



# Parent-Student Handbook

2025-2026

# **Dixon Middle School 2025-2026**

**Heather F. Cole – Principal**

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## **School Contact Information**

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Sneads Ferry, NC 28460

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## **MISSION**

Unleash the Bulldog LIFE

## **VISION**

Lead Inspire Focus Engage

## **CORE VALUES**

Relationships are foundational.

Students are empowered.

Leaders are created.

## **MASCOT & SCHOOL COLORS**

Bulldog

Maroon & Gold



## GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION & STUDENT POLICIES

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome Dixon Bulldogs! I encourage you to make the most of your middle school years! Be an active participant in your learning, set achievable goals, and work hard to exceed those goals! Be involved in your school and community; join a club, an athletic team, and/or participate in an extracurricular activity. Middle school is the time for you to explore endless opportunities that will help guide and determine your future selves. I challenge you to Unleash the Bulldog LIFE: lead, inspire, focus, and engage!

### Academic Success

High Expectations=High Student Achievement

During this time in your life, education is your career. Coming to school each day is your job. These are the expectations of your job that you should meet each day:

- **Be Prepared**
- **Act Responsibly**
- **Respect Others**
- **Keep Safe**

Bulldogs know how to **BARK!**

### Athletics

The athletics program is an important part of the school; however, it is secondary to its academic program. There are certain requirements that students must meet to participate in athletics:

1. Students must be in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. Students must have passed a minimum of 5 classes the previous semester.
3. Students must attend school 85% of the previous semester's instructional time to be eligible.
4. Students must not have turned 15 on or before August 31st of the current school year. There are only two years of eligibility in middle school.
5. **Students** must receive a medical examination each academic year from a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
6. Student and his/her parent must sign an Athletic Participation Permission form that

includes the Gfeller-Waller Concussion Awareness form **prior to** participating in any tryout, practice or contest (new form must be signed each academic year).

There are also general athletic guidelines for Dixon Middle School:

- ❖ All fees and fines must be paid for a child to be eligible for athletics!
- ❖ Parents are responsible for the transportation of their child to and from practices and home athletic events. A student must have timely transportation to participate.
- ❖ All practices and tryouts are closed to visitors. † Coaches will share rules for individual sports.
- ❖ Team members may not participate in games or practices on days they are absent, in ISS, or suspended from school.
- ❖ **Removal from the team for disciplinary offenses is at the discretion of the coach and/or administration.**

### Attendance

Regular attendance is directly connected to student achievement. It is essential that students be in school every day. According to Onslow County Board Policy #4400, a student must be in attendance for 160 days per year-long course, which means only 20 absences. All absences, whether excused or unexcused, will be counted. Students with more than 20 absences (10 within the first ninety days and 10 within the last ninety days) in a school year shall not be promoted to the next grade except by determination of the principal or designee upon careful review of the student's records. **Any "educational trips" must be submitted in writing to the principal for excused absence consideration at [heather.cole@onslow.k12.nc.us](mailto:heather.cole@onslow.k12.nc.us).**

A student is considered absent for the day if they are present for less than half the school day (**11:05 am**). Absences require notes of explanation. Parents of students who are habitually absent may be charged legally for violation of the compulsory attendance law. Any absence after 10 will require a doctor's excuse.

The following reasons, as stated in North Carolina General Statute, are considered acceptable for being coded excused absences for **Daily Attendance** purposes.

### Daily Attendance Excused Codes:

- Personal illness or injury
- Death in the immediate family
- Quarantine
- Educational Opportunity (Approval from the principal prior to the absence is required and all work must be made up.)
- Medical or dental appointments
- Court or administrative proceedings
- Religious observances

Any student who is absent will have a reasonable amount of time to make up any missed work upon their return to school. The student is responsible for requesting the missed work. Extended absences due to serious illness will be addressed by the students' teachers and/or administration on a case-by-case basis.

