush on Sept. 25, 2008, and became effective on Jan. 1, 2009. This ADA Amendments Act states that "major life activities include, but are not limited to, caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working." IDEA-identified students are automatically covered by Section 504 laws.

We are obligated by federal law to identify students who qualify for Section 504. It is a teacher's responsibility to provide his/her students the first step in this process. If you feel some type of impairment is affecting any of your students' academic progress, please hold a parent conference at school or by phone. Document the date of the conference, your concerns, and the fact that you are making a referral to the SBLC Chairperson. The Chairperson or school-based 504 Coordinator will make further arrangements and may ask for additional documentation from you. You are NOT responsible for making a diagnosis; therefore, please refrain from doing so to parents. You will be called upon to participate in the process of establishing accommodations and modifications, as part of the evaluation process.

If you require additional information about Section 504, please visit with your school's SBLC Chairperson or school-based 504 Coordinator. By signing the document page at your school, you acknowledge receipt of this letter and your awareness of the Section 504 process in Ouachita Parish. Thank you for your cooperation.

PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS

IN STUDENT DETERMINATION OF PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AS DEFINED
IN SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973



The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) to students with disabilities. The law states that “qualified disabled persons will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability in any program, activity or employment practice. A disabled person is defined as any person who has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities, has a record of such impairment, or is regarded as having such impairment.” The intent of the law is to keep students and parents fully informed concerning decisions about the student and their right to agree or disagree with any of these decisions.

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:

1. Have the school system advise you of your rights under federal law (Section 504).
2. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school system make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in academic, nonacademic, and extra-curricular activities offered by the school system.
3. Have your child take part in and receive benefits from public educational programs without discrimination because of his/her disabling condition.
4. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, and educational placement of your child.
5. Have your child educated in facilities and receive services comparable to those provided non-disabled students.
6. Have your child receive accommodations/modifications and related services that will meet his/her needs as well as the needs of non-disabled students if he/she is found to be eligible for services under Section 504.
7. Have fair evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based upon a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student, the evaluation data, and placement options.
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if your child were placed in a program operated by the school system.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions made regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program, and placement.
10. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost unless the fee would effectively deny access to the records.
11. Receive a response from the school system to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
12. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request for amendment, it shall notify you within a reasonable time and advise you of the right to a hearing.
13. Have an opportunity to present complaints and/or to request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. You and your child may take part in the hearing and be represented by counsel. Hearing requests must be made through the Ouachita Parish 504 Coordinator.
14. Request payment of reasonable attorney fees if you are successful on your claim.
15. File a local grievance.

For more information regarding Section 504, or if you have questions or need additional assistance, contact Ouachita Parish's Section 504 Coordinator: Barry Johnson, 800 Claiborne Street, West Monroe, LA 71291, (318) 432-5400.

TITLE VI, TITLE IX, THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA), AND SECTION 504 COMPLIANCE

Title VI, Title IX, ADA, and Section 504 are federal laws which ensure that individuals will be free from discrimination based upon sex, race, national origin, or disabilities. The Ouachita Parish School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

To resolve problems which students, employees, or applicants for employment may believe are the result of discriminatory practices, the Ouachita Parish School Board has established a grievance policy. For further information about these federal laws or the grievance process, contact:

Todd Guice
Assistant Superintendent/Personnel Director
and Title VI and Title IX Coordinator
Ouachita Parish School Board
1600 North 7th Street
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 432-5000

Dr. Gail Autrey
Director of Student Support Services
Ouachita Parish Student Support Services
800 Claiborne Street
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 432-5400

Barry Johnson
Section 504/ADA Supervisor
Ouachita Parish Student Support Services
800 Claiborne Street
West Monroe, LA 71291
(318) 432-5400

Attendance

OUACHITA PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

I. Attendance Requirements

No student shall accumulate more than a total of **FIVE** absences during a semester **EXCUSED AND/OR UNEXCUSED**, as required by state law to be eligible to receive any grade earned that semester. On **ANY ABSENCE**, after reaching a total of **FIVE**, the student and the parent will have to meet with a Child Welfare and Attendance Officer at the School Board Office and provide a justifiable excuse for that absence. Students and parents can check in the student handbook to know what types of absences are considered justifiable. School administrators can also be contacted to get that information if you do not have a student handbook.

