

# **Parent and Student Handbook 2024-2025**



**DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL**

1400 OLD TAMAH ROAD  
IRMO, S.C. 29063

School Hours: 8:20 – 3:40

**ADMINISTRATION**

**PRINCIPAL OF DUTCH FORK HIGH SCHOOL**

Dr. Gerald Gary

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF INSTRUCTION  
AND SUPERVISION**

Ms. Lori Grant

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS**

Mr. Reed Gunter

Mrs. Jo Howe

Mr. Jamie McClendon

**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

TBA

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

Coach Tom Knotts

**Important Numbers**

Main Office	476-3300	Main Fax	476-3320
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Attendance	476-3304	Cafeteria	476-3308
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Athletics	476-3306	Counseling	476-3305
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## **School Mission**

Dutch Fork High School ensures the academic, social, mental, physical, and personal growth of all students so they will be college and career ready in a globally competitive world. We provide a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that utilizes effective teaching strategies and creates a stimulating environment that fosters self-respect and motivates the continual pursuit of life-long learning and service.

## **School Vision**

In order to maximize academic success, we will provide a world class curriculum to all Dutch Fork High School students and promote creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

## **School Motto**

***Enter to Learn – Go Forth to Serve***

### **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in admission to, treatment of, or employment in its programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Dr. Tamara Turner, Chief Human Resources Officer (803) 476-8198 and the 504/ADA Coordinator, (803) 476-8222, 1020 Dutch Fork Rd., Irmo, SC 29063.

# Table of Contents

Activities  
Assemblies  
Athletics  
Alma Mater  
Attendance/ Seat Time/ Early Dismissal  
Bell Schedule  
Bicycles, Mopeds, and Skateboards  
Building Hours for Students  
Bulletins and Announcements  
Bus Transportation  
Care of School Property  
Cell Phones/ Communication Devices  
    (Student Owned)  
Change of Address  
Civil Emergencies  
Class Rank  
Closed Campus  
Closing of School (Inclement Weather)  
College Admissions Timeline  
College Testing Information  
Compliance with the Telephone Consumer  
    Protection Act  
Computers/ Mobile Devices Policy  
    (District Owned)  
Course Load  
Diploma Requirements  
Directory Information  
Dress Code  
Erin's Law and Gavin's Law  
Exam Exemptions  
Final Exam Make-Up Policy  
Fire Drills and other Evacuation Plans  
Food and Drinks  
Fundraising  
Gifted Programs  
Grading Procedures  
Graduation Exercises  
Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying  
Health Records/ Health Room  
Homebound Instruction  
Homework Policy  
Honor Code  
Honors Recognition  
Honor Roll  
ID Badges  
Injury and Illness  
Insurance  
Job Shadowing

Library Media Services  
Lockers  
Lost and Found  
Lunch/ Breakfast  
Make-Up Policy  
Non-Students on Grounds  
Optional Diploma Recognition Program  
Parent Portal  
Parking and Cars  
Parties and Gifts at School  
Promotion Policy  
Personal Property  
Records  
Registration for Courses  
Schedule Changes  
Scholastic Awards  
School-Home Communication  
School Counseling Services  
School-Sponsored Trips  
Senior Privileges  
Social Events  
Solicitation and Advertising  
Special Services Programs  
Summer School  
Tardy Policy  
Textbooks  
Title I Parent Involvement Policy  
Tobacco Possession and Use  
Transfer Students  
Use of Metal Detectors  
Uniform Grading Policy  
Visitors to Classes  
Withdrawal from School  
Yearbooks

## **ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES**

At Dutch Fork High School, we want every student to be academically successful. Research has demonstrated that the following will help increase the likelihood that a student will be successful:

- 1) Establish high achievement goals. Go for the A or B rather than making a commitment to “just pass.”
- 2) Attend school every day unless an illness occurs that makes attendance impossible.
- 3) Do assigned homework every day.
- 4) Attend Academic Assistance when needed. Tutoring is offered after school on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4-6.
- 5) Record assignments and due dates in an agenda, notebook, or electronic device.
- 6) Communicate with teachers. Let them know when you are struggling or have things that are bothering you.
- 7) Seek the help of your school counselor.
- 8) Prioritize: SCHOOL FIRST, job second, etc.

## **ACTIVITIES: ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES**

- Interscholastic activities include all activities involving school-sponsored competition between and among schools for students in grades 9-12.
- The athletic department determines academic eligibility at the beginning of each semester and bases the eligibility on the previous semester's record of courses taken and grades achieved.
- While participating, a student must be a full-time student as determined by guidelines set forth by the State Department of Education. A student who is repeating a course for which he has previously received credit cannot count this course as one required for eligibility; this is considered as monitoring a course.

To participate in interscholastic athletic activities, students in grades 9 – 12 must achieve an overall passing average in addition to the following:

1) To be eligible in the first semester, a student must pass a minimum of five Carnegie units applicable toward a high school diploma during the previous year. At least two units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school. To be eligible during the second semester, the student must meet one of the following conditions:

- a. If the student met first semester eligibility requirements, then he or she must pass the equivalent of four,  $\frac{1}{2}$  units during the first semester.
  - b. If the student did not meet first semester eligibility requirements, then he or she must pass the equivalent of five,  $\frac{1}{2}$  units during the first semester.
- 2) Students must satisfy eligibility requirements in the semester preceding participation.
- a. Credits earned in a summer school approved by the State Department of Education may apply for first semester eligibility. A maximum of two units per year may be used.
  - b. Students eligible for a first semester sport will be permitted to complete that sport even if it extends into the second semester. Under the current League program, this will apply to participants in basketball and wrestling in the high school and middle school programs.
- 3) Handicapped students:
- a. Students diagnosed as handicapped and being served in a non-diploma program shall be considered eligible for participation in interscholastic activities if he/she is successfully meeting the requirements of his/her Individual Education Plan.
  - b. Students diagnosed as handicapped and being served in a program leading to a state high school diploma must meet all eligibility requirements previously stated for participation in interscholastic activities.

The Athletic Director must certify each athlete as eligible. Additional regulations do apply. For more

information, please talk to the coach or Athletic Director.

If interscholastic activities are connected with curriculum experiences in a regular classroom situation, such as band or a vocational course, a student determined to be ineligible may continue as part of the class and earn the grade and credits for that course.

## **LISTING OF CLUBS AND INTRAMURALS**

Dutch Fork High School strongly encourages all students to get involved in an extra-curricular or co-curricular activity. Clubs and activities will be developed based on student interest. A listing of clubs can be found on our DFHS website.

*PLEASE NOTE: Many of our clubs are by invitation and/or tryout criteria and have special academic, behavior and skill requirements to join. Refer to our website for the specifics.*

Fees and Dues – Many clubs require dues for participation. Additionally, the Board of Trustees of Richland and Lexington Counties has mandated that any student who participates in activities that are supplemented must also pay a one-time club fee of \$10. This will be charged at schedule pick-up time.

## **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Student Council is composed of elected student body and class officers. Elections take place in the spring semester. Student Council's primary responsibility is to serve as a liaison between the student body and our school administration and staff. Business meetings are held with agendas and minutes. An item of business may be submitted to the student body secretary prior to a business meeting for inclusion in the agenda. Student Council is responsible for facilitating and/or supporting various school and community projects such as freshman orientation, Homecoming Week, pep rallies, mentoring at local schools, and Prom. Members have the opportunity to serve on school and district committees such as SIC and SAC. Student Council is affiliated with the National Association of Student Councils, Southern Association of Student Councils and the South Carolina Association of Student Councils.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

Assemblies will be held at designated times during the school year. The administration expects students to exercise self-discipline and adhere to school rules and regulations. All students are expected to attend assemblies and sit as assigned. Presence in any other location may result in disciplinary action.

## **ATHLETICS**

### **SPORTS SCHEDULES**

Athletic Schedules are available in the Athletic Director's office, on the website, or in the main office.

### **SPORTS AWARDS PROGRAMS**

Each head coach hosts an awards program for his/her team.

### **TICKETS TO ATHLETIC EVENTS**

Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at <https://gofan.co/search> or you can download the GoFan mobile app and use it for all future games.

### **ATHLETIC HANDBOOKS**

All athletes will be given an athletic handbook at the beginning of participation in a sport. This handbook will

provide details on all rules relevant to athletic participation.

Athletic Director – Coach Tom Knotts  
Assistant Athletic Director – Coach Mack Harvey  
Athletic Trainer – Coach Mack Harvey  
Athletic Trainer- Coach Paul Vaughn  
Athletic Trainer- Coach Zack Shepherd  
Strength Coach – Coach Noah Dixon  
Athletic Secretary – Mrs. Renita Hacklen

**Alma Mater**  
**By Bob Hare and Marjorie Turner**

To you Dutch Fork High School  
We proudly hail your name  
Where mighty Silver Foxes  
Triumphantly will reign.  
A promise of hope we strive to fulfill  
A love that will never die!  
Hail, silver and green!  
Building memories and dreams.  
A family of pride, Dutch Fork High

**ATTENDANCE / MAKEUP PROGRAM / EARLY DISMISSAL**

Students who arrive late on campus must sign in at the attendance office. Likewise, students who leave campus early must have a written parent note and sign out at the attendance office. Failure to comply with the sign-in/out procedure may result in disciplinary action determined by the administration. Students who miss more than one half of an instructional block will be marked absent for that block of instruction.

**ABSENCES**

According to state law, to receive a Carnegie unit for a course taken, a student must be present 170 days out of the 180 days in a school year. To receive one half Carnegie unit, a student must be present 85 days out of 90. This means that on an A/B schedule **a student is allowed ten (10) absences per class if the class is for a full unit of credit and five (5) absences if the class is for one half unit of credit. (Policies JE and JH) Should the number of absences exceed 10 per a full Carnegie unit course or five per ½ Carnegie unit course, students must recapture time to receive credit. There are limited recapture opportunities.**

Students are expected to attend school regularly and must present a written excuse for each absence whether the absence from school is considered “lawful” or “unlawful.” **In addition to passing grades, a student must attend school regularly to receive credit.** An absence after the 10<sup>th</sup> in a yearlong course or the 5<sup>th</sup> in a semester course must fall into the category of “lawful absences.”

**EXCUSES**

A note from a parent/guardian, physician, dentist, or other recognized licensed certified medical practitioner or legal officer is required for each absence. **Medical notes or notes from legal offices must be turned in within three (3) days of the absence.** These should be hand delivered or faxed to attendance. Students who take classes at other campuses must turn in a separate excuse to the attendance office on that campus. **These notes must be dated and include the date(s) of absence(s). If the note is not presented to the attendance office by the student’s third day back in school, it will be recorded as a parent note.** Parent notes must also be dated and must include the date(s) of absence(s) , the reason(s) for the absence(s), the telephone number of the



parent/guardian, and the required signature. The reason for the absence given on the note determines whether it will be recorded as a lawful or unlawful absence. False excuses will be referred to the administration for appropriate disciplinary action. Notes are not excused items of documentation for absences.

## **LAWFUL ABSENCES**

Lawful absences are those necessitated by:

1. Illness of the student to the degree that attendance in school would endanger her/his health or the health of others with a written excuse provided by a medical practitioner. Parent notes for illnesses are not considered lawful absences.
2. Death in the student's immediate family. These absences must be confirmed by a copy of the obituary or program from the funeral service.
3. Observance of recognized religious holidays of the student's faith with a written request from parents.
4. Appearances in court or an appointment with a legal officer with legal documentation provided.
5. Appointments with a physician, dentist, or other recognized licensed/certified medical practitioner with a written excuse provided.
6. Participation in school-related activities that have received prior approval by the principal or designee.
7. Unusual or unexpected mitigating circumstances as determined by the school principal.
8. Seniors will be given two additional lawful absences and juniors will be given one, for an authorized college visit that is validated by the college. A parent note will not be accepted. Seniors who wish to make additional college visits will have to recapture time missed if their total absences exceed three for a semester course or five for a yearly course.

## **UNLAWFUL ABSENCES**

Unlawful absences are those in which a student is:

1. Willfully absent from school without the knowledge of his/her parent or guardian.
2. Absent from school without acceptable cause with the knowledge of his/her parent or guardian.
3. Trips taken with parents as an "educational experience" are considered unlawful, and absences will need to be recaptured if the total student absences exceed five for a semester course or ten for a yearly course.

**For consequences for unlawful absences, please refer to Truancy Policy.**

## **INTERVENTION**

When a student accrues the 4<sup>th</sup> unlawful absence in a yearly course or the 2<sup>nd</sup> unlawful absence in a semester course, he/she is "advised" of their attendance status. After ten (10) unlawful absences in a yearly course or five (5) unlawful absences in a semester course, the student will not receive course credit unless absences are substantiated by medical or legal documentation and are submitted to the attendance office within three days of the student's return to school. Those absences must have occurred after either the tenth (yearlong) or fifth (semester) absence in order for it to be excused.

## **RECAPTURE FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCES**

Students with more than 10 unlawful absences in a yearlong course and/or 5 unlawful absences in a semester course will not receive credit unless they recapture all unlawful absences over the state mandated limits. Students may only recapture a total of 24 blocks. Each unlawful absence (meaning each CLASS period missed) requires 60 minutes of recapture time and a fee of \$15 per class.