### **Books/Laptops**

Students are expected to take proper care of all books/laptops issued to them or used in the classroom or library. Students are responsible for turning all books on schedule. **If a book/laptop is lost or damaged, it must be paid for.** Students must be responsible for their books/laptops, and these should not be left unattended. Students are expected to bring their books/laptops to class daily unless directed otherwise by the teacher. **When a student is issued a 1:1 laptop, both the laptop and charger must be returned to school at the end of the year. A fee will be assessed if any part is missing.**

### **Bus Regulations**

Because the safety of our children is a top priority, it is imperative that all parents and students review the Onslow County Schools' Student Discipline Policies and School Bus Safety Regulations Handbook. Of particular importance are School Bus Safety Student Conduct Rules and Misconduct on a School Vehicle. These policies will be enforced with parents and students receiving written notifications of consequences based on severity of violations and prior rule infractions. Please help us ensure that the bus ride for all students is a safe one.

Dixon Middle School General Bus Rules include:

- Obey the bus driver promptly concerning conduct on the bus.
- Observe classroom conduct, except for ordinary conversation with students in the same seat, while

getting on or off and while riding on the school bus.

- Be at the place designated both morning and afternoon ready to board the bus prior to the time shown on the posted schedule. The driver is responsible for maintaining this schedule and will not wait for tardy students.
- Help keep the bus clean, sanitary, and orderly and do not damage or abuse the cushions or other bus equipment. Students will be required to pay for damages. For the child's safety, eating is not permitted on the school bus.
- Do not use drugs, alcohol, tobacco or profane language on the bus.
- Students are not permitted to use recording devices or radios on the bus.
- The number to reach the Dixon district bus coordinator is (910) 347-6708.

Visit <https://nc02213593.schoolwires.net/Page/1983> for additional behavior expectations on the school bus or at the bus stop.

Consequences for infractions of bus rules may include a written warning, suspension from riding the bus for one to two weeks, and up to losing the privilege to ride for the rest of the school year. The consequences assigned are at the discretion of the administration and the transportation office.

### **Child Nutrition**

Child Nutrition offers healthy meals every school day. Each student is assigned a computerized student number to purchase breakfast and lunch. This number is to be used by that student only. Students may use their lunch number only once per meal. Misuse of another student's lunch number is considered theft and will result in disciplinary action.

Breakfast costs \$1.25; lunch costs \$2.50. Students may qualify for free meals or for reduced price meals.

A new application is required EACH school year beginning July 1 and are available throughout the school year. Families who feel they may qualify are encouraged to fill out and submit meal benefit applications.

### **One application per family can be completed.**

The information provided will be used to determine eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals. This information may also be used for other state or federally funded school benefits.

If your family chooses to apply, please complete a **"Free and Reduced Meal Price Application Form."** Applications can be completed online at [www.lunchapplication.com](http://www.lunchapplication.com).

**Students may not have outside food delivered and/or dropped off by anyone to include meal delivery services and friends/family. No student should sell or buy food, beverages, candy, etc. as this behavior will not be tolerated. While we understand the need for students to stay hydrated, students may only have water in a clear, non-glass water bottle. Outside drinks such as coffee, frozen coffee drinks, and energy drinks will not be permitted.**

### **Communicable Diseases**

If a child has a communicable disease (for example, pink eye or head lice) Board Policy 4230.5 requires that he/she remain at home until the disease is no longer contagious for the protection of other students and staff. All children with fevers of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater will be excluded from school until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Motrin, Aspirin, etc.)

### **Conferences**

We encourage parent-teacher conferences. A parent-teacher conference or a phone call to a teacher is the first step a parent should take if there is a concern. Conferences should be scheduled with the child's teachers or by calling the school at (910) 347-2738. FERPA (confidentiality regulations) requires that conferences be arranged by the legal parent or legal guardian and that the legal parent or legal guardian be present at the conference.

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

Attending extra-curricular and other after-school activities is considered a privilege. Students must have a signed permission slip to attend. **Students are expected to adhere to the school dress code and code of conduct while participating/attending school-related activities.** Students will not be permitted to attend such events if they are assigned ISS or OSS on the date of the event. Students must be picked up promptly after the event. Administration has the right to deny student attendance/participation in any event.