II. Types of Absences

A. **Excused Absences**—Students shall be considered excused from school for the following reasons:

1. Personal illness (with physician's verification).
(Note: Personal illness: Although the absence will be counted as one of the allowed 5 days of absence, a student will be allowed to make up any work missed, or tests missed if the student brings a note signed by the parent or guardian explaining the absence. A phone number where parents or guardians can be reached will be necessary.)
2. Death in the family (not to exceed one week).
 1. Serious illness in the family (with documented verification).
 2. Recognized religious holidays of the student's own faith.
 3. Physician's excuses must be submitted immediately upon student's return or within 48 hours.
 4. Legal appointments.

THE STUDENT SHALL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE UP WORK.

**FORGED OR TAMPERED DOCTORS EXCUSES WILL RESULT IN 3 DAYS SUSPENSION:
POSSIBLE CRIMINAL ACTION COULD BE TAKEN.**

B. Unexcused Absences

1. Students shall not be excused for any absence other than those listed above.
2. Students shall not be excused from school to work on any job including agriculture and domestic service, even in their own homes or for their own parents or tutors.
3. Any unexplained, unexcused, or illegal absence or habitual tardiness shall be reported to the Visiting Teacher and/or Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance when necessary.

C. Suspensions

Students missing school as a result of any suspension shall be counted as absent but, will be allowed up to 75% credit for student work and/or tests missed due to an out of school suspension. Work and tests must be completed the first day back from suspension.

III. Extenuating Circumstances

The only exception to the attendance regulation shall be delineated extenuating circumstances that are verified by the Director of Child Welfare and Attendance as follows:

1. Extended personal physical or emotional illness as verified by a physician.
2. Extended hospital stay as verified by a physician.
3. Extended recuperation from an accident as verified by a physician.
4. Extended contagious disease within a family as verified by a physician.
5. Prior school system approved travel for education.
6. Death in the family (not to exceed one week).
7. Natural catastrophe and/or disaster.

IV. Summary

- A. The previous regulations require that a student ACCUMULATE NO MORE THAN 5 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES PER SEMESTER FROM ANY CLASS.
 - B. Attendance requirements shall be ENFORCED ON A CLASS-BY-CLASS BASIS.
 - C. A student shall not receive grades from a class IF HE/SHE HAS ACCUMULATED MORE THAN 5 ABSENCES, INCLUDING SUSPENSIONS. (5 unexcused absences)
 - D. ALL EXCUSES MUST BE SUBMITTED UPON STUDENT'S RETURN. (WITHIN 48 HOURS)
- V. **Tardies** – Ample time has been allotted for students to be on time. Teachers, according to OPSB policy, must identify students who are tardy for class. After allowing an adequate period of time for students to learn their schedule, the following policy will be in effect:

1st tardy	Student will receive a warning.
2nd tardy	Student's parent will be contacted.
3rd tardy	Student will be issued 1-2 day(s) of detention. Failure to complete will result in Saturday Seminar.
4th tardy	Student will be issued 2-3 days of detention (same failure to attend policy as above).
5th tardy	Student will be issued 3-4 days of detention (same failure to attend policy as above).
6th tardy	Student will be issued Saturday Seminar (failure to attend results in ISD).
7th tardy	Student will be issued ISD and parent must attend conference at the school.
8th tardy	Student will be issued 1-3 day(s) of out of school suspension
9th tardy	Student will be issued 3 days of out of school suspension and visit Child Welfare and Attendance.
10th tardy	Student will be issued 5 days of out of school suspension and recommended for Alternative Placement. Student must attend Hearing at Child Welfare and Attendance.

Students checking into school during the first half of any class will be considered tardy for class unless they have a doctor's excuse or some other reason deemed excusable by the assistant principals. Students checking in during the second half of the class period will be considered absent from class and will be held in student services until the bell rings for the next class. A doctor's excuse will allow the student to make up any missed work, but the absence will still be counted for any classes missed.

*CONTINUED TARDINESS MAY LEAD TO LONGER SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION.

*TARDIES ARE CUMULATIVE FOR ALL CLASSES

*TARDIES **WILL NOT** Start over at the beginning of the second semester.

***Tardiness is defined as not being in the classroom when the tardy bell stops ringing.**

VI. Entrance Requirements

All students upon entering Louisiana schools for the first time shall present an official birth certificate and a record of immunization. Also, you must have two (2) proofs of residence showing that you are zoned for Ouachita Parish High School, example: water bill, electricity bill, etc.

All students entering any school for the first time shall present satisfactory evidence of having been immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, measles, and other communicable diseases according to schedule approved by the State Department of Health and Human Resources, or shall present evidence of an immunization program in progress. In addition, each child shall have a test for menisectomies, commonly known as "sickle cell anemia." The test is mandatory unless the parents object.