**Per board policy, seniors may not walk at graduation if all requirements for graduation have not been met. This includes meeting the attendance requirements for receiving credit.**

## **EARLY DISMISSAL**

Students are expected to attend all classes each day of the school year except for medical and family emergencies. In cases where the student must leave school before the end of the school day, please follow the procedures as described below. A student's request for an early dismissal is NOT an excuse for the absence. The student should bring the appropriate excuse back to school upon his/her return (example: doctor's appointment followed by doctor's excuse; court appearances followed by a court note).

- 1) A student should present a note for early dismissal, written by a parent or guardian, to the attendance office **BEFORE** the first period. Notes presented after the first period may not be honored.
- 2) Each note should include the student's full name (as it appears in student records), reason for the early dismissal, a phone number where the parent/guardian can be reached for verification of the early dismissal and parent/guardian signature.
- 3) Dismissal notes for the end of class periods are encouraged to avoid class interruptions. **No early dismissal requests for times after 3:15 p.m. will be honored. Students may not leave during exam periods.**
- 4) Students must sign out at the attendance office before leaving school grounds. If a student returns the same day from an early dismissal, he/she must bring a medical excuse and sign in through the attendance office immediately upon returning to campus.

Steps #1 and #2 must be completed before a student is allowed to sign out. Once a student arrives on campus, he/she is present for the school day and shall not leave unless properly dismissed.

## **BELL SCHEDULE**

The bell schedule is on our website.

## **BICYCLES, MOPEDS AND SKATEBOARDS**

Bicycles and mopeds will be parked in an area designated by the administration. No wheeled vehicles will be permitted inside the building. **Skateboards and skates are not permitted on school grounds at any time.**

## **BUILDING HOURS FOR STUDENTS**

Classrooms will be available for students from 8:10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The library is open for the use of study/research at 7:55 a.m. Students are not permitted in the building at other times unless accompanied by a faculty member. **For safety and security reasons, students are not to loiter about the buildings after their daily programs are finished. Students may not stay in the building unsupervised by an adult/faculty member after school hours to wait to attend evening events.** Students must have valid reasons for staying in school after their classes are over (Club meeting, etc.). If students are found to be in the building after 4:00 and are not involved in a supervised activity, the administrator on duty will be notified and consequences will be issued.

## **BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Anyone who wishes to have an announcement made regarding school-related activities must submit the written announcement to the main office one day prior to the date of the announcement. The Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence will be observed each day. Students should read/listen to all announcements because many of them refer to scholarship information, club meetings, athletic events and other pertinent information beneficial to individual students.

- An electronic marquee is also located at the front of the school.
- All student-initiated posters must be approved by the Director of Student Activities before being displayed. Unauthorized posters will be removed.
- Students and parents are encouraged to routinely check us out on social media and the school's website:

**Website:** <https://www.lexrich5.org/dfhs>

**Facebook:** @DutchForkHS

**Twitter:** @dutchforkhigh

**Instagram:** @dutchforkhs

## **BUS TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**

### **SAFE & SECURE SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION**

The safety and security of students, staff, and schools is the first priority for the Transportation Department of School District Five. In an effort to ensure a safe bus ride for all students, the school district has made the following provisions: The school bus is an extension of school activity. Therefore, students must conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with the established standards for safety and classroom behavior. The bus driver has the responsibility for supervision of students on the bus. The driver may stop the bus at any time or return to the school when misbehavior or threatened misbehavior hinders the safe operation of the school bus. The driver will report students who create a disturbance on school buses, and the Transportation Supervisor may suspend bus transportation to a student whose conduct is persistently and/or flagrantly detrimental to safety and order on the bus.

### **GENERAL RULES TO AND FROM THE BUS**

- Parents or guardians are responsible for the safety and conduct of children traveling between their home and school bus stop.
- If a student has to walk along the highway approaching the bus stop, he/she should always walk on the shoulder.
- Students should walk, not run, when crossing the highway. Students should wait on their side of the roadway and await the signal to cross from the driver.
- Students should not run alongside the bus when the bus is moving. They should wait until the bus stops and then walk to the door.

### **WAITING FOR THE BUS**

- Students should leave home and be at the stop at least 5 minutes before the bus arrives.
- Students are allowed to ride only their assigned bus.
- While waiting, the student must respect the property of the residents and wait in a quiet and orderly manner and stay out of the street.
- Line up in an orderly fashion when the bus arrives, and refrain from pushing each other or charging the bus when it arrives.

### **SAFE SCHOOL BUS LOADING PROCEDURES**

- Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before scheduled arrival.
- Never run to catch the bus.
- Stay 6 to 8 giant steps (10 feet) away from the road while waiting for the bus.
- Move toward the bus only when the driver signals it is safe to do so.
- When crossing the road to board a bus, remain on the left side of the road until the driver motions that it is safe to cross. Check traffic. Walk straight across the road 10 feet in front of the bus.
- Go directly to your seat upon boarding.

### **RULES FOR RIDING THE SCHOOL BUS**

- 1) No glass containers on the bus.
- 2) No spitting, eating, or drinking on the bus.
- 3) No profanity, verbal abuse, harassment of any kind, obscene or sexual gestures.
- 4) No standing while the bus is in motion.

- 5) Keep your feet, body, and bags out of the aisle – it serves as an emergency exit.
- 6) Band instruments, projects, and other objects cannot take up seating space or block the aisle.
- 7) Students may not ride a bus to which they are not assigned without permission from the Transportation Department.
- 8) Do not ride any bus during a suspension of bus privileges.
- 9) No hanging any part(s) of your anatomy out a window.
- 10) No throwing or shooting any type of object.
- 11) No play fighting or horse playing.
- 12) Do not vandalize the bus or ignite any flammable object.
- 13) Do not hold onto the bus from the outside.
- 14) Do not possess weapons, explosives, laser pens, or laser pointers.
- 15) Do not tamper with any bus equipment or controls.
- 16) Do not make excessive noise or engage in disruptive behavior.
- 17) Students must obey and respect the directions of the driver.
- 18) Students must not exhibit behavior that could disturb the other students or the driver.
- 19) Students may talk quietly, but avoid loud, boisterous behavior, including singing, clapping, stomping, yelling or anything that could distract the driver.
- 20) No spraying of cologne, deodorant, body spray or any other type of chemicals or aerosols, pump spray, or lotion while on the bus.
- 21) Students must never tamper with the emergency exits or any other part of the bus equipment, including fire extinguishers and first aid equipment unless there are reasonable grounds to believe that an actual emergency situation exists.
- 22) Students may only board and exit the bus at their designated stop.
- 23) Students must be at the bus stop 5 minutes prior to their scheduled pick-up time.

### **SAFE SCHOOL BUS UNLOADING PROCEDURES**

- Stay in your seat until the driver signals it is okay to stand.
- Before stepping off the bottom step of the bus, look to the rear of the bus to make sure no vehicle is trying to pass on the right side.
- Once you are off the bus, move at least 10 feet from the bus immediately. Students planning to cross the road should walk forward 10 feet toward the front side of the bus.
- Wait for the bus driver's signal to cross the road.
- When the driver signals, walk forward and stop again in front of the bus where the driver can see you, but near enough to the road that you can see in both directions.
- Wait for the bus driver's signal again.
- Walk, never run, across the road, keeping watch on the traffic.
- Never walk behind the bus.
- Never get closer than 10 feet to any side of the bus.
- Never try to pick up something you have dropped on the outside of the bus. Tell the driver, so he or she can pick it up for you.
- Help to look after the safety of small children.
- After unloading from the bus, go home immediately, staying clear of traffic.

### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

From the time a school bus arrives at a bus stop in the morning until the bus returns to that bus stop after school, students who ride the bus are, by law, under the control of school officials while on a school bus; the bus driver is the school official that has control of the students. In 1979, South Carolina passed a law against misbehaving on school buses and disobeying the instructions of school bus drivers. Students who misbehave on school buses will be punished according to the rules in the Student Behavior Code, this book and the laws of this state. The bus driver is authorized to give directions, issue directives, assign seats, and to prohibit any item from the bus that may threaten the safety or welfare of any person. The driver's decision is subject to review by the District's

Department of Transportation. When necessary, a student may be removed from the school bus in order to prevent or determine inappropriate behavior.

## **GENERAL SCHOOL BUS PROCEDURES**

- The School District of Lexington and Richland Counties must safely transport all bus riders to and from school. Students will be denied the privilege of riding the bus if their behavior is unacceptable or infringes on the rights of other bus riders. It will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian to see that the student is transported to school during this time.
- The parents or guardians of a child being transported on a school bus are responsible for the safety and conduct of the child prior to the arrival of the school bus at the child's designated school bus stop for pick up and transport to school, and after the school bus drops off the child and departs the child's designated school bus stop when transporting the children from school.
- The state's responsibility includes the arrival or departure of the school bus, which is defined as the time that the school bus assigned to the school bus stop activates the required pedestrian safety devices, stops and loads or unloads students, and until the school bus deactivates all pedestrian safety devices.
- To ride a different bus or get off the bus at a different stop or to have a friend ride your bus, students must submit a request to the Transportation Department. If space is available and parental permission given, the Transportation Department may approve the request.
- Students may not load or unload at school other than their assigned school unless prior approval is given to the parent or guardian and the school administrator.
- The Transportation Supervisor (or designee) has the authority to remove a student from the bus if the student or bus becomes uncontrollable. The student may not board the bus again until granted permission by the Transportation Supervisor.
- Situations may arise in the operation of the school bus that are of concern to parents or other community members. These concerns should be resolved at the lowest possible level of decision making by the individuals closest to the concern; therefore, these issues should be dealt with through communication with the appropriate Area Transportation Supervisor.
- Students and parents should not attempt to discuss bus rule violations or suspension matters with the bus driver at a bus stop. Any student who attempts to board the bus while suspended or interfere with the operation of the bus may be prosecuted under applicable South Carolina law.
- Rather than trying to solve disagreements with drivers or students or at school bus stops, parents should contact the Area Transportation Supervisor.

## **BUS DISCIPLINE**

To ensure the safety of students who ride school buses, School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties has trained bus drivers in the Assertive Discipline Program. This program is based on bus riders' adherence to rules for appropriate conduct and certain consequences that will follow if these rules are not followed. No disciplinary action shall be taken without all procedural rights being afforded to students and their parents as provided by Federal law, State law, S.C. Board of Education regulations, and the policies of the District. However, it may be necessary to remove a student(s) from the bus in order to maintain good order and discipline. This includes suspending a student for up to three days while an investigation is being conducted.

The bus driver has responsibility for supervision of all students on his or her bus. The driver may stop the bus at any time that misbehavior or threatened misbehavior offers a hazard to safe driving. Students creating or involved in activities causing discipline problems on a school bus, including while entering, exiting, or waiting for a bus, will be given appropriate disciplinary action pursuant to the District's Behavior Code procedures. In addition to disciplining students according to the District's Behavior Code procedures, the Transportation Supervisor may suspend a student from riding the bus. Bus suspensions do not run concurrently with out of school suspensions nor do they include weekend or holidays.

If a student damages a school bus, the student will be charged the assessed repair rate set by the State Department of Education. The student responsible for the damage will be suspended from riding the bus until

restitution is made. Appropriate action for disabled students who violate bus rules will be taken by the principal and may involve other intervention as indicated by the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) Committee or as required by law.

## **VIDEO/AUDIO MONITORING ON SCHOOL BUSES**

In order to promote the safety and welfare of students and staff members while they are on school buses, the Transportation Supervisor or his/her designee is authorized to place video cameras on State and District buses. Therefore, while inside a State or District bus, all occupants are subject to video and audio monitoring. The following procedures are to be followed:

Students and parents are hereby notified that students are subject to being videotaped on a school bus at any time, and recordings are the property of School District Five.

The Transportation Supervisor may periodically review randomly selected videotapes to ensure proper school bus conduct.

The videotapes may be viewed by staff members with a legitimate need for access or used as training for school bus drivers. Copies of video tapes will not be given to person or persons outside School District Five.

### **Parents:**

- Review safety tips with your child on riding in the bus. This will help your student to ride smart and stay safe.
- Have your children put everything they carry in a backpack or school bag, so they won't drop things along the way to the bus stop.
- Make sure they leave home on time, so they can walk to the bus stop and arrive before the bus is due.  
Running can be dangerous.
- Have them wear bright, contrasting colors, so they will be more easily seen by drivers.
- Walk your young child to the bus stop, and have older children walk in groups.
- There is safety in numbers; groups are easier for drivers to see.
- Practice good pedestrian behavior. Your children should walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, they should stay out of the street.
- If they must walk in the street, they should walk single file, face traffic, and stay as close to the edge of the road as they can.
- Tell your child to stop and look left, right, and then left again if he or she must cross the street. Your child should do the same thing at driveways and alleys. Exaggerate your head turns and narrate your actions, so your child knows you are looking left, right and left.
- Don't let your child play running games or push and shove at the bus stop. It is dangerous near traffic. ● Make sure your child stands at least 10 feet (5 giant steps) from the road while waiting for the bus. The child will then be out of the way of traffic.
- Have younger children practice taking 5 giant steps to become familiar with 10 feet.
- Warn children that if they drop something, they should never pick it up. Instead, they should tell the driver and follow the driver's instructions.
- If they bend over to pick up a dropped object, they might not be seen by the driver and could be hurt if the driver pulls away from the stop.
- Remind children to look to the right before they step off the bus. Drivers in a hurry sometimes try to sneak by buses on the right.
- Teach your children to secure loose drawstrings and other objects that may get caught in the handrail or door of the bus as they are exiting.
- Children should talk quietly, be courteous to the driver and follow the driver's instructions.
- Children should stay seated during the entire bus ride and keep the aisles clear.