### **Grade Reports**

To keep parents informed and involved in their child's education, report cards will be sent home every nine weeks. Parents are encouraged to sign up for Parent Portal on PowerSchool so that they have up to date information on their child's grades.

### **Hall Passes**

When it is necessary for a student to be out of class for any reason, he/she must have a pass. Hall passes for specific destinations are used by each teacher. Failure to have a hall pass from a teacher will be considered skipping class. Only one student from each class should utilize a hall pass. Students should proceed directly to their destination without unnecessary detours.

### **Inclement Weather**

In the event of inclement weather, OCS sends out phone alerts and posts to websites to notify students, parents and staff of school delays and closings. Parents/Guardians should ensure contact information is up to date. In the event of delayed opening, the buses will also run late.

### **Instructional Time**

One important way that a school can have a positive and direct impact on student achievement is through the protection of instructional time. For this reason, **no visitors will be allowed in classrooms during the school day** unless they are a guest speaker, part of a planned instructional activity, or have arranged a time with the classroom teacher or administration.

### **Media Center**

Students may check out a maximum of two books at a time. Books may be checked out for a two-week period and may be renewed twice. Students with overdue or lost books cannot check out additional books until this is taken care of. If a student loses or damages books checked out in his/her name, they must pay for the book.

### **Medication**

Except in special circumstances, which have been approved by a physician and the school nurse (i.e., certain asthma inhalers), all medication is dispensed from the school office. All medications require a physician completed medication form completed that is filed with the school. **This properly completed form, and the medication needs to be brought to the office by the parent/guardian.** Students are not permitted to carry medicine themselves nor

are they allowed to self-medicate. For safety reasons, over-the-counter medications (i.e., Tylenol, cough drops, eye drops, etc.) cannot be dispensed by school personnel or used by students without a physician's written order. Students cannot carry over-the-counter medications on their person or in their personal possessions. **Students who bring medication to school and do not comply with these guidelines will be disciplined, to include possible suspension from school and referral to legal authorities.**

#### **Moment of Silence**

The Onslow County Board of Education Policy #3330/4050, authorizes the observance of a moment of silence each day in all grades in the school system. A moment of silence may not exceed one minute in length, must be completely unstructured and free of any influence from any source, and no other activity will be allowed during that time. DMS observes a moment of silence at the start of the school day.

#### **Parent Support Organization**

Dixon Middle School encourages parents to join our PTO. If interested, email [dmsbulldogpto@gmail.com](mailto:dmsbulldogpto@gmail.com).

#### **Promotion/Retention Standards**

OCS Board of Education Policy #3420: "The board believes that students should progress to the next level of study only after they are proficient in their knowledge and application of the current curriculum level."

It is recognized that the final authority to grade and place students is the responsibility of the principal, in accordance with G.S. 115C-288(a). The principal shall consider the student's classroom work and grades, the student's scores on standardized tests, and the best educational interests of the student.

#### **6-8 Additional Promotion Requirements**

Students in grades six through eight must earn a passing grade in a minimum of 5 year-long or equivalent year-long combination curricular classes, four of which should be language arts, math, science and social studies.

#### **6-8 High School Credit-bearing Courses**

A student in grades 6-8 who chooses to enroll in a high school credit-bearing course will be held to the High School Diploma Standards as indicated below.

#### **Student Harassment/Threats/Bullying**

Harassment, communicating threats, and/or bullying reporting forms for students and parents are available in the front office and on the school's webpage. Students, parents, volunteers and/or visitors are encouraged to submit any complaints of discrimination or harassment, other than sexual harassment, through the grievance procedure established in Policy #1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Policy. Reports may be made anonymously, and all reports will be investigated. Once the investigation is completed, violations may result in in-school or out-of-school suspension.