VII. Truancy

A student absent without the consent of a parent, guardian, or school official is truant. Repeated truancy may be cause for disciplinary action, suspension, expulsion, or legal action. You are truant if you do one of the following:

1. Leave school without signing out in the Student Services Office.
2. Leave school at lunch time—we operate a closed campus policy.

3. Are absent from class without permission (skipping).
4. Come to school but never attend class.
5. Obtain a pass to go to a certain area of the school, but never go there.
6. Loiter anywhere on campus during school hours.
7. Arrive at school late and never sign in at the Student Services Office

Expulsion of Students for Knife, Firearm, and Drug Offense

NOTICE OF NEW STATE LAW CONCERNING MINIMUM PERIODS OF EXPULSION OF STUDENTS FOR KNIFE, FIREARM, AND DRUG OFFENSES. EFFECTIVE DATE IS AUGUST 15, 2007

TO ALL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS:

R.S. 17:416 was amended by Act 385 of the 2007 Legislature to change the required minimum periods of expulsion of students for knife, firearm, and drug offenses. Governor Blanco signed the bill as of July 10, 2007. The effective date of the new law is August 15, 2007.

This new law requires the following changes:

K-Grade 5	A firearm or knife offense requires an expulsion from school for two complete semesters (six 6 week grading periods). There is no change for drug related offenses in grades K-5.
Grades 6-12	A firearm or knife offense requires an expulsion from school for four complete semesters.
Students under age 16 (or in grades 6-12)	A drug offense requires an expulsion of two complete semesters.
Students age 16 /older	A drug offense requires an expulsion of four complete semesters.

******Local school superintendents do have the authority to modify the length of the four semester minimum semester period on a case by case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.

Act 385 also changed the law to state that (1) it will now be **discretionary** whether or not to expel a student for a fourth suspension for all other disciplinary offenses, and (2) requires a student expelled for knife, firearm, and drug related offenses to provide documentation that the student has participated in a rehabilitation or counseling program related to the offense causing the expulsion **before readmission to school, including alternative education placement.**

Cell Phone and Electronic Communication Policies

School Board Policy Concerning Student Use of Cell Phones or any Electronic Telecommunication Device at School or on School Buses:

As outlined in Louisiana R. S. 17:239, students are prohibited from **using** or **operating** cell phones or any electronic telecommunication device in any public-school building, on the grounds thereof, or in any school bus used to transport public school students. Cell phone “use or operation” is defined for this policy as the cell phone being in the “on” position or mode. **During regular school hours, student cell phones are required to be kept out of sight and turned “off” while in a school building, on school grounds, or on a school bus. This policy is inclusive of any electronic telecommunication device in a student’s possession.**

School administrators will use the following procedure as corrective action for any student who violates this policy:

- **First offense** – Parent/ Guardian will be called. Device may be picked up prior to 3:30 pm Monday- Friday. Student shall receive a written minor infraction.
- **Second offense** – Parent/ guardian will be called. Device may be picked up by 3:30 pm Monday- Friday. Student will be assigned Saturday Seminar (minor infraction)
- **Third offense** – Parent/ Guardian will be called. Device may be picked up by 3:30 pm Monday- Friday. The student will be allowed to return to school after meeting with Child Welfare and Attendance Office. This must be done with a 5-day period. Students identified by Section 504 or Bulletin 1508 must meet with CWA within 3 days. Students are responsible for all online coursework.
- **Fourth offense** – Parent/ Guardian will be called. Device may be picked up by 3:30 pm Monday- Friday. Student will serve a 3 day in- school suspension.

NOTE: If Parent/ Guardian refuse to pick up device the student will receive a 3 day suspension.

EXCEPTION: In the event of an emergency, any person may use any electronic device available. **Emergency is defined as an actual or imminent threat to public health or safety which may result in loss of life, injury, or property damage.**

“Any student refusing to turn over a cell phone to a faculty or staff member will be subject to a three day suspension, and parent/student conference with the Parish Director of Child Welfare and Attendance.”

Modification approved by the OPSB: July, 2021

Ouachita Parish School Board Philosophy on Drug Testing

One of the primary objectives of the Ouachita Parish School Board is to provide a school environment that is safe and drug free. Many methods are being employed in order to accomplish this goal. They include a "zero tolerance" for drugs and alcohol, use of mandatory drug education, D.A.R.E., Character Counts!, and other school programs.

Substance abuse in the school setting can have a damaging effect, possibly even fatal to students who abuse drugs. In recent times, an increase in the use of illegal substances by students/athletes has caused concern. These concerns have been expressed by school principals, school boards, law enforcement, and parents.