## **SCHOOL BUS RULES**

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties must ensure that the bus ride to and from school is a safe one. All bus riders are required to follow bus safety rules at all times. Failure to do so will result in consequences according to the Student Behavior Code. The Student Behavior Code applies to the bus, and the following regulations govern the conduct of students on school buses. The bus driver shall assure that his/her passengers abide by them.

On July 1, 2000, a proviso in the state Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2001 affirmed parental or guardian responsibility for the safety and conduct of children traveling between their home and school bus stop. Immediately after the parental responsibility proviso was adopted, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) advised school districts of its existence. This memorandum is to remind school districts of the parental responsibility proviso and of related communications since its adoption.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST BUS DRIVER OR OTHER TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEE**

In cases involving an alleged intentional act of physical violence by a student against a school bus driver or other transportation official, the student shall be suspended pending an investigation. A student found by a tribunal to have committed an intentional act of physical violence against a school bus driver or transportation employee that results in physical harm to that person shall be referred to juvenile court with a request for a petition alleging delinquent behavior, and also shall be expelled from the public school system by the tribunal for the remainder of the student's eligibility to attend public school, subject to appeal to the Board of Education.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS WHO RIDE THE BUS**

### **BEHAVIOR CODE**

The District recognizes that rules of student conduct and consequences for violations are necessary for the orderly operation of its schools. Generally, it is the philosophy of the District to handle all student disciplinary matters at the lowest supervisory level possible and in the most reasonable manner possible. Ultimately, though, the Superintendent is in charge of ensuring that sound disciplinary practices are followed throughout the District.

Interfering with the safe operation of a school bus includes but is not limited to inappropriately messaging through the use of a cell phone, a camera cell phone, a paging device, or any other electronic device; such devices are to be turned off and out of sight upon a student's arrival at school until the student is dismissed from school and are never to be used in any area in which an individual has a reasonable expectation for privacy including, but not limited to, restrooms, locker rooms, and showers; in the event of a violation, school personnel are authorized to take the device from the student but must make it available to the student's parent in a reasonable amount of time.

### **BUS CONDUCT**

In the vicinity of buses and on buses, students shall conduct themselves in a manner that does not endanger and does not contribute to the endangerment of themselves and/or other students. The District's Behavior Code procedures are applicable also. Students must ensure that all cellular phones remain turned off when being transported by district owned vehicles; i.e., school bus.

Persistent Disobedience - Any student who on at least two separate occasions violates the Student Behavior Code or these rules.

In all cases of misbehavior on school buses, the student will be suspended and may receive additional school consequences for:

- **Disruption of School Bus.** A student may not intentionally disrupt or interfere with the driver's ability to operate the bus by use of excessive noise, force, throwing objects, being out of his assigned seat or any

other behavior.

- **Failure to Follow Directions or Obey Safety Rules.** A student must follow and obey the instructions or the Safety Rules while on the bus at all times. This rule also applies where the directions or orders are directed towards a group of students.
- **Persistent Unruliness on the School Bus.** After at least two offenses, the student may be deemed “unruly” and recommended for suspension from the school bus.

Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken for incidents which involve severe offenses, such as fighting; possession of weapons, drugs or alcohol; use of tobacco products; and any action which endangers the safety of the driver and other students, or damage to the bus. Such action could involve a longer suspension from the bus or other sanction.

## **CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

We hope you share our pride in Dutch Fork High School and will, at all times, help keep all of the buildings, equipment, and grounds at their best appearance. Students are responsible for the proper care of books, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school. Students who disfigure property, break windows, or do other damage to school or personal property or equipment will pay for the repair or replace the item. The administration will take appropriate disciplinary action for willful acts of damage or destruction to property according to District Policy and state and local laws.

## **CELL PHONES / COMMUNICATION DEVICES (STUDENT OWNED)**

- Possession of a wireless communication device (WCD) by a student is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms and provisions of this policy or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.
- A “wireless communication device” is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor. The following devices are examples of WCDs: cellular and wireless telephones, pagers/beepers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), BlackBerries/Smartphones, WiFi-enabled or broadband access devices, two-way radios or video broadcasting devices, and other devices that allow a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text, or other information. Students may not use WCDs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet websites that are otherwise blocked to students at school. “Students may use WCDs while riding to and from school on a school bus or other vehicle provided by the Board or on a school bus or Board-provided vehicle during school-sponsored activities, at the discretion of the bus driver, classroom teacher and/or sponsor/advisor/coach. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated.”
- Students are prohibited from using WCDs to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e. pictures, video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. Using a WCD to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted unless authorized by the building principal.
- Students are prohibited from using WCDs to take pictures or record video/audio in locker rooms, bathrooms, or on school buses or other district vehicles. The use of WCDs to take pictures or record video/audio is also prohibited in classrooms unless deemed appropriate by the teacher and used for educational/instructional purposes only.
- Students are prohibited from using a WCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Policy JICFAA – Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying.



- Students are also prohibited from using a WCD to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using their WCDs to receive such information.
- Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the WCD. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity. Discipline will be imposed in a progressive manner based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or circumstances surrounding a particular violation. If the WCD is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student's parent/guardian only after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed. Any WCD confiscated by District staff will be marked in a removable manner with the student's name and held in a secure location in the school building until it is retrieved by the parent/guardian. WCDs in district custody will not be searched or otherwise tampered with unless school officials reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search will be conducted in accordance to Policy JIH – Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privilege to bring a WCD to school for the remainder of the semester.
- Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their WCDs. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damages, or vandalism to WCDs brought onto its property, or the unauthorized use of such devices.
- Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office.
- Students may use school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day with permission of the administration.

Students may use wireless communication devices such as cellular phones, electronic pagers or any other communications devices in Dutch Fork High School:

- before and after school (before 8:20 a.m. and after 3:40 p.m.), only within the designated “free zones,”
- during their lunch break,
- within “Free Zones,” and
- as deemed appropriate by the teacher and approved by the principal for educational and/or instructional purposes ONLY.

Any other use of wireless communications is considered misuse and violations may result in disciplinary action.

## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Inform the school's registrar if you/your parents change your address or any telephone numbers including work numbers. Three proofs of residency must be provided to change the address in school records.

## **CIVIL EMERGENCIES**

What Parents Can Do In An Emergency:

1. Keep school telephone lines open for emergency calls. **DO NOT PHONE THE SCHOOL.**
2. Keep civilian cars out of the area. **KEEP STREETS CLEAR FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES - POLICE, AMBULANCE, AND FIRE DEPT.**
3. Tune radio to 640 or 1240 for instructions.
4. Our school will attempt to call all home numbers using the automated system.

## **CLASS RANK**

- Many colleges and universities use class rank as one of several criteria for admission of students. The other criteria are generally ACT or SAT scores, grades, types of courses taken, recommendations, essays by the

applicant and interviews. The specific criteria used and the weight given to each in the admission decision vary from college to college.

- A student may attempt a course twice or more. The district counts all attempts and grades in calculating class rank; however, only one credit may be counted for a diploma. Class Rank is found by computing each student's GPA and ranking the GPAs of the members of the class from highest to lowest GPA. When students share the same GPA, they will be tied for the same rank.
- Rank in class is determined at the beginning of the 10th, 11th and 12th grades, on the 16th day of school and in June for Palmetto Fellows eligibility.
- The last day to drop a semester class without penalty is the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) school day each semester; yearly courses may be dropped without penalty through the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) school day. School days are defined as a combination of A *and* B days, not A *or* B days.

## CLOSED CAMPUS

Dutch Fork High School operates under a closed campus policy. Students are to remain on campus from the time they arrive at school until they are properly dismissed. **Students are to remain on campus during lunch.** They may not leave campus while waiting for buses. A student may check out from the attendance office by following the guidelines detailed under early dismissals. Otherwise, once a student arrives on campus, he or she may not leave before the end of the day without being properly dismissed.

## CLOSING OF SCHOOL DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER

When inclement weather occurs, district administrators will decide when to close school. The decision will be broadcast within a reasonable time frame and will broadcast this information on area radio and television stations. The district also updates information on their website and sends out a phone blast.

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIMELINE

### FRESHMAN YEAR

- Study hard and attempt to get the best grades possible. Colleges look at your freshman year grades. Choose courses that will prepare you for college admissions, such as English, social studies, science, algebra, geometry, and foreign languages (3 years is recommended for foreign languages).

### SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Take the PSAT and the PLAN seriously when they are administered. These tests will help to determine if the SAT or the ACT is the right college admissions test for you. They will also help you to decide whether or not to take an AP course in your junior year. See your school counselor to interpret your PSAT and PLAN results.
- Carefully select extracurricular activities.
- If you are interested in Governor's School, check the website for the Governor's School of Science and Mathematics, a residential school at Coker College in Hartsville, SC, for juniors and seniors, or check the website for the Governor's School for the Arts summer program or the residential school located in Greenville, SC.
- **January.** Plan with your parents and your teachers the courses to take next year. Study carefully the recommended levels of classes. Read the registration materials thoroughly.
- **Spring.** Start looking at colleges on the Internet. Listings of summer programs are available in the school counseling department in the spring as well as on the Internet.

### JUNIOR YEAR

- **September.** Register for the PSAT .. There is a fee for juniors to take the test. All juniors should take the PSAT because it is the test that is the basis for National Merit Scholarships. The PSAT also will help you to decide whether or not you want to take any AP courses in your senior year. The PSAT is only given once a year and there are no make-up dates. Juniors who miss the test with extenuating circumstances may apply to National Merit for alternate scoring by March 1.

- **September, October or November.** Attend Ed-Op Day (the College Fair).
- **November.** See school counselor or the department chairperson of the related arts if you are interested in the Governor's School summer program.
- **January.** Study the registration guide and teacher recommendations for next year. Talk with your parents about the course offerings and be sure that you are taking the courses required by the state and by all colleges that you might wish to attend. Take the strongest college preparatory courses you can manage.
- **February.** Study the college catalogs located in the Media Center. Your goal is to be moderately well informed about at least three to five schools that you may wish to attend. Be sure to look at admission requirements.
- **March.** Consider making college visits during spring break.
- **April.** If you are interested in ROTC or a Service Academy, begin the application process. See the JROTC officer at your school or your school counselor.
- If you are interested in a humanities scholarship in music, art, or dance, see the school counseling department or your fine arts teacher.
- **May.** Be prepared when you take your Advanced Placement exams if you are in any Advanced Placement courses.
- Do well on your finals. Your junior year grades are very important. Your class rank is determined at the end of the junior year. Honor and Distinguished Honor graduates are also determined by rank. Conditional Palmetto Fellows Scholarships are determined by this rank.
- **June.** Take three SAT subject area tests if required. Listings of summer programs and offerings are available in the school counseling department in the spring of each year. June 15<sup>th</sup> rank is the basis for Palmetto Fellows Scholarships in December.
- Plan to visit colleges over the summer. You should spend time during the summer visiting colleges so that you have narrowed your choices to three or five by fall.
- **August.** Download college applications and begin working on your essays if required.
- *College and career information is available in a special area of the media center and online.*

## SENIOR YEAR

- **Fall.** Attend college representatives' sessions at the school. Take college weekends if you need them. Two absences are excused. Register for SAT or ACT.
- **September.** Narrow your college list to a manageable size. Be sure that you have a back-up school. If you are going Early Decision or Early Action, complete your application. Attend your senior conference with your parents and school counselor.
- **October.** Attend "Paying for College 101." Complete the FAFSA form or other financial aid forms online. This money is awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. You and your parents can fill out an estimated form if your taxes are complicated.
- Listen carefully when the school counselor explains your high school's college application process. Study the handouts posted in the Senior Google Classroom that you will be receiving all year on college admissions and scholarships. Attend a senior conference with your parents in September, October, or November.
- Attend sessions at the school with college admissions officers.
- **November.** Take the ACT or SAT for admissions and for scholarships. Attend the financial aid workshop at the school. Complete all of your college applications by Thanksgiving. Attend Ed Op (college fair) at school.
- **December.** Take the SAT subject tests if required. Be sure that you have finished all of your college applications.

- **January.** Research scholarships, online newsletters, books, the SCOIS computer program, and financial aid offices at colleges to find scholarship applications. Request via Parchment, Common App or other college application sites to mid-year reports of grades to colleges that request them.
- **February.** Wait patiently and search for scholarships.
- **April.** By the middle of the month, you should have heard from all of your colleges. Weigh your finances and your choices carefully. Notify all colleges that accepted you of your decision by May 1.

Complete the Senior Exit Survey indicating your post-secondary plans.

Report ALL scholarships received using the Scholarship Google Survey posted in the Senior Google Classroom and on the School Counseling Webpage.