#### **School Counselors**

Students may request to see the school counselors via the request form on the webpage. Students are encouraged to work with the counselors for **personal** guidance and for information on grades, study help, and testing programs. Counselors are available to discuss any home, school, or social concerns. The counselors are also available for assistance with peer mediation.

#### **School Hours**

The classroom doors will open at 7:10am. Students will not be permitted on campus before 7:10am unless they are attending scheduled tutoring or a school sponsored activity. Breakfast will be available each morning. Students eating breakfast must remain in the cafeteria. Any student not eating breakfast will report straight to their homeroom class upon arrival. The first bell will ring at 7:25am and the tardy bell will ring at 7:30am. Students who arrive in their classroom after 7:30am will be marked tardy. School officials will notify parents when tardiness becomes a recurring problem. Students are expected to leave school immediately following dismissal at 2:40pm, unless they are involved in a school sponsored activity.

#### **Signing In/Out**

Late arrival/early checkout is strongly discouraged. Students miss valuable instruction and will be counted absent or tardy in accordance with the county attendance policy. Students will not be released to anyone but a parent, legal guardian, or emergency contact with proper identification.

**To prepare for dismissal and to ensure the safety of all students, it will not be possible for students to be checked out after 2:20pm.**

### **Student Recognition**

We believe in recognizing and rewarding excellence in our students. We have several recognition programs:

- Honors Assemblies—Celebrations will be held at the end of each semester to recognize students who have been on honor roll and principal's list all year.
- Grade-level incentive trips/socials—Details about eligibility will be shared by each grade level team.
- Students of the Month will be submitted by each team of teachers per grade level. Students will receive a positive phone call home, certificate and sweet treat of choice.

### **Student Physical Examination Requirements**

Physical examinations for middle school students will be required only for those participating in athletics, or those students who are unable to participate fully in regular PE classes. The doctor should indicate limitations in PE classes on the physical form or in a written note. Any student who is under a doctor's care cannot participate in athletics or PE until the doctor provides a written release. Physical forms must be presented to the coach prior to the first day of practice or try-outs for any athletic team, including cheerleading.

### **Title IX Statement**

Onslow County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability in its programs or activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding Title IX: Title IX Coordinator, Onslow County Schools, 200 Broadhurst Road, Jacksonville, N.C. 28540, 910-9892021.

### **Traffic Flow - Commuters**

#### **Morning Car Rider Procedures:**

- ❖ **Operates from 7:10am-7:30am. Students dropped off after 7:30am will be considered Tardy.**
- ❖ Students **may not** be dropped off from any parking areas or any other location.
- ❖ **Supervision provided by DMS staff:** Please watch and listen for the supervising staff's directions. Please remain in the line. Do not pull around other cars.
- ❖ **Exiting drop off area:** Do not move your vehicle until DMS staff has given you the ok to move. When exiting, please look ahead and behind when moving your car. Please be patient. Students are precious cargo and will be provided the safest environment possible.

#### **Afternoon Car Rider Procedures:**

- ❖ **Operates from 2:40-3:00pm.**
- ❖ Students **may not** be picked up from any parking areas or any other location.
- ❖ **Supervision provided by DMS staff:** Only move forward in line when directed by staff until the loading zone is full.
- ❖ **Loading vehicle/Exiting car rider line:** Students will be released to load cars once the line has stopped. Once vehicles are loaded, **they will not be allowed to leave the line by driving around others.** All loaded vehicles will be dismissed in an orderly fashion. Please pull forward when directed to do so by the staff and be attentive when the line is stopping.

**Parents should always remain in their vehicle and should not talk/text on cell phones while in the commuter line.** These guidelines should make commuting to school safer for students and more efficient for parents.

**Middle school students are expected to know who they are allowed to ride home with and should not ride home with anyone that their parents have not approved.**

### **Visitors**

All visitors are to report to the school office when they arrive on the school campus. All visitors must sign in and receive a pass before being escorted to their meeting or conference. No visitor is to be unescorted on the campus at any time. The safety of our students is a top priority. Thank you in advance to all visitors for your support of this policy.