The use of drugs by students/athletes poses the risk of physical harm not only to the student/athlete but to their teammates and classmates as well. Also, the "role model" effect of drug use by students/athletes has a detrimental effect on the general school population. Because of these concerns, the OPSB embraces the opportunity to provide to provide optimum health and safety to students involved in all phases of student life through a drug testing program.

The goal of this policy is not to invade the privacy of the student/athlete but rather to discourage the use of drugs. This would include any controlled substance depending on usage which by its very nature would be counter productive to the health and safety of the student/athlete and their classmates.

It is the philosophy of the OPSB that the implementation of a student drug testing policy will:

- 1) *serve as a deterrent to drugs being brought into the schools*
- 2) *help identify students who need drug abuse assistance*
- 3) *help reduce or remove drug use from our school system*
- 4) *strengthen the parent/school relationship*
- 5) *provide a position and course of action for community confidence*
- 6) *improve the overall safety of our school campuses*

Ouachita Parish School Board Student Drug Testing Policy

THE POLICY CONCERNING STUDENT DRUG TESTING WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Students not involved in school athletics or designed extra-curricular groups.

All students in grades 7-12, with parental consent, may volunteer to be tested by random selection. Consent forms will be obtained from parents for each student being tested. Should a parent desire that their child not be tested, the child will not be included in the randomly selected pool. Students testing negative on their test can be tested again according to the random selection process.

The designated extra-curricular groups are:

1. Band-performance groups
2. Choir-performance groups
3. Cheerleaders
4. Dance/Drill Team
5. Spirit Groups
6. Athletes

It is the position of the Ouachita Parish School Board and its schools that participation in school DECG is a special privilege and carries an added responsibility of representing the school in a unique way. Therefore, these tests will be strictly enforced, and participation will be mandatory, since the parents/guardian have freely chosen to allow their sons/daughters to participate in the DECG activity. No student will be tested Unless both the parent(s) and the student sign a form giving permission to have the tests performed. By signing, the parents(s) and the student acknowledge that they consented to the administration of the tests and waive any claim of an invasion of privacy and waive any objection to the necessary action in the furtherance of these safety proceedings. The refusal of a student/parent to allow tests to be administered shall serve as an acknowledgment that the student has voluntarily chosen not to participate in the DECG program for that school year.

Parents, by their signature, release the school's DECG Departments from any responsibility in connection with the administration of test results, warranties as to the accuracy of said tests, and medical procedures used by the referring laboratory.

Students who transfer to a school during the year will be added to the list if they choose to participate in DECG activities.

Procedure for Students Testing Positive

If a student tests positive for any drug, he/she must adhere to the following.

ARTICLE I

1st Offense Parents are notified in writing and must have a conference with the school principal. A minimum eight (8) hours of drug counseling, provided by a certified drug counselor chosen and paid for by the parents, will be required. A student testing positive on the initial test will be retested at some time during the school year.

2nd Offense Student is suspended for three (3) days and eight (8) additional hours of drug counseling (at parent's expense) is required. A retest is also required.

3rd Offense Student is expelled from school for the remainder of the year. The student must present proof of a negative drug test administered by an OPSB approved agency before being readmitted into a OPSB school.

.....

All students participating in school sponsored DECG will be tested prior to the first contest of each individual DECG season and are also subject to random testing in accordance with this policy. The date of testing will be determined by the principal and DECG director of each school.

ARTICLE II

If a DECG student test positive for any drug, he/she must adhere to the following:

- 1) be suspended from that DECG until a negative test has been obtained.
- 2) follow procedures outlined above in Article I for each offense.
- 3) if the results of the second drug test are positive, the student will be suspended from that DECG for the remainder of the season.

Any student involved in school sponsored DECG who tests positive for any drug will not be allowed to practice or compete in any DECG activities until a negative test has been obtained.

The cost of the retest will be at the parent's/student's expense once the student has tested positive. A student who refuses to be retested will be dismissed from all DECG programs.

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

The Ouachita Parish School Board directs students, school board employees and school volunteers to report any incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student by another student. For purposes of this policy, the terms **“harassment”**, **“intimidation”** or **“bullying”** shall mean any intentional gesture or written, verbal or physical act that:

1. Under these circumstances, a reasonable person should know the effects of harming a student, threatening his/her life, placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damaging his/her property; and
2. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student.