## **COLLEGE TESTING INFORMATION**

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and the American College Testing Assessment (ACT) provide scores used by college admissions officers and scholarship committees as one of several indicators of a student's ability to do college level work. Because students in high school across the state and nation have taken different courses and because their transcripts reflect different grading practices, college admissions officers and scholarship committees need a common measure of ability such as SAT or ACT to evaluate potential success in college. The PLAN and PSAT are not used for college admissions. However, SAT and ACT scores are used for college admissions, and the scores are reported to the student's high school and to any college that the student designates. If a student takes the SAT more than once, all scores are reported, including those from earlier testing dates.

If a student has any plan of continuing his education beyond high school, particularly a four-year college, he should plan to take the appropriate test in the spring of his junior year. Students planning to attend Midlands Technical College should take the ACCUPLACER test. The school counseling department will assist any student or parent on a decision to take these tests or not take them as well as when the tests should be taken.

The school counseling department encourages students to take the PSAT prior to taking the SAT. The PSAT is also the qualifying test for the National Merit Corporation, which sponsors the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Program. Students interested in competition for the National Merit Scholarship Program should note that semi-finalists and finalists are selected on the basis of scores from the PSAT taken in the junior (11th grade) year in high school.

The PSAT will be given at Dutch Fork High School. School counselors will provide complete information about the test date and signing up for the PSAT. All sophomores are required to take the PSAT and PLAN.

Before taking the SAT, students should complete algebra I, geometry and algebra 2. Enrollment in a Test Preparation class is recommended.

***TAKE THE TEST THAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU!***

## **COMPLIANCE WITH THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT (TCPA) – USE OF AUTOMATED TELEPHONE NOTIFICATIONS**

Under a federal consumer protection law, schools need parent/guardian permission to receive automated or

prerecorded calls to a cell number. At the beginning of the year, you provided contact information, including the number to which these automated calls should be directed, that the District will use to keep you informed. Should you choose to revoke consent to receive automated calls/texts on your cell phone, you may do so by notifying the District of your revocation. Please contact the Registrar at your child's school for that purpose. If you revoke consent for automated and prerecorded calls to your cell number, you may not receive time-sensitive / emergency information. .

The District requires that you provide notice of any changes in contact information (physical address and telephone numbers) to the District within ten days. This includes any change in the cell number you provided to the District. Correct contact information is needed, so the District may provide you with information regarding school operations and any specific concerns related to your student. Should you fail to provide the District updated contact information, including notification that a cell phone number you have given the District has been disconnected or reassigned, please be aware that the District disclaims liability for any alleged damages resulting from your failure to do so.

## **COMPUTER/MOBILE DEVICES POLICY (DISTRICT OWNED)**

### **COMPUTER/ REGULATIONS CONCERNING USE**

*Dutch Fork High School and School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties are pleased to be able to offer Internet Access for student use. Our goal in offering this access is to enhance the educational experience for our students. The Internet offers access to worldwide information in text and media form that, if properly used, will stimulate student learning. It can be a particularly powerful motivational device for students because of the richness of the format and the depth of information resources not available through conventional means.*

*The Student Behavior Handbook specifies guidelines for what is and is not permissible with technology systems. This policy specifically addresses providing the privilege of Internet Access using district network systems.*

### **INFORMATION ABOUT DISTRICT ISSUED MOBILE DEVICES**

- School District Five will issue each student a mobile device (Chromebook). Information about the devices and the program can be found on the district website, under iFive Program. Students and parents must monitor the iFive website to stay current with any changes to the program.
- In order to receive the device, each parent must sign the Acceptable Use Policy Agreement.
- In order to receive the device, each parent is required to purchase the Protection Plan.
- The mobile devices are owned by the district and should be treated as district property.
- Students are expected to follow all district, school, and teacher-directed rules and guidelines for use of the devices.
- Students are expected to make every effort to prevent damage, loss, and/or theft of their devices. Students are responsible for their devices at all times.
- Students should report any damage, loss or theft to the iCare Center near the Commons as soon as possible.
- Students are prohibited from using district issued mobile devices to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e. pictures, video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. Using a district issued mobile devices to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted unless authorized by the building principal.
- Students are prohibited from using district issued mobile devices to take pictures or record video/audio in locker rooms, bathrooms, or on school buses or other district vehicles. The use of district issued mobile devices to take pictures or record video/audio is also prohibited in classrooms, unless deemed appropriate by the teacher and used for educational/instructional purposes only.

- Students are prohibited from using a district issued mobile device in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Policy JICFAA – Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying.
- Students are also prohibited from using a district issued mobile device to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using their district issued mobile devices to receive such information.
- Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the district issued mobile devices. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity. Discipline will be imposed in a progressive manner based on the number of previous violations and/or the nature of or circumstances surrounding a particular violation. If the district issued mobile device is confiscated, it will be released/returned to the student only after the student complies with any other disciplinary consequences that are imposed. Any district issued mobile device confiscated by District staff will be held in a secure location in the school building until it is returned to the student. District issued mobile devices in District custody will not be searched or otherwise tampered with unless school officials reasonably suspect that the search is required to discover evidence of a violation of the law or other school rules. Any search will be conducted in accordance to Policy JIH – Student Interrogations, Searches and Arrests. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose his/her privilege to have a district issued mobile device for the remainder of the semester.

## **INTERNET USE**

The Internet is an electronic highway connecting millions of computers and people around the globe. Students and teachers will have access to: electronic mail communication with people all over the world; current news; research and information databases; downloadable software and discussion groups. The District's purpose for using the Internet is to support instruction by providing access to unique resources consistent with educational objectives and the opportunity for collaborative work. School District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties uses a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). This filtering device is not 100% accurate and can misclassify internet sites. Staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through software means and/or direct supervision. Students may not use the resources of School District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties for entertainment purposes.

## **NETWORK ETIQUETTE**

Students are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. Etiquette rules include, but are not limited to the following:

- students must be polite;
- students should not use abusive language in messages to others;
- appropriate language must be used. No swearing, use of vulgarities or any other inappropriate language is allowed. Illegal activities are strictly forbidden;
- a student must not reveal his/her personal address or phone number or those of others;
- note that electronic mail (e-mail) is NOT guaranteed to be private and is only permitted for class activities. People who operate the systems can have access to all mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the proper authorities;
- the network must not be used in such a way that would cause disruption of the use of the network by other users; and
- all communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property and may be protected by copyright laws.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

**DISTRICT:** School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties makes no warranties of any kind for the

technology resources it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the student incurs, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruption. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the student's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy, quality, or cost of information, goods, or services obtained through the Internet.

**STUDENT:** Students may utilize technology resources for educational purposes as appropriate to instructional assignments. Students should practice proper system use and observe security restrictions. Students may not use the resources of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties for entertainment purposes. Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If a student feels he/she can identify a security problem, he/she should notify a school administrator or the district Director of Technology Services.

### **EXAMPLES OF IMPROPER USE**

- 1) Using a computer to create, use, or download materials that would not be permissible in District Five classrooms in any other form (i.e. obscene, profane, or pornographic materials).
- 2) Using chat rooms, instant messaging, and personal e-mail is prohibited except for designated classroom activities.
- 3) Unauthorized accessing or duplication of computer programs, systems, or data files.
- 4) Unauthorized storage and/or loading of a computer program, system, or data files. This may also be a copyright violation and as such is subject to federal copyright laws. Computer programs and manuals are copyrighted property and are not to be copied or altered in any form.
- 5) Deliberately deleting or destruction of any computer programs, system, or data files.
- 6) Using any computer access accounts other than those assigned to the individual. This includes misrepresenting self through the use of another person's ID or use of an anonymous ID.
- 7) Providing system access to unauthorized individuals, especially non-employees of the district.
- 8) Accessing unauthorized system programs.
- 9) Deliberately tampering with a computer system (examples: switching cables, disabling fans, deliberate virus introduction, etc.).
- 10) Theft or vandalism of any computer, printer, mobile device, port, file server, or computer accessories.
- 11) Using the computer to tamper, change or alter records or documents of the district.
- 12) Using restricted computer equipment without authorization.
- 13) Failing to care for computer equipment: Objects should not be placed on monitors, computers, or keyboards: Food and beverage should never be in the vicinity of the computers.
- 14) Using computers which are school or district property for commercial or personal use or gain.
- 15) Using computers which are school or district property for product advertisement or political lobbying.
- 16) Using public domain software and shareware beyond the provided evaluation period without properly registering and paying for the same.
- 17) Transmitting any material which is in violation of any federal or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted materials, threatening or obscene material, or material copyrighted by trade secret.
- 18) Streaming or downloading of audio, video, or application files, or game play of any sort is prohibited unless specifically assigned by the instructor.
- 19) Use of a personal device to access the school network or resources, including the use of the WiFi system, without proper authorization.
- 20) Gaming or messaging during academic time unless directed by the teacher.

### **ENFORCEMENT OF POLICY**

- 1) School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties uses a technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

- 2) A School District Five staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access for a student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked by the technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access.
- 3) District Five staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision.

### **PENALTIES FOR IMPROPER USE**

Students who violate the terms of this Acceptable Use Agreement or otherwise misuse the technology resources provided will be subject to disciplinary action as specified in the Student Behavior Code. In addition, the privilege of accessing some or all of the technology resources will also be subject to cancellation for up to one year.

Violation of the laws of the United States or the State of South Carolina also may subject the student to criminal prosecution. If a student incurs unauthorized costs, the student will be responsible for all such costs.

***A copy of this policy will be given to all students. Each student must sign an acceptance to this policy in order to have access to the Internet.***

***Please respect the rules regarding use of the Internet.***

### **CONFERENCES**

Students who wish to see the administrators or school counselors assigned to them should make an appointment. Waiting for a conference that has not been arranged is not an acceptable excuse for missing a class.

Parents may make appointments for conferences with teachers, school counselors, or an administrator by telephoning the school office. A complete directory of phone numbers for DFHS is available on the school website. Parents are encouraged to use e-mail and voicemail for contacting teachers. Messages may be left at any time, and teachers will respond as soon as possible.

### **COURSE LOAD**

Students are expected to be in school four blocks daily. All students in grades 9, 10 and 11 are expected to be enrolled in at least seven credit bearing courses. Students may graduate early when all graduation requirements are completed. Students are encouraged to choose a balance of core academic and elective courses. Students who are considering graduating early must complete an early graduation plan with their school counselor prior to their early graduation and must receive approval by the principal. Students enrolled in college courses concurrently must be enrolled in school.

### **DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS**

Students who graduate must earn at least 24 units. The South Carolina Department of Education specifies that these units must be distributed as follows:

Language Arts - 4 credits

Mathematics - 4 credits

Science 3 credits

Biology -1 credit

Social Studies: 3 credits

U.S. History -1 credit

American Government -1/2 credit

Economics -1/2 credit

Other Social Studies -1 credit



Computer Technology 1 credit  
Foreign Language or CTE 1 credit  
Physical Education or ROTC 1 credit  
Electives 7 credits

Personal Finance - ½ credit

\*Students entering high school during 2023-24 and beyond are required to earn 0.5 credit of Personal Finance (as a part of the 7 unit elective requirement)

**TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED 24 Units**

Refer to the course catalog for promotion requirements for students to move from one grade to the next. Please educate yourself so that you will make good choices.

### **LIFE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Students are eligible to receive the Life Scholarship if they meet two of the following criteria:

1. have a 3.0 average,
2. score at least 1100 on the SAT or 24 on the ACT,
3. are ranked in the top 30% of their graduating class.

Students attending a two-year in-state college only need a 3.0 average. (The SAT or ACT is not required.)

### **EXTENDED STUDIES PROGRAM**

Students are encouraged to elect a program of studies that will prepare them for success in college and satisfy recommendations of the South Carolina State Board of Education. An optional School District Five diploma shall be awarded to those students who pursue an extended program of studies to include completion of at least 28 Carnegie units of credit as listed below and at least 10 hours of community service each year in grades 9-12.

1. Four units of English and One unit of Physical Education or JROTC.
2. At least four units of mathematics including Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry.
3. At least four units of lab science.
4. At least three units in the same foreign language.
5. Four units in social studies, including U.S. History, American Government - Economics, and two others.
6. One unit of computer science.
7. One unit of CATE or Visual/Performing Arts.
8. 6 additional electives selected by the student.

### **DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

According to school board policy JRA, Public Use of School Records, directory information regarding students will be handled in a manner consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as amended. Information that the District has designated as "directory information" regarding a student may be released to outside organizations upon request and without prior written consent from the parent/eligible student. The District defines directory information as a student's name, address, telephone number, photograph, grade level, school to which he/she is assigned, years of attendance at that school, awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and weight and height of athletic team members. Outside organizations requesting directory information include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, the No Child Left Behind Act requires that local high schools must provide military recruiters, upon request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings.

If you do not wish Dutch Fork High School to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the School in writing no later than 30 calendar

days after the first day of school.

## **DRESS CODE**

### **STUDENT DRESS JICA-R**

Students are expected to dress for success and are encouraged to wear clothing that would be appropriate for business. Clothing and/or hair should not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the educational process. Therefore, clothing deemed distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive shall not be permitted. The Administration will make final judgment on the appropriateness of dress and reserves the right to prohibit students from wearing any article of clothing or accessory which may foreseeably result in the disruption of the school environment. The following regulations shall apply to student dress at Dutch Fork High School:

- 1) Clothing and/or hair should not be so extreme or inappropriate to the school setting as to disrupt the educational process. Therefore, clothing deemed distracting, revealing, overly suggestive or otherwise disruptive shall not be permitted. This includes bare midriffs, halter/tank tops, see-through shirts/tops/blouse, and bike shorts.
- 2) No vulgar, obscene or otherwise inappropriate symbols, language or wording will be permitted on clothing or accessories.
- 3) Clothing or accessories, i.e., book bags, jewelry, hats, etc., that display alcohol, tobacco or other drug symbols are not permitted.
- 4) Gang attire, gang colors or gang symbols are not permitted to be worn or displayed on clothing or accessories.
- 5) Hats, head stockings, bandanas, hoods, bonnets, or kerchiefs may only be worn during the school day for special occasions when approved by the principal.
- 6) Proper shoes must be worn at all times.
- 7) Special dress or costume may be worn during the school day for special occasions when approved by the principal.
- 8) Wearing accessories or clothing that could pose a safety threat to one's self or others is not allowed. This includes heavy chains, not made as jewelry, fish hooks, multiple-finger rings, studded bracelets or collars, nose/lip to ear chains, etc. Unusual body piercing that is disruptive to the order of the school or is a distraction to the learning environment will not be allowed.
- 9) Pants must be worn at the natural waistline and undergarments are not to be visible.
- 10) Hats may be worn at the school bus stop or while on the bus during periods of cold weather. Hats must conform to all of the above requirements and must be removed before entering the building.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING THE DRESS CODE**

If the violation is corrected, the student will be allowed to return to class and discipline consequences will be assigned. The school will offer scrubs and/or t-shirts to students who are in violation of the dress code; however, if the student will not correct the violation, parents will be called and the student will be sent home.

### **School IDs**

School IDs are considered part of dress code in accordance with the Code of Conduct and are expected to be worn at all times. Discipline consequences will be applied for any student not wearing an ID. IDs are expected to be worn around the neck or displayed on the upper torso and should be visible at all times.

The first ID is free for each student. A new permanent ID badge is \$5. A new lanyard is \$1, and a temporary ID is \$2.

## **ERIN'S LAW**

The South Carolina Code of Law, Section 59-32-30(G) was amended "beginning with the 2015–2016 school year, districts annually shall provide age-appropriate instruction in sexual abuse and assault awareness and

prevention to all students in four-year-old kindergarten, where offered, through twelfth grade. This instruction must be based on the units developed by the board (SC Board of Education), through the department (SC Department of Education), pursuant to Section 59-32-20(B).”

The purpose of the law is to help students understand how to stay safe from sexual assault and how to report any incidents. It is important to provide students with a voice for deciding who and what touches should be allowed.

At the elementary level, instruction includes topics such as being unique, understanding feelings, being a friend, bathing suits cover private parts, good touch/bad touch, stranger danger, getting adult help, general safety rules for home and school, technology safety, and understanding peer pressure and media influences. These topics are aligned with the South Carolina Health and Safety Education Standards and the Erin’s Law Resource Guide provided by the SC Department of Education. Topics are covered in many parts of our curriculum such as through the comprehensive school counseling program, academic classes, PE and health classes, and school-wide programs.

At the secondary level, Erin’s Law instruction is part of the comprehensive health curriculum delivered during the second quarter by biology teachers. Students are expected to be able to explain Erin’s law and understand and discuss the following indicators from the South Carolina Standards for Health and Safety Education 2017: I-HS.1.3, G-HS.2.7, G-HS.3.2, G-HS.3.3, G-HS.4.3, G-HS.5.1. School counselors, social workers, and psychologists may also provide programs of instruction or counseling.

## **GAVIN’S LAW**

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, per the requirements of Gavin’s Law, Act 54 of 2023, “local school districts shall collaborate with the State Department of Education, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and the Attorney General’s office, as appropriate, to implement a policy to educate and notify students of the provisions of Gavin’s Law. This includes adequate notice to students, parents or guardians, the public, and school personnel of the change in law.”

Board Policy JICFB Gavin’s Law Implementation was adopted 11/13/23 and states:

“Gavin’s Law (S.C. Code Ann. Section 16-15-430) is legislation that makes sexual extortion, the act of blackmailing someone using sexually explicit images or videos, a felony offense and an aggravated felony if the victim is a minor, vulnerable adult, or if the victim suffers great bodily injury or death directly related to the crime.

Gavin’s Law requires the District to collaborate with the State Department of Education, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, and the Attorney General’s office, as appropriate, to implement a policy to educate and notify students of the provisions of this law, which includes adequate notice to students, parents or guardians, the public, and school personnel.

In accordance with Gavin’s Law, the District shall notify students of the provisions of this act through providing age-appropriate instruction on the dangers and consequences of sexual extortion. Additionally, notification shall be provided to parents/guardians, the public, and school personnel regarding the law.

Any student who engages in sexual extortion will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the District’s Student Code of Conduct. Any employee who engages in sexual extortion will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the District’s policies governing staff conduct. School administrators shall notify law enforcement immediately of any allegations of such conduct, as required by State law and District policy.”

## **EXAM EXEMPTIONS**

A student who qualifies as a senior at the beginning of the school year may exempt the final examination for a

course if she/he

- 1) has official senior status at the beginning of the school year;
- 2) has an overall 80 or better average in the course; and
- 3) has had no OSS suspensions during the entire school year.

## **FINAL EXAM MAKE-UP POLICY**

A student who misses a mid-year or final exam will not be allowed to make up the exam unless he/she has approval from the Assistant Principal for Instruction. Any exam not made up will result in a grade of "0" for that exam. Recognizing that there may be some exceptions, the following are valid reasons for making up exams:

- 1) Death in the immediate family.
- 2) Confirmed move out of the district that will occur within two weeks prior to the end of the term.
- 3) Illness as confirmed by a written statement from a doctor. (Only a medical excuse from a doctor will be accepted.) Out of town trips should not be scheduled during exams. Some make-up days for inclement weather are included at the end of the school year and may affect the exam schedule. Plan accordingly.

After the exam schedule has been completed, the make-up exam for the midterm (if approved by the Assistant Principal for Instruction) must be taken during non-instructional time at the classroom teacher's discretion. The make-up time for final exams will be determined by the Assistant Principal for Instruction and the teacher.

## **FIRE DRILLS AND OTHER EVACUATION PLANS**

Each classroom teacher will rehearse fire drills and other evacuation plans with his/her classes. Students and teachers should walk and stay with a designated group. Teachers will check attendance after exiting the building. NOTE: Because of the seriousness of emergency procedures, anyone found tampering with the fire alarm system will be subject to expulsion.

## **FOOD AND DRINKS**

Food and drinks are permitted in classrooms with the teacher's approval. **Students are not permitted to order or have food delivered during the school day. Students are also not allowed to bring outside food as our campus is a closed campus, and no student should be leaving campus to pick up food.** Food purchased in the cafeteria must be consumed in approved areas. Students are expected to clean up after themselves. The administration reserves the right to alter this protocol if deemed necessary.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Fund-raising activities are restricted to clubs and organizations of Dutch Fork High School. The school prohibits sales by individuals for their own profit or for outside groups on school property. Items not approved for sale at Dutch Fork High School will be confiscated and may not be returned. The Director of Student Activities must approve all fundraising activities. Forms are available in the copy room. Fundraising efforts that will benefit athletics should also be approved by the Athletic Director.

## **GIFTED PROGRAMS**

### **GIFTED STUDENTS: WHO ARE THEY?**

The following description of the identification process reflects the South Carolina definition of gifted and talented and is in keeping with the National Excellence Report (1995) which states:

Children and youth with outstanding talent perform or show the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. [They] exhibit high performance capability in intellectual, creative, and/or artistic areas, possess an unusual leadership capacity/or excel in specific academic fields. They require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the

schools. Outstanding talents are present in children and youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

## **IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES**

The purposes of the identification process are:

- to find students who display characteristics of the gifted and talented (i.e., ability or potential)
- to assess the aptitudes, attributes, and behaviors of each student
- to evaluate each student for the purpose of placement
- to provide appropriate academic programs and services to meet their needs.

## **IDENTIFICATION PROCESS**

Gifted and talented students may be found within any racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group; within any nationality; within both genders; and within populations with disabilities. Identification is a multi-step process, which consists of referral, screening, and assessment of eligibility by a district evaluation and placement team. In order to qualify for placement in gifted/talented programs, a student must meet the eligibility criteria in **TWO** out of the following three dimensions:

### **Dimension A -- Reasoning\***

Students must score at or above the 93rd national age percentile on a nationally normed aptitude test. Students may be eligible for placement on the basis of **aptitude scores alone** if they score at or above the 96th national age percentile on the composite score of a nationally normed aptitude test.

### **Dimension B -- Achievement**

Students must score at or above the 94th national percentile on approved reading or math subtests on a nationally normed achievement test such as MAP or score at the performance standard level set at the state level on the South Carolina ELA and/or math tests. Students are NOT eligible on the basis of achievement scores alone.

**Dimension C -- Academic Performance** is only applied if a student has already met Dimension A or B. For placement in grades 3-6, a student must achieve a performance standard set on verbal or non-verbal performance tasks which are administered in February of each year. Beginning in grade 6, a 3.75 grade point average in the academic disciplines may also be used.

### **Evaluation for Placement:**

**Automatic Eligibility for Placement:** A composite score of 96th national age percentile or higher on a nationally normed aptitude or intelligence test.

## **PAGE FIVE**

### **Keep gifted education a high priority in School District 5!**

PAGE Five is a volunteer, nonprofit support network for parents, educators, policy-makers, and other members of the community who are interested in enhancing and advocating education for gifted children in School District Five of Lexington and Richland counties. PAGE Five is open to any adult residing in School District 5 who is interested in gifted education. Participation is open to teachers as well!

The purpose of the organization is to support the district's gifted education program at all levels by assisting with communication and enrichment opportunities, and to provide encouragement and support for parents through networking, special presentations, and events.

We are committed to:

- Promoting education for gifted/talented students in School District 5
- Disseminating information on gifted education
- Providing enrichment opportunities for all students
- Assisting families with scholarships and tuition aid for gifted students

## **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)**

Grade Point Average, GPA, is based on a weighted 4.0 scale using the SC Uniform Grade Scale. Dutch Fork High School provides the GPA to colleges upon request and uses the GPA to determine scholastic eligibility and honor roll. A student will receive quality points for courses in computing and reporting GPA, which are based on the numerical grade received and the classification of the course taken. Please refer to the chart in the uniform grading policy at the end of the handbook.

## **GRADE REPORTING**

Dutch Fork High School uses a computer for grade reporting and issues report cards at the end of each nine weeks' grading period. Numerical grades are reported on report cards and permanent records. Subject teachers use numerical grades when averaging students' grades. See the UNIFORM GRADING SCALE POLICY at the end of the handbook.

## **GRADING PROCEDURES & SYSTEM**

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

Excessive Absences (FA) = A grade of 50 is recorded if a higher grade is earned.

All students receive an interim report at the end of the first four and a half weeks of each grading period.

### **Posting grades in PowerSchool:**

5 calendar days for minor assignments

10 calendar days for major or extended assignments

**Minor assignment:** Assignments that students are given 1 class (48 hours) to produce or on-the-spot work. The following will be minor assignments in all content areas: homework, quizzes, vocabulary, classwork, formative assessments, journal entries, or other department specific assignments.

**Major assignments:** Assignments that students are given 2 or more classes (more than 48 hours) to produce or prepare. The following will be major grades in all content areas: test, essay, research paper, lab report, speech/presentation, project, cumulative assignment, or summative assignment.

## **GRADUATION EXERCISES**

Students must meet the following requirements for participation in Graduation Exercises:

- 1) Completion of all state requirements for a diploma.
- 2) Arrangements of a records conference with his/her school counselor before the end of the first semester of the senior year.
- 3) Attendance at graduation practice unless excused in advance by the Graduation advisor.
- 4) Settlement of all financial obligations.
- 5) Any students on an accelerated plan for graduation must be approved by the principal.

## **HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING**

The district prohibits any acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying of a student by students, staff and third parties which interfere with or disrupt a student's ability to learn and the school's responsibility to educate its students in a safe and orderly environment, whether such acts occur in the classroom, on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises, or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

Any student who believes that he/she has been subjected to harassment, intimidation or bullying in violation of this policy is encouraged to file a complaint in accordance with procedures established by the district.

## **HEALTH RECORDS**

All students must provide the school with a South Carolina Certificate of Immunization prior to admittance to class. This certifies immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio. The district requires a birth certificate on all transferring students. Health cards are kept for all students. Please notify the nurse of any medical concerns.

## **SCHOOL HEALTH ROOM OPERATIONS**

The Health Room is operated daily under the supervision of a registered nurse. The school nurse is responsible for maintaining a health record on all students. The Health Room is designed to be an emergency station to care for minor illnesses or injuries that occur at school. Injuries or health concerns that occur outside of school should be treated at home or by your healthcare provider. The school nurse cannot diagnose or prescribe treatment. This is the responsibility of your family physician or healthcare provider. There are times when a student should remain at home for his/her own welfare and for the protection of others. Please see DHEC's "School Exclusion List" for students who are in 1st through 12th grade and DHEC's "Childcare Exclusion List" for students who are in K3, K4, K5, or who are medically fragile. These exclusion lists are on the district's website. If a student develops a communicable disease, the parent should notify the school nurse. This will allow the nurse to alert the teachers to observe other students for symptoms or to notify appropriate persons if needed. Parents should also notify the school nurse of any special health needs. In the event that a student becomes ill or injured and needs to go home, the persons listed on the health card will be contacted and expected to come for the child immediately. For this reason the school should be kept up-to-date on any changes in phone numbers of those persons to be contacted in an emergency.