The Ouachita Parish School System will not tolerate any harassment, intimidation or bullying of students on school property, while riding on a school bus, or while going to or returning from school. The school administrator shall investigate any reported incident of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Should the investigation determine that an incident has occurred, the students involved shall be disciplined in accordance with this policy. The disciplinary action may include a conference with the student(s) involved; a conference with parents/guardians; a warning; or in more serious cases, the student(s) may be suspended/expelled from school as follows:

First Offense	1–3-day suspension, counseling required
Second Offense	1–5-day suspension, counseling required
Three or more offenses expulsion	1–5-day suspension or a recommendation for
Serious cases	Recommendation for expulsion, and/or
alternative school placement for the remainder of the school year	

***In serious cases, it will be the administration’s discretion to involve law enforcement.**

Legal Reference: Louisiana R.S. 17:416.13

Migrant Education Program

The Migrant Education Program (MEP) was established in 1966 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. The Program is a federally funded program, authorized under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). MEP is Part C of Title I and designed to support high quality and comprehensive educational programs for migrant children.

According to NCLB the purpose of Migrant Education is to:

Support high-quality and comprehensive educational programs for migratory children to help reduce the educational disruption and other problems that result from repeated moves.

- Ensure that migratory children who move among the states are not penalized in any manner by disparities among the state in curriculum, graduation requirements, and state academic content and student academic achievement standards.
- Ensure that migratory children are provided with appropriate educational services (including supportive services) that address their special needs in a coordinated and efficient manner.
- Ensure that migratory children receive full and appropriate opportunities to meet the same challenging state academic content and achievement standards that all children are expected to meet.
- Design programs to help migratory children overcome educational disruption, cultural and language barriers, social isolation, various health-related problems, and other factors that inhibit the ability of such children to make a successful transition to postsecondary education or employment; and
- Ensure that migratory children benefit from state and local systemic reforms.

Eligibility Requirements for Participation

A child is considered “migrant” if the parent or guardian is a migratory worker in the agricultural, dairy, or fishing industries and whose family has moved during the past three years. A “qualifying” move can range from moving across school district boundaries or from one state to another for the purpose of finding temporary or seasonal employment. A young adult may also qualify if he or she has moved on his own for the same reasons. The eligibility period is three years from the date of the last move. The program begins to receive funding for children at age 3 through 21. Eligibility is established through an interview conducted by a Migrant Education recruiter. The law states that migrant education services are a priority for those students whose education has been interrupted during the current school year and who are failing or are most at risk of failing to meet state content and performance standards.

Migrant Education Program Services:

- Access to student information through the Louisiana record transfer system
- Continuing communication between home and school
- Technical assistance to teachers at school
- Basic supplies
- Coordination of migrant family services with other agencies and programs
- Short-term tutoring
- Toll-free numbers so that any educator or any parent can contact the nearest Migrant Education Office
- Your Local Migrant Office-(318)432-5330 or (1-800-725-9702)

Homeless Education Services

These services:

- Identify homeless and youth by utilization of the Residency Questionnaire
- Immediate Enrollment Assistance, including obtaining birth and immunization records
- Free lunch
- Uniforms
- School Supplies/some school fees
- Medical/Dental /Housing/counseling referrals
- Tutorials in shelters and schools
- Connect students to summer programs/preschool programs/parenting education
- Link to literacy, social, and life skills training
- Pre-service case management

Enrollment: (Bulletin 741, Section 341)

In order to ensure homeless students are being identified and tracked appropriately in our school system, the following procedure is to be followed for enrolling any homeless child residing within our district:

- 1) The person who has the responsibility for enrolling a homeless child in school must contact the District Liaison Supervisor at the OPSS Media Center to fill out a Louisiana Residency Questionnaire for eligibility required by law. *(Forms are also available at each school.)*
- 2) Upon completion of this interview process and signature of the District Liaison, all legal documents will accompany the student/guardian to the school where the child will be attending and completing the enrollment process. Student information will also be sent to the Food/Nutrition Supervisor, SIS Coordinator and Child Welfare and Attendance.
- 3) As a result of this procedure, copies of enrollment process of any homeless child will be filed at the Media Center, the CWA office, school of attendance, SIS office, and Food/Nutrition office.

NOTE: A homeless child may or may not be in the custody of a legal parent or guardian. It is the responsibility of local LEAs to eliminate barriers that homeless youth may face, including revising local enrollment policies to accommodate unaccompanied youth. In the event of natural disasters, which may cause a sudden influx of homeless students locating within our school district, we will make the enrollment of these youth an immediate priority and assist them and their caregivers in *every* way possible to make the enrollment process go as smoothly and quickly as possible.