## **MEDICATIONS**

Medications to be taken during school hours must be brought to school and delivered to the school nurse or designated adult in the ORIGINAL container with all labels intact. Over the counter medications should only be sent to school for a specific condition your child is known to experience. Whenever possible, medications should be given before or after school. All medications (including over the counter medications) must be accompanied by parental permission and written authorization from the prescribing physician or health care provider. Herbals, food supplements, alternative medicinal products, and other items that do not have FDA approval also require a written order from a prescribing health care provider.

The permission for school administration of medication form is available at your child's school and through the district's website. A record of all medications administered at school will be kept for each student. Only those students who have met all of the requirements to self-medicate will be allowed to keep medications on their person. All other medications will be kept at school and must be picked up by a responsible adult when the medication is discontinued, expired, or at the end of the school year. Medications are not sent home with students. At the time a prescription is filled, ask your pharmacist to prepare a separate bottle labeled for school use.

If medications are needed on a field trip, the parent/guardian is encouraged to provide the medication in the original pharmacy-labeled bottle with only the dosage(s) needed for the trip along with the consent form signed by the health care provider. The nurse cannot repackage any medications and will need to send the student's medication bottle containing all of their medication on the field trip if a bottle containing only the required dose is not provided. If over the counter medications are necessary, please purchase and send the smallest size available for this medication along with the consent form signed by your healthcare provider. If your student will require medication that is not currently being given at school, you will need to turn the medication, along with the required consent forms into the school nurse one week prior to the field trip. This

allows time for the nurse to verify that there are not any problems with the medication and/or consent forms and to train the teacher to properly assist your student with their medication.

## **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

Homebound instruction is provided for a student who because of illness, accident, pregnancy or congenital defect cannot attend school. For a student to be eligible for Homebound Instruction, a licensed physician must certify that the student is unable to attend school, even with the aid of transportation.

A student may pick up an application for Homebound Instruction from the Homebound Coordinator. The Office of Programs for the Handicapped, State Department of Education, must approve the application for the period during which instruction is received. In order for a student to be counted in membership in a Homebound Instructional Program, the student must:

- 1) be enrolled in Dutch Fork High School,
- 2) complete the Homebound Instruction Form and have it signed by the student's physician,
- 3) receive approval for Homebound Instruction by the district office in accordance to rules of State Department of Education, and
- 4) receive the prescribed number of hours of instruction each week while out.

The Assistant Principal for Instruction will determine which courses can be supported by homebound. The number of hours of services provided will be determined by the homebound committee.

NOTE: Rules and regulations concerning Homebound Instruction will be given to the parents when the student is enrolled in the program. Parents are strongly encouraged to read the packet that is provided.

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Homework is defined as any preparation for class to be written, read or reviewed outside of class. It is the teacher's responsibility to assign homework and the student's responsibility to complete the assignment in a timely manner. Some teachers post assignments on the DFHS website or on Google Classroom; some use assignment sheets. Homework is covered in each teacher's course syllabus. Students who do their homework will have a greater chance of academic success, and it should help students make school work a top priority.

## **HONOR CODE**

Honor is one of a person's greatest attributes and most cherished traits. An honor system is based on the premise that a person upholds the highest standards in all that he or she does. Honor and integrity are related to our school's key characteristics. Without honor, students cannot achieve their maximum potential. Under the Honor Code at DFHS, it is expected that all students will demonstrate honesty and integrity in their conduct. Intentional lying, cheating, and stealing will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Any person who violates the Honor Code must be held accountable for compromising the honor and trust of our community. Each student is responsible for upholding and enforcing the Honor Code. The DFHS Honor Code cannot work unless each student acts when he or she believes anyone may have violated the Honor Code.

### **DFHS Academic Honor Code**

1. I will take credit for my work. I will not cheat, help others cheat, or allow others to do my work for me.
2. I will not forge (fake/copy) signatures, records, information, or results.
3. I will not plagiarize. I will use quotations and cite sources when I use someone else's words or ideas.
4. I will be honest about my work with teachers, peers, and parent(s)/guardian(s).



## **VIOLATIONS:**

### **Plagiarism**

1. Using the words, work or opinions of someone else as though they were your own and not giving proper credit to the author(s). Example: You purchase an essay or piece of written work from an internet site and submit it as your own work. Note: Even though you may share an idea with an author, if you find it in print, you must give that author credit.
2. Copying the presentation, material, or patterns of thought of someone else without giving proper credit. Example: You structure your paper, or part of it, the way a certain author on your subject has also arranged his/her ideas. You must give this author credit. Example: You copy ideas and information from the Internet. You must then give this site credit.

### **Cheating**

Knowing and willingly giving or taking advantage of the work of another student. This unfair, dishonest, and unprincipled behavior includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Copying from another student, using another student's work as one's own (fraud).
2. Pressuring another student to share his/her work for the purpose of copying.
3. Stealing work or tricking someone into giving away his/her information.
4. Use of signs or gestures to communicate information during a test.
5. Unauthorized use of study aides, notes, books, data, etc.
6. Any ATTEMPT at cheating will be considered cheating.
7. Forging – falsifying records, documents, and signatures (faking parent/guardian signatures, i.e. on permission slips, etc.).
8. Intentional aiding and abetting – helping someone cheat in any way.

## **CONSEQUENCES FOR CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM**

### **1st Offense:**

- The teacher will contact the student's parent or guardian.
- Loss of exam exemption **for seniors** in that particular subject/class for the remainder of that academic school year.
- If the student re-submits the assignment or re-takes the assessment, the student may receive a grade of no higher than a 75%. (This means that on a 100-point assignment, 25 points will automatically be deducted from the student's score.) Teachers may choose to give the student an alternate version of the assignment or assessment.
- The teacher will write a discipline referral with a detailed narrative about the incident and will attach any evidence for administrative review.

### **2nd Offense:**

- The teacher will contact the student's parent or guardian.
- Loss of exam exemptions for seniors in all subjects/classes for the remainder of that academic school year.
- The student may not re-submit the assignment or re-take the assessment. The student will receive a grade of zero.
- The teacher will write a discipline referral with a detailed narrative about the incident and will attach any evidence for administrative review.

### **3rd Offense:**

- The teacher will request a parent conference. The student's administrator may also be invited to attend.
- Loss of exam exemptions for seniors in all subjects/classes for the remainder of that academic school year.
- The student may not re-submit the assignment or re-take the assessment. The student will receive a grade of zero.
- The teacher will write a discipline referral with a detailed narrative about the incident and will attach any evidence for administrative review.

#### 4th Offense:

- The teacher will immediately refer the student to his/her administrator and await further instructions.
- The administrator will assign consequences and will contact the student's parent or guardian.
- Loss of exam exemptions for seniors in all subjects/classes for the remainder of that academic school year.
- The student may not re-submit the assignment or re-take the assessment. The student will receive a grade of zero.

### **HONORS RECOGNITION**

Please view all of the Honors for students, the criteria and the timelines on the Dutch Fork High School website.

### **HONOR ROLL**

A student must maintain a minimum average of 90 in each subject for which he/she is enrolled in order to be eligible for the A Honor Roll. A student must maintain a minimum average of 80 in each subject for which he/she is enrolled in order to be eligible for the A/B Honor Roll. No student who is enrolled for fewer than six blocks is eligible for the honor roll. The Principal's Honor Roll recognizes students with a 4.0 grade point average. The registrar computes the Honor Roll at the end of each nine weeks' grading period.

### **ID BADGES**

1. Students must wear an undefaced ID on a breakaway lanyard above their waist while on campus during regular school hours and when riding a school bus.
2. Students will be allowed to purchase a temporary ID badge from 7:45 a.m. until the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> block each morning without disciplinary consequences. After that time, disciplinary consequences may be applied to any student not wearing an ID.
3. Students must "order" a temporary ID badge through a teacher (e-mail to [dfhsid@lexrich5.org](mailto:dfhsid@lexrich5.org)), verbally through an administrator, through a QR code, or in person at the bookroom before school or between classes. If ordered through a teacher, the badge will be printed and delivered to the student's classroom.
4. Students are responsible for paying ID debt through their Quick Pay account.
5. Debt notices will also be included with report cards. Students with unpaid debt at the end of the school year will have their final report cards held until payment is received.
6. Permanent IDs cost \$5. One new permanent ID can be charged and paid for at a later date. Students can only have one charged ID on his/her account at a time.
7. Temporary IDs costs \$2, and a lanyard costs \$1. Both of these may be charged.
8. Each student is issued one permanent school ID at the beginning of the school year at no cost. If that ID is lost, defaced or destroyed, the student must pay for a replacement. A defaced ID includes: unauthorized stickers and/or writing on the front or back of an ID or altering the ID including the name, picture, barcode, etc. Nothing should be written or attached to the front of an ID. The only stickers allowed are those issued by the school. ID pictures are made according to the school's dress code policy.

### **INJURY AND ILLNESS**

When an accident occurs, please report at once to the teachers in charge, who will then report it to the school nurse and any other necessary authorities. The nurse will make proper medical referrals when necessary. First Aid kits are located in the Health Room.

### **INSURANCE**

Regular and 24-hour insurance will be available for all students. Prices will be available at the beginning of

the school year. Students and parents should review school insurance information in order to become familiar with coverage and limitations.

## **JOB SHADOWING**

Job Shadowing is an opportunity for students to learn about a career during an actual work day. All students are eligible to job shadow twice a year -- once first semester and once second semester. All job shadowing experiences should be completed prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>. A student may not repeat a job shadow site. Once all paperwork is completed, the absence will be excused. See the Career Specialist for more information and all required forms.

## **LIBRARY/MEDIA SERVICES**

### **STAFF**

Dr. Patricia Verrilli – Media Specialist

Ms. Pam Wilkins – Circulation

The Media Center at Dutch Fork High School serves students, teachers, administration, and staff by providing resources that support the curriculum, meet the informational and recreational needs of all patrons, and prepare students for lifelong learning and service in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **HOURS**

Media Center hours are 7:50 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Wed.) until 4:00 p.m.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Each student is expected to have a meaningful purpose for being in the Media Center. Good behavior, respect for others, and care of materials and the facility are required.
- Each student is responsible for the material checked out in his/her name; therefore, for one's own protection, do not check out material for others to use. Each student will be assigned a barcode number to prevent use of one's name by another student.
- While there is no limit to the number of books that can be checked out, students are expected to return material on time for others to use. Students who do not cooperate in this manner may have library privileges restricted and/or his/her report card held until books are returned.
- In the event that library materials are lost, students should notify the Media Center as soon as possible. Students will be expected to pay replacement costs of lost materials. If the material is found and returned, a refund will be made.
- Each student is expected to leave the Media Center by passing through the security system. Other exits are for emergency use only.
- Computers are available for school related work only and are monitored from the circulation desk using Insight computer monitoring software.

## **CIRCULATION POLICIES**

- Books from the regular collection are circulated for three weeks.
- Reference books are circulated for overnight use. They should be returned by 8:30 a.m. the following day.
- Students may renew all books unless needed by another student.
- Students may use periodicals, videos and computer software only in the Media Center unless a teacher grants written permission for at home use.
- Fines – Regular collection - 10 cents per book per school day; Reference collection - \$1 per book per school day
- Students will receive overdue notices on a weekly basis.

## **PASSES**

Students may come to the Media Center during the school day with a designated pass.

## **LOCKERS**

Students have the option of receiving a locker by submitting a request. Students should go to room 219 during the first week of school to make the request. It is the student's responsibility to keep up with the locker number and combination. If you have problems with a locker, go to room 219.

Administration reserves the right to search a student's locker if a search is deemed necessary to maintain the safety and integrity of the school. All lockers must be cleaned out by the end of the first half day at the end of the school year. Contents left in lockers may be given to charity.

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the main office where they can be claimed by the owners. Items that are not claimed in a reasonable time will be donated to a local charity.

## **LUNCH/BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Dutch Fork High School serves nutritionally sound meals each school day. Breakfast is offered each morning from 7:55 - 8:15 (Wed. 9:20 - 9:30). DFHS students will receive free lunch for the 24-25 school year. Additional items beyond a complete meal may be purchased by students. Students are encouraged to use the PIN system by scanning their ID badges (which is a debit system) in the cafeteria or they may bring lunch money daily.

Students are expected to clean up after. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action. All food purchased in the cafeteria must be eaten in approved areas. Please leave book bags and coats at the tables or in the classroom before entering the lines. Do not hand food from one line to the next. All food must be paid for before the student leaves the serving area. Failure to pay for food or concealing food will be considered shoplifting. The laws of South Carolina and Richland County DO apply at school, too.

## **MAKE-UP POLICY**

Students are encouraged to attend school regularly. If, however, a student must be absent from school for any reason, it is his/her responsibility to make up all work missed. Since it is in the student's best interest to make up all missed work as quickly as possible, the following guidelines have been established for make-up work:

1. When a student misses a class meeting, all previously assigned work that was due the day of the absence is due no later than the beginning of the next class meeting in which the student is present. All work missed as a result of the absence is to be completed by the beginning of the second class meeting from the absence.
2. When a student misses two consecutive class meetings, all previously assigned work due while the student was absent and all work missed as a result of the absence should be completed by the beginning of the second class meeting from the absence.
3. When a student misses three or more consecutive class meetings, he/she must make specific arrangements for make-up work with each teacher the day he/she returns to class. The amount of time given for completion of work will be up to the teacher's discretion based on the amount of work missed and the level of difficulty of the material.
4. Long term projects and papers are due when the teacher says they are due. In the event of an absence, the student or the student's parent should notify the teacher in advance or upon immediate return to school.
5. Students are responsible for the work they miss while on a field trip or attending any other school event. Students should contact each of the teachers whose classes they will be missing to make specific arrangements with them regarding all make-up work. Teachers may choose for work to be submitted in advance. If the student does not follow the teacher's guidelines, the student will receive the academic penalty as assigned by the teacher.
6. Students must make every effort to complete all make-up work according to these established guidelines. If

the student has not submitted his/her make-up work within the specified timeframes outlined above or as directed by the teacher, the teacher has the option of not accepting the work. Additional information may be contained in the teacher's course syllabus with regard to make-up work. As with anything, regular communication with the teacher is encouraged.

## **NON-STUDENTS ON GROUNDS**

The principal or designee will take appropriate action against non-students who invade the building, grounds or other school property regardless of time of day. Such action will include the right to call in the police authorities and swear out warrants. Any person who is on campus and who has not obtained written permission from the main office to be on campus will be considered trespassing.

## **OPTIONAL DIPLOMA RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Dutch Fork High School offers students opportunities for optional diploma recognition programs. These options for recognition include a Special Education Certificate awarded to students who have completed a specified curriculum as defined by their Individual Education Program required by PL-94-142. Further explanations about these recognition programs are found in the registration booklet or by contacting a school counselor for details.

## **PARENT PORTAL**

Parents are strongly encouraged to enroll in Parent Portal to have online access to your students' grades. Due to the sensitive nature of the information shared, parents must complete the request in person in the attendance office. Emails gathered for Parent Portal will also allow DFHS to email you updates and information on upcoming events and news.

## **PARKING AND CARS**

If you park on campus, you must have a properly displayed and current parking pass that was issued to you. The cost is \$50 per year. Because we have over 1700 students, parking passes will be issued using the following priority system. 1) All Seniors with a good discipline record are eligible for a parking space. 2) Any left-over spaces go to Juniors starting with the highest GPA in the class (and working down) with no discipline or attendance problems. Students must have completed the Alive @ 25 Program before receiving a parking pass. When you receive your parking pass, you will also get a copy of ALL rules and regulations concerning parking. Parking places are assigned. Vehicles must be in the parking lot by 8:10 a.m. daily (9:10 a.m. on Wednesday).

Vehicles must be moved from the band grid by 4:00 p.m. each day or: 1<sup>st</sup> offense = \$25 ticket, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense = loss of parking pass. Students may reapply after marching band season is over.

Parking privileges may be revoked at any time without refund for those who violate the rules of Dutch Fork High School and/or the parking lot rules. Listen to the announcements for times and conditions of additional sales. Students who park off school property do so at their own risk.

**CARS THAT DO NOT HAVE CURRENT PARKING PASSES THAT ARE PROPERLY DISPLAYED WILL BE SUBJECT TO TOWING AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.**

All students who are issued a parking pass will agree to the following conditions.

- Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right.
- The school district retains authority to conduct routine searches of the exterior of student vehicles parked on school property at any time.
- The school district retains authority to conduct searches of the interior of student vehicles whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has violated Board policies, school rules, or state law.

- If the student fails to provide access to the interior of his/her vehicle upon request by a school official, he/she will be subject to school disciplinary action, including loss of all parking privileges.
- If the student does not display a school district parking permit in full view on each vehicle that is parked on school premises, his/her vehicle may be towed at the student's expense. The parking permits used in District Five hang from the rear-view mirror.
- The student may park only in the assigned area and in the assigned parking space.

Each student is required to use district transportation when it is provided for school related activities *unless given prior permission by the Dutch Fork administration*. This includes any student who is enrolled in an occupational class located at Irmo High School or The Center.

From the SC CODE OF LAWS:

59-63-1120. School administrators may conduct reasonable searches on school property of lockers, desks, vehicles, and personal belongings with or without probable cause.

## **PARTIES AND GIFTS AT SCHOOL**

It is against school board policy to give gifts to teachers. School Board policy also prohibits holiday parties and gift exchanges during the school day except when approved by the principal.

## **PERSONAL PROPERTY**

Dutch Fork High School is not responsible for any books or personal belongings that are misplaced or stolen from any location on campus. This includes lockers, PE locker rooms, teacher's classrooms and vehicles. Do not leave your personal items unattended. We can share the sadness and frustration, but not the cost.

## **PROMOTION POLICY**

Each year of high school (grades 9-12) students can earn 8 units of credit for courses. Dutch Fork High classifies students by grade according to the number of units earned from year to year in the following manner:

### **CLASSIFICATION CREDITS EARNED**

12th Grade 17 (English 1, 2 & 3, 3 Math and  
2 Science) credits earned

11th Grade 11 (English 1 & 2, 2 Math and 1 Science)  
credits earned

10th Grade 5 credits (English 1 & 1 Math)

9th Grade Must be promoted from 8th grade

Grade level status is established at the beginning of the academic school year. Only those students who meet the above requirements for 12th Grade are considered for senior status. Only seniors may participate in senior activities and have senior privileges.

## **RECORDS**

- According to School Board Policy JR, student records will be handled in a manner consistent with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974. If a child transfers and enrolls in a school other than Dutch Fork High School, his/her records will be transferred to that school or school system upon request from the enrolling school. The parent/eligible student has the right to request a copy of the record that was disclosed. Parents/eligible students also have a right to request an amendment of

educational records if they believe the record contains information that is inaccurate or misleading.

- No one but authorized school personnel, parent (or legal guardian) and student shall have access to the permanent record without a subpoena or the written permission of students and/or parents. In addition, designated school personnel have the obligation to forward transcript of the permanent record upon request of students, parents (or legal guardians), former students, and educational institutions once application for admission has occurred. Transcripts are held if there are unfulfilled financial obligations to Dutch Fork High School.
- Any written request to the school principal by a student or parent regarding the accuracy of data recorded in the permanent record shall become a part of the record.
- Final grades are recorded on the student's permanent record. Numerical grades for both semester courses and yearly courses are recorded on the permanent record. Units of credit are recorded for courses passed, and units are added together at the end of the academic school year to determine classifications of students for the following school year.
- As stated in School Board Policy JR, student records will be handled in a manner consistent with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), as amended.
- If a student transfers and enrolls in a school other than Dutch Fork High School, his/her educational records will be transferred to that school or school system upon request by the school/school system. The parent/eligible student has the right to request a copy of the record that was disclosed. Parents/eligible students also have a right to request an amendment of educational records if they believe the record contains information that is inaccurate or misleading.

## **REGISTRATION FOR COURSES**

Initial registration will take place during the winter preceding the school year or when a new student enrolls in the school.

All students will be given written information about courses and assistance in their selection; a five-year plan will be developed with all rising ninth grade students. Recommendations for enrollment in leveled courses will be based on the district's placement criteria.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Much time and guidance are provided to students in the original selection of courses. Teacher assignments, balancing of class sizes, and instructional budgets are planned based on registration data. Therefore, only in rare cases will changes be possible.

Course changes will be considered if the following conditions are met.

- A. The change requested is in writing.
  - B. The proposed change will not result in a class having over the maximum number of students.
  - C. The proposed change is not in conflict with the master schedule.
  - D. The proposed change will not result in a student having more than one study hall per semester.
- 1) Course change following initial schedule request: When requested by a parent or student by June 15, school counselors will attempt to accommodate the request.
  - 2) Second semester course change following initial schedule request. When requested by a parent or student by December 1, school counselors will attempt to accommodate the request.
  - 3) Students who withdraw from a course after five (5) school days in a semester course or after ten (10) school days in a yearly course will do so with penalty (WF).
  - 4) Following schedule pick-up, all schedule conflicts and errors must be submitted by the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) school day, except for those covered elsewhere in this policy. Elective changes may only be made on a period for period basis.

- 5) Schedule errors: Corrections will be made as soon as school counseling staff, parents, students, or teachers discover them. Efforts will be made to schedule changes within the same period. However, to accommodate the new schedule, changes in one or more periods may occur.
- 6) If an alternate elective course is scheduled instead of a first choice elective course, the course will not be changed.
- 7) Scheduled course was passed in summer school: School counselors will make schedule changes as soon as summer school grades are completed or when student or parent provides a copy of final summer school report card. These requests should be made before the start of the first day of school.
- 8) Student fails required or prerequisite course: School counselors will make schedule changes as soon as end of year or when summer school grades are completed.
- 9) Student fails required or prerequisite course during first semester: Seniors will have priority. Changes for other students will be on a space available basis. Students should request the change as soon as they know credit will not be awarded in a course.
- 10) Students scheduled for a teacher from a previously failed course: Students will be allowed to change teachers if the master schedule allows. Requests should be made prior to the first day of school. Other requests for teacher changes must be made in writing and will be reviewed by the Assistant Principal for Instruction. A conference with both student and parent may be required.
- 11) Requests for changes in a course level will be at the discretion of the Principal. Requests will be considered provided that the proposed change will not result in a class having over the maximum of 25 students and the proposed change is not in conflict with the master schedule.

## **SCHOLASTIC AWARDS**

Various scholastic awards given during the school year are available to all students. Students are selected on merit in academics, leadership, character, responsibility, need, discipline and service to school and community. Many outside organizations and companies also offer scholastic opportunities and awards that students can apply for during the school year. The School Counseling Department keeps seniors informed about these opportunities. All students should check with their school counselors and always be alert to all announcements pertaining to awards and scholarships and read their senior bulletin regularly.

Presentation of these awards that students have received is done during the Senior Assembly. Scholarship winners are printed in the graduation program. Students will be asked to notify the school counseling department of scholarships.

## **SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATION**

We want to establish clear and accurate communication with all of our parents and students. The best way to get in touch with individual teachers is through e-mail. Teachers are expected to respond to voice mail within 36 hours and e-mail within 24 hours. Visit our website at <https://www.lexrich5.org/dfhs> and use our links to teacher e-mail. To get detailed information about your student, access the Parent Portal in PowerSchool through the school's website; this will allow parents to view specific information about students' grades and attendance. Student progress is communicated through interim reports (every 4 1/2 weeks) and report cards every nine weeks. Other forms of communication include voice mail, the automated calling service, a weekly newsletter, our marquee and many mail outs during the school year. Conferences with teachers may be made through the school counseling department or by contacting the teacher directly.

## **SCHOOL COUNSELING SERVICES**

### **STAFF**

Our staff consists of Director of School Counseling and five counselors who share the school counseling responsibilities with the following:

Mrs. Cynthia Hawkins - Career Development Facilitator



TBA - Registrar 476-3351

Ms. Beth Wilson – School Counseling Receptionist 476-3305

Ms. Tobie Seaberg - Records Clerk 476-3350

## HOURS

The school counseling office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Wednesdays the offices open at 9:30. The school counseling program at Dutch Fork High School is an integral part of the total educational process. Focusing on the needs of high school students, guidance services include individual and small group counseling, classroom guidance, and crisis intervention. Additionally, Dutch Fork school counselors coordinate parent workshops, college planning, career information, special assembly programs, referrals to community agencies, and represent the school on various district committees.

Each student at Dutch Fork is assigned to a school counselor alphabetically for grades nine through twelve. Assignments are as follows:

### Last Name Grade Level Counselor

A – Cr	Connie Shannon	<a href="mailto:cshannon@lexrich5.org">cshannon@lexrich5.org</a>
Cu-Gi	Mary Catherine Brown	<a href="mailto:mcbrown@lexrich5.org">mcbrown@lexrich5.org</a>
Gl-K	Emily Kirkman	<a href="mailto:ekirkman@lexrich5.org">ekirkman@lexrich5.org</a>
L-O	Beth Price	<a href="mailto:bprice2@lexrich5.org">bprice2@lexrich5.org</a>
P-So	Shazzmere Edwards	<a href="mailto:sedwards@lexrich5.org">sedwards@lexrich5.org</a>
Sp-Z	Ruth Glowacki	<a href="mailto:rglowacki@lexrich5.org">rglowacki@lexrich5.org</a>

Psychologist: Dr. Melinda Crenshaw [mdcrensh@lexrich5.org](mailto:mdcrensh@lexrich5.org)

- The school counselors are available to help students with academic, career, and personal/social concerns. Students may come by before school, at lunch, or after school and see the receptionist to schedule an appointment with their respective school counselor. For non-emergency situations, students will be scheduled so as to lose as little instructional time as possible. An appointment slip will then be given to the student that he/she will give to his/her classroom teacher. Parents and teachers may also request that a school counselor meet with a student.
- During the year, small groups of students who have similar concerns may be scheduled for a series of meetings. Students who wish to participate in a small group will sign up in the school counseling office and have a signed permission form from their parents. These small groups may deal with topics such as time management; managing stress; decision-making; coping with divorce, loss and grief; or controlling anger. Small group topics will be determined by student needs.
- The school counseling department offers large group sessions to students to provide information about testing, college and career options, school counseling services, financial aid, graduation requirements, and registration.
- The school counseling department at Dutch Fork High School invites parents and students to get to know their assigned school counselor and take advantage of the information available.
- Throughout the school year, the school counseling office receives information on enrichment, summer programs and scholarship opportunities. Counselors encourage parents and students to contact the school counseling office for information about specific programs.
- The school counseling department holds evening parent meetings to provide information on college admissions, financial aid, and registration. Dates and times will be announced on the school counseling department's website.