Contact Information:

Jerlyn D. Bobo, District Liaison
Supervisor
(318) 432-5330 (318) 432-5297(Fax)
Ouachita Parish Central Office
1600 North 7th Street
West Monroe, Louisiana 71291

State Coordinator
1-225-219-2949, 1-877-453-2721
State of L.A. Department of Education
1201 North Third Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

"Bridges of Ouachita" Homeless Education Assistance Program abides by federally mandated policies to ensure that homeless children and youth have access to free, appropriate public education on the same basis as children and youth with established residences. Laws, regulations, practices, or policies should not act as barriers to the enrollment, attendance, or school success of homeless students. (Federal Law: Title VII-B; of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; 42 USC 11431 at seq.) (State Law: LA. RS. 17.238/Public Law 107-110, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; BESE Policy: 1.012.00 — 1012.05 and 2.012.00 — 2.012.04.

Definition of Homeless or "Highly Mobile" Individual...

The Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act (P.L. 107-110) defines the term *"homeless person"* as one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and who has a primary nighttime residence that is:

- Displaced due to a natural disaster
- A shelter/transitional housing
- The streets, cars, abandoned buildings, campgrounds, etc.
- An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized
- A residence with substandard living conditions (not fit for human habitation- no electricity, no heat, no running water, no windows/doors, holes in the roof/floor, no way to cook/store food)
- Two or more families living together in crowded or undesirable living conditions, (doubling/tripling up because they have no place of their own to live where they can safely and healthfully meet their basic needs in privacy and with dignity
- Runaway children who have run away from home and live in a shelter or inadequate accommodations even if parents are willing to provide a home
- Unaccompanied youth
- In December 2001, Congress made the law protecting the educational rights of those children even stronger by passing the McKinney-Vento Act. It gives children and youth in homeless situations the right to stay in their *"school of origin"* even if they move; enroll in a new school without proof of

residence, immunizations, school records or other papers; some transportation to school; go to pre-school programs; get all the school services available; have disagreements with schools settled quickly (Dispute Resolution Policy) and be enrolled in the school for the "*best interest of the child*" while disagreements are settled.

OPSB Web Publishing Policy

Purpose

The purpose of the Ouachita Parish School Board (OPSB) website is to provide a means of effective communication between administrators, teachers, support staff, students, parents, and our community. All content on the OPSB website must adhere to the policies outlined in this document. Failure to follow these policies may result in a loss of publishing privileges and/or other disciplinary actions.

Organizational Responsibilities

- The Website Administrator is responsible for developing and maintaining the OPSB district website.
- The Communications Department has the primary responsibility for the content of the OPSB website. All content of the OPSB district website must be approved by the Communications Department.
- A Website Coordinator will be designated for each school in the district. Each school's Website Coordinator will be responsible for all content posted to that school's website. The Website Coordinator is also responsible for insuring that a release form is on file before publishing any identifiable student photos or works.
- The Webmaster is the person who actually creates, publishes, and maintains the school's website. The Webmaster may be the Website Coordinator or may be designated by the Website Coordinator. The Webmaster may be a teacher (or other school employee), parent, or other individual deemed capable of publishing the school's website. However, the Website Coordinator is ultimately responsible for the content of the school's website.

Content Standards

- All content must adhere to all state, federal, and international laws concerning copyright and intellectual property rights.
- All official school board and school web pages should reside primarily on the OPSB web server. If a school chooses to host its website with another provider, the OPSB website will provide a link to the school's website only if the school's website meets all other criteria maintained in this policy.
- All content must be related to curriculum, instruction, or other school or school district related information.
- Personal information should not be published. Any phone numbers or email addresses should be ones used within the school system
- The OPSB web server will not be used for personal or commercial financial gain or for any illegal activity. Links to retail or political sites will not be allowed.
- All web pages must not link to or contain any inappropriate material. The Communications Department will have full discretion in determining the appropriateness of content.

Student Safety

- Student names may be published without a release form. However, no identifiable student photo or student works may be published unless a signed release form is on file for the current school year for every associated student.

- No personal information (other than the student name) should ever be published about a student.
- No information that identifies the location of a student at any particular time during the school day (such as student schedules) should ever be published.
- Students are not allowed to have or use OPSB assigned email accounts.
- Students are not allowed to publish information to the OPSB web server.