## SCHOOL - SPONSORED TRIPS

All students must adhere to all rules and regulations as outlined in the district's discipline policy while on district-sponsored trips. Additional rules and regulations may apply. Questions about school-sponsored trips should be forwarded to the principal.

## **SENIOR PRIVILEGES**

Students who are classified as Seniors (12<sup>th</sup> grade) at the beginning of the school year will be *eligible* for the following privileges: inclusion in the Senior section of the yearbook, Senior group picture, parking pass, Senior superlatives, Prom ticket, Senior cafeteria, exam exemption, Senior field day, Senior Assembly and other senior activities. Please note these are privileges, NOT rights. They are subject to conditions. Additionally, anyone who is on track to meet all of the criteria for a diploma at the end of the school year, but who is not classified as 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the computer at the beginning of the year, will be eligible for inclusion in the senior section of the yearbook and the senior group picture.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

No school-sponsored public dances or parties shall be permitted. However, such school groups as individual classes and approved school clubs may sponsor parties and/or dances; however, the principal retains the responsibility of selecting and/or approving adults for supervising these activities. Only class or club members, class sponsors, and invited guests approved by a committee appointed by the principal may attend. Any and all meetings of booster clubs and parent/teacher organizations shall be authorized and approved by the principal (following Board Policy KG/ "Use of School Facilities").

The junior-senior prom shall be sanctioned with the stipulation that plans for the activity must be approved by the principal. It is the intention of this to permit only students from the particular school, faculty, and invited guests approved by a committee appointed by the principal to be in attendance at the prom. It shall be the responsibility of the principal to have such activities adequately supervised. Only students who are juniors and seniors and their guests are eligible to attend.

## **SOLICITATION AND ADVERTISING**

Students may solicit or advertise for approved school activities sanctioned by the principal or superintendent. Outside solicitation or advertising is prohibited.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES PROGRAMS**

Special Services provides testing, support and accommodations for students with special needs. Parents are involved in the entire process of referral, evaluation, placement, and the development of services. Once a student has been identified, an IEP is written and appropriate services and accommodations are provided. If students or parents need additional information, they can contact the Director of School Counseling at 476-3305.

## **SUMMER SCHOOL**

The purpose of the high school summer program is for remediation. Students should reserve their spots in summer school as soon as it becomes apparent that they will need to enroll. Summer School is funded by tuition that is collected from the student participants. Services beyond instruction are limited. For instance, bus service for high school students is not available in Summer School. Courses are offered based on student demand and teacher availability. Therefore, all courses that may be needed for graduation are not offered in Summer School. Seniors are given priority. A Summer School graduation ceremony is held after the close of Summer School. Criteria for credit allocation shall conform to guidelines established by the South Carolina Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

## **TARDY POLICY**

Dutch Fork High School feels that it is the responsibility of each student to be on time for school and to class. A tardy is defined as any student who is not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings. All tardies are cumulative throughout the quarter regardless of the block in which they occur.

The administration will assign consequences to students who are tardy. These consequences can include after-school detention, Saturday detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or loss of parking pass. Failure to serve assigned detentions may result in In School Suspension. Students who need to have detentions rescheduled must have their parents make the request in writing **before** the detention date.

Parents are encouraged to have meaningful dialogue with their children concerning tardiness and the problems that tardies and absences cause in the world of work. Helping students develop good work habits is a priority at Dutch Fork High School.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Textbooks will be distributed to students at the beginning of the school year. Upon receipt of the books, the students need to assess books for damages and notify the textbook manager. When a student uses a book, the student becomes responsible for the care of that book. Students should write their names in ink in the front of their textbooks. Dutch Fork High School requires students to pay for lost or damaged books. The school will not give a student course credit until the student returns or pays for any and all lost books. Students should not leave a textbook in a teacher's classroom. The book is the student's responsibility, not the teacher's. The school will not sell, loan or rent textbooks during the summer months. Extra textbooks will be provided to students who need them for medical reasons, IEPs, 504s, etc. New copies of textbooks may not be issued until lost or damaged ones are paid for.

## **TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

*School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties welcomes input and suggestions from our community and from our parents concerning Title I programs and funding. The following is a **DRAFT** of a District Parent Policy we are considering. We are asking parents and community members to review the document and give us feedback, suggestions and/or recommendations for revisions as we work to make this a document that reflects the climate and the needs of our community. Please forward your comments or suggestions to Sara R. Kearns, Coordinator of Academic Assistance and Professional Development, School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, 1020 Dutch Fork Road, Irmo, SC 29063; FAX to 803-476-8215; or, drop suggestions by the District Office.*

### **Parent Involvement Policy – District Written Policy**

District Five encourages, supports, and values the participation and involvement of parents and families in the educational experiences of their children. The District recognizes each parent as their child's first teacher and acknowledges the powerful influence of parents on their child's life. The District, therefore, is committed to developing family-friendly schools, offices, and programs to welcome and serve parents and families in positive and supportive environments.

Parents are involved in the development of the LEA (Lead Education Agency) plan and the process of school review and improvement by being part of a planning team that develops an overall Parent Involvement Policy. In addition, all parents are surveyed. This plan is distributed to all parents with children participating in Title I schools and to the community at large. An annual evaluation of the effectiveness of parent involvement will be conducted.

District Office staff provides technical assistance, coordination, and support to participating Title I schools. To assist these schools, District Office staff will be available to assist in the writing of the Title I grant, assist in procurement, attend school improvement/renewal team meetings, assist the schools in implementing effective parent involvement activities and Parent-Teacher organization meetings. Additional responsibilities will be to provide assistance in any area requested to bring about school improvement and increase parental involvement. The District will assist each school in the development of a school-level Parent Involvement Policy. District Office staff will also see that state and federal guidelines are followed.

The schools and parents will build the capacity for strong parental involvement by entering into School-Parent-Student Compacts with staff and families of students attending Title I schools. Compacts are signed by the Principal, Teacher, Parent, and Student. Efforts to increase parent involvement will also include annual conferences to accommodate varied family schedules. In addition, an annual meeting for parents/families of students served in Title I schools will be held to provide information on Title I legislation, instructional programs and the desired outcomes for students of Title I Targeted Assistance schools. Parents will impact policy-making via opportunities to serve on School Improvement Councils, completion of parent surveys, preview of Title I plans in each school Media Center and/or serving as mentors or through other volunteer efforts. Schools will provide a number of Parenting activities during the year such as Technology, Literacy, Math/Science, Fine Arts, Testing, Cultural Celebration, Academic Information, and other student performance/academic presentations.

The Parenting Program served through Title I will coordinate and join together with other programs by inviting parents to attend parenting classes, Adult Ed classes, workshops and seminars offered by the District and/or state. Additional efforts will be made to work with other community programs to provide information and assistance regarding Title I Targeted Assistance programs.

Regarding funding, the District will reserve not less than one percent (1%) of the total Title I allocation to carry out parental involvement to include family literacy and parenting skills. In addition, each school will reserve at least 5% of their Title I allocation for funding Parent activities.

## **TOBACCO POSSESSION AND USE**

Students may not use or possess tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia while on school grounds, in the school buildings, on buses, or during any other time that the student is under the direct administrative jurisdiction of the school whether on or off the school grounds. When these products are found in a student's vehicle, the student/driver is responsible. Principals/directors will discipline any student who violates this policy in accordance with the Student Behavior Code.

## **TRANSFER STUDENTS**

When a student enrolls in a district middle or high school and wishes to transfer one or more units of high school graduation credit, Dutch Fork will accept the credit if awarded by a school accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or affiliated with a regional accrediting agency. If the credit granting school is not so accredited, the student may take an examination for each course for which he/she wishes to transfer credit. The District Five School in which the student wishes to enroll will provide and administer these examinations. The Assistant Principal for Instruction will inform the parents of the results of all examinations and the credit to be given.

Counselors will assign levels of difficulty to transfer courses based upon information received from the school from which the student transfers. When the student or parent is not satisfied with the assigned level, it is her/his responsibility to obtain additional documentation from the previously attended school. When it is necessary to determine course averages for mid-year transfers, the school will use the midpoint of the numerical range equated to any letter grade received in accordance with the Uniform Grading Scale Policy.

## **USE OF METAL DETECTORS**

When the administration has reasonable cause to believe that weapons are in the possession of identified or unidentified students, when there has been a pattern of weapons found at school, or when violence involving weapons has occurred at the school, the administration is authorized to use stationary and/or mobile metal detectors in accordance with procedures developed by the administration in conjunction with legal counsel. Any search of a student's person as a result of the activation of the detector will be conducted in private in accordance with the procedures.

The district's express intention for this policy is to enhance security by preventing students from bringing weapons or other dangerous objects into the schools. Any student who violates the provision of the district's rules and regulations, which provide that a student may not access, use or transfer dangerous weapons, will be disciplined in accordance with district policy.

## UNIFORM GRADING POLICY

Key components of the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy include the following.

1. All report cards and transcripts will use numerical grades.  
A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=Below 60
2. Each final grade (numerical) will have different weighting for the basis of computing GPA. The chart below gives the weighting for each numerical value.
3. Extra weight is given to honors (.5) and AP (1.0) courses.

This policy also establishes that courses may not be dropped after the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) day in a semester class or after the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) day in a yearlong class without penalty.

Students may only retake a class at the same difficulty under the following conditions:

- Only a course in which a D, P, NP, WP, FA or F or a numerical grade no lower than 50 was earned may be retaken.
- The course must be retaken at the first opportunity within the next year.
- The student's record will reflect all courses taken and the grade earned.

## UNIFORM GRADING TABLE

Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep	Honors	AP/IB/Dual Credit
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800

97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000

69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100
0-50	F	0.000	0.000	0.000
WF	F	0.000	0.000	0.000

WP	-	0.000	0.000	0.000
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## VISITORS TO CLASSES

Upon arrival, all visitors must check in the front office by using their driver's license to sign in the Lobby Guard machine. Parents are welcome to visit their children's classes. Parents are asked to arrive at the beginning of the class and use the following guidelines. They should check in with the main office and follow visitor procedures, provide official identification (Driver's License), and only visit in the designated area on the pass. After checking in with the main office, an administrator will escort the parent to the child's classroom. Parents should not engage the teachers, their student or other students during the visit. Only parents/guardians are allowed to visit; please

leave siblings at home. Former students who wish to visit a teacher should make these arrangements prior to the day/time they wish the visit and will only be allowed to visit during the teacher's planning block.

## **WITHDRAWALS FROM SCHOOL**

If a child transfers and enrolls in a school other than Dutch Fork High School, his/her records will be transferred to that school or school system upon request from the enrolling school. The parent/eligible student has the right to request a copy of the record that was disclosed. Parents/eligible students also have a right to request an amendment of the records if they believe the record contains information that is inaccurate or in violation of the student's right of privacy.

A student withdrawing from Dutch Fork High School is required to furnish verification by a parent/guardian that he/she is to be withdrawn from school. The student should report to the school counseling department as soon as he/she is aware that he/she must withdraw from Dutch Fork High School. At the beginning of the next to the last full day he/she is enrolled in school a Withdrawal Form will be issued to the student to be carried to each teacher as he reports to each class period. Teachers will initial the Withdrawal Form and record grades. At the end of the school day, the Withdrawal Form must be taken back to the school counseling department after it has been initialed by all appropriate personnel. The records clerk will then sign it and a copy will be given to the student.

Students must return books to the book room. Any student who leaves school without formally withdrawing will have his record charged with the price of all his textbooks, any library books and any other fees owed.

## **YEARBOOKS**

Every effort is made by the yearbook staff to be accurate in both facts and spelling. Only photographs that are taken by the photographer contracted by the school will be used for the individual pictures in the class sections of the yearbook. This is necessary to ensure that pictures have a consistent quality about them. Students who are graduating early are responsible for informing the staff of their status. An early graduate is not guaranteed a space in the senior section. In the same respect students who are on extensive homebound should also contact the yearbook adviser to ensure their inclusion. The staff is restricted to deadlines. Senior sections cannot be changed after October 1. Underclassmen may not be changed after November 1.

Yearbooks may be ordered at [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com). Yearbooks are distributed in late May. If a student leaves Dutch Fork High School, he/she is encouraged to leave a telephone number with the yearbook adviser so that he/she may be called and arrangements made for pick-up at the time of delivery.

Students should be careful with their yearbooks. When they are lost, we share your frustration and sadness, but not the cost of replacement.