Web Publishing Guidelines

- All published content must reflect educational goals.
- All published content should be reviewed for accuracy, correct spelling, and correct grammar.
- All published content must adhere to all state, federal, and international laws concerning copyright and intellectual property rights. If you are granted permission to publish copyrighted material, you must maintain documentation of this permission if the material is on the OPSB web server.
- All published content must be kept up to date.
- Do not use spaces in naming pages or directories. Use the underscore character (“_”) instead of spaces.
- Graphics should be optimized to minimize page loading times and bandwidth usage.
- School web sites must include:
 - School name
 - Principal’s name
 - Full address

OPSB Published Student Information Release Form

Student Name

The parent will sign and return to your child's first period teacher if you **do not** give permission for the above-named student's full name, photograph, and works (art, written papers, voice, verbal statements, etc.) to appear on the school or school district's website and understand that these pictures or works may or may not personally identify the student. By not returning this form, I give permission for the above-named student's name to be used in online educational website as an extension of the academic program offered through his/her classes here at East Ouachita Middle School.

Parent/Legal Guardian (please print)

Signature

Date

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

East Ouachita Middle School **2024-2025**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, East Ouachita Middle School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore will jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school. The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental and family engagement activities.

East Ouachita Middle School understands that parent and family engagement mean the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child

East Ouachita Middle School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

East Ouachita Middle School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, East Ouachita Middle School will hold its Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved.

B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS

East Ouachita Middle School will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at convenient times for families, such as meetings in the morning or evening (for which the school may use Title I funds to provide transportation, childcare or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement).

C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED

East Ouachita Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

At the beginning of the school year, we will invite all parents and other stakeholders to the Annual Title I Parent Meeting. During this meeting, parents will receive information about the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan and will be informed of their parental right to be involved in the planning and development of the plan through meetings, surveys and questionnaires. Please feel free to submit comments/recommendations on the plan to the school administrator, Keshea Jones at kjones@opsb.net. The plan will be sent home with students at the beginning of each school year and posted to the school's website, eom.opsb.net.

D. COMMUNICATION

East Ouachita Middle School will provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, including:

- a) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- b) forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
- c) achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, and
- d) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable possible.

Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, will be sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand

The EOMS Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be sent home at the beginning of the school year and made available on the school website. It will also be discussed with parents during the Annual Title I family and stakeholder meeting. The policy will be assessed each year based on the number of participants, the number of volunteers, and the responses to the parent questionnaires and /or surveys.

Parents will be involved in planning, reviewing and improving the policy through a yearly review. All parents will be afforded the opportunity to participate in this review.

E. DISSENSION PROCESS

East Ouachita Middle School will submit any comments/concerns to the Ouachita Parish Director of Federal Programs' office if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents.

Any comments/concerns can be emailed to the Director of Federal Programs, Anthony Killian, at killian@opsb.net or phone at 318-432-5330

F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

East Ouachita Middle School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standard and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

In order to assure that all parents have the opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process, East Ouachita Middle School will hold an annual parent meeting to review and discuss any needed changes to the jointly developed school compact. This compact will outline how the school faculty and staff, parents, and students all take part in a shared responsibility of improving student academic achievement and decreasing undesirable behaviors. This compact will serve as a joint agreement not only detailing the school's role in providing high quality instruction and curriculum, but also the responsibility of both students and parents for meeting and supporting in the learning process. The compact will give details on how parents will have reasonable access to staff, receive ongoing reports on student progress, and various opportunities to volunteer at the school.

G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

East Ouachita Middle School will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,

- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I, Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of the contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

East Ouachita Middle School will offer parent workshops on an as needed basis. We will also continue to encourage parents to use online resources such as Khan Academy, Prodigy, IXL, Kuta, www.mathtv.com, www.mathmammoth.com/videos, and Ouachita Parish Public Library oplib.org. Some websites will require parents to contact their child's teacher for online access information. In an effort to help parents support their child's academic success, we also have other resources and reading material available. Parents will also be encouraged to attend the district-wide Parent Advisory Council meetings, where they can get materials, training and resources to improve their child's achievement.

H. ACCESSIBILITY

East Ouachita Middle School in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities, for the participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Parent volunteers will be asked to work within the community to garner support for events such as: educational nights, field trips, PTA Meetings, parent conferences, parent advisory meetings, and other parent events. Surveys will be sent out to parents to gather input regarding topics of need and to identify barriers to parent participation. Parent workshops will be held as needed (interpreters may be arranged to assist with non-English speaking parents and/or parents with disabilities) to encourage parental involvement with

academics. Family and community stakeholders will be made aware of the training sessions through resources such as event flyers, Remind, use of the school marquee, school social media, automated phone callout

What is a School-Parent

Compact?

Our annual school-parent compact offers ways we can work together to help our students succeed. This compact provides strategies to help connect learning at school and at home.

Effective compacts

- Link academic achievement goals
- Focus on student learning
- Share strategies that staff, parents, and students can use
- Describe opportunities to volunteer

Jointly developed

The parents, students, and staff of East Ouachita Middle School partnered together to develop this school-parent compact for achievement. Teachers suggested home learning strategies, parents added input about the types of support they needed, and students told us what would help them learn. Parents are encouraged to attend annual revision meetings held in the spring of each year to review the compact and make suggestions based on student needs and school improvement goals. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the annual parent survey that is also used as a tool to collect parent feedback regarding the current school's programs and policies.

Academic Achievement Goals

District Goals

As a community, Ouachita Parish School Board will connect learning to 21st century skills needed for college and career ready students who will excel in a global society.

School Goals

East Ouachita Middle School will continue striving to improve the percentage of students who reach their LEAP 2025 growth to mastery target, as well as educate the "whole" student in an effort to develop a well-rounded individual.



Area of Emphasis

6th Grade Focus

Math - ratios, rates, and fractions

(6.NS.A.1 and 6.RP.A.3)

Science - atomic structure (6-MS-PS1-1)

7th Grade Focus

Math - ratios, rates, and fractions (7.NS.A.1 and 7.RP.A.3)

Science - balancing symbolic equations and intermolecular forces (7-MS-PS1-5)

8th Grade Focus

Math - equations with rational coefficients (8.EE.C.8)

Science - constructing a scientific explanation regarding the natural energy, weather, and organisms (8-MS-PS3-3, 8-MS-ESS3-2, and 8-MS-LS1-5)

Building Partnerships

East Ouachita Middle School offers ongoing events and programs to build partnerships with families. Example of partnership:

- 6th Grade Orientation
- Open House
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Parent Workshops
- Parent Resource Center
- Volunteering
- Report card pick-up
- Educational Family Nights



Communication About Student Learning

East Ouachita Middle School is committed to frequent two-way communication with families about children's learning. Some of the ways you can expect us to reach you are:

- Teacher websites
- Student Progress Center
- Emails and phone calls to parents on students' progress
- Bloomz
- School social media pages



As a school, we will...

- Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the state's student academic achievement standards by teaching the Louisiana State Standards.
- Implement the school-wide positive behavior support plan and ensure that students properly adhere to the school and district's "code of conduct"
- Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress, as applicable to the specific grade level, through the use of WebPams, school report cards, parent conferences, district report cards and other progress reports.
- Provide parents reasonable access to staff with scheduled appointments.
- Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer as needed

As parents, we will...

- See that my child is punctual and attends school daily.
- Provide a home environment that encourages my child in any way possible to meet his or her responsibilities.
- Volunteer at the school to show my interest and support.
- Attend parent meetings and related workshops.
- Monitor home work assignments and stress the importance of education and adhering to school expectations.



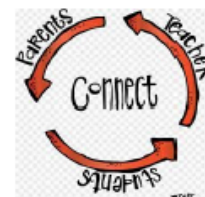
2020-2021 SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

859 Swartz Fairbanks
Monroe, LA 71203
318 432 2150
eom.opsb.net

Keshea Jones Principal

As students, we will...

- Come to school and class prepared and ready to learn.
- Adhere to school expectations.
- Give my parent/guardian all notices and information given to me from my school.
- Do my homework every day and ask for help when I need it.
- Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.



MY GOALS

My own personal goal for MATH is:

My own personal goal for SCIENCE is:

My TEACHER can help me reach my goal by:

My FAMILY can help me reach my goal by:

My Day at East Ouachita Middle School

Name: _____

Grade: _____

Homeroom Teacher: _____

#BeGreat

2024 – 2025 Class Schedule

<i>Period</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Rm #</i>	<i>Teacher</i>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

2024 - 2025 REGULAR BELL SCHEDULE

7:47	Early Bell
7:50 - 8:40	1 st Period
8:44 - 9:32	2 nd Period
9:36 - 10:28	3 rd Period (7 th and 8 th Grade ONLY)
9:36 - 10:32	3 rd Period (6 th Grade ONLY)
10:32 - 11:20	4 th Period (8 th Grade ONLY)
10:32 - 11:24	4 th Period (7 th Grade ONLY)
10:32 - 10:57	Lunch for 6th Grade
11:01 - 11:49	4 th Period class for 6th Grade
11:24 - 11:49	Lunch for 7th Grade
11:24 - 12:14	5 th Period class for 8th Grade
11:53 - 12:41	5 th Period (6 th and 7 th Grade ONLY)
12:14 - 12:41	Lunch for 8th Grade
12:45 - 1:33	6 th Period
1:37 - 2:25	7 th Period
2:29 - 3:13	8 th Period
3:13	Final dismissal