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

The rules and regulations are established for the health, safety, and welfare of all students. Students are responsible for knowing the rules and policies of the school system and DMS. The following listings are the basic rules. However, additional regulations may be added as necessary. Please refer to the Student Related Board of Education Policies and School Bus Safety Regulations handbook that your child was given by their homeroom teacher for additional important policies. Whenever possible, student discipline will be handled between the teacher, student, and their parents. Dixon Middle School is dedicated to effective school/family communication, and it is through this contact that we can meet the needs of each individual student. Each teacher has a written classroom management plan that they will share with students and parents at the start of the school year.

### Aggressive Behavior

Aggressive physical contact between students is a safety risk for them and those around them. Shoving, kicking, hitting, pushing, slapping, etc. regardless of intent are unacceptable behaviors. Even when students are "playing around", they run the risk of injury or an escalation into hostile behavior or a fight. An investigation will take place.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: up to 3 days of ISS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: up to 5 days of ISS
- Repeated Offenses may result in up to 3 days of OSS.

### Affection

Public displays of affection are not acceptable at DMS. This includes kissing, hugging, and handholding. A warning will be given, and parents may be called. Continued behavior will result in disciplinary action.

### Bullying/Communicating Threats

Any action, whether physical, verbal, or non-verbal that is meant to intimidate or demean another student or a staff member will not be tolerated. This includes racial slurs. Any reports will be investigated and documented by school officials. Parents of all parties involved will be contacted.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: up to 5 days of ISS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: up to 5 days of OSS
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: up to 10 days OSS

\*Repeated offenses may result in long-term suspension, referral to OCLC, and/or law enforcement.

### Cell Phones/Cameras/Personal Devices

Cell phones, cameras and personally owned devices are not to be used on campus during the school day, except when approved by a school official. Cell phones and ear buds should not be used during transition times. **All cell phones should be turned off or on silent and placed in a secure area of the student's book bag so it cannot be seen.**

Students can expect to have these items confiscated and turned into the office if they are in violation.

- 1st offense: item will be returned at the end of class.
- 2nd offense: item returned at the end of the day.
- Repeated offenses will require items to be picked up by parent/guardian and possible disciplinary action.

**Refusal by a student to give up an item to a school official or staff member will result in ISS/OSS.**

OCS Policy 4318: Use of Wireless Communication Devices, details the authorized use, consequences for unauthorized use, and search of wireless communication devices.

**Students may not record any part of an active classroom without the teacher's consent.**

Students may not take pictures or video of any tests or assignments without the teacher's consent.

**Students may not record or take pictures of other students with or without their consent.**

Onslow County Schools 1:1 Responsible Use Guidelines includes the following:

- Any video, audio, or photographic recording in classrooms or other areas designated for student learning without prior consent from the student(s), teacher(s), and school administration is strictly prohibited.
- Any video, audio, or photographic recording in restrooms, locker rooms, or any other areas where privacy is expected is impermissible. Violations of this rule may result in criminal charges.

### **Cheating**

Cheating/Plagiarism is not tolerated. This can include turning in someone else's work and turning in AI generated work as your own. Students caught plagiarizing/cheating will make up the assessment/assignment in question in an alternate location.

### **Clear Threats to Safety**

OCS Board Policy 4333 outlines prohibited student behaviors and general consequences. These behaviors include weapons and weapon-like items, bomb threats, terrorist threats and clear threats to student and employee safety. "The board will not tolerate the presence of weapons or destructive devices, bomb or terrorist threats, or actions that constitute a clear threat to the safety of students or employees. Any student who violates this policy will be removed from the classroom or school environment for as long as is necessary to provide a safe and orderly environment for learning."

### **Cologne/Perfume/Spray Deodorant**

Spray products (scented and unscented) can trigger adverse medical reactions for many students and staff. This includes colognes, perfumes, and spray deodorants. **ALL SPRAY PRODUCTS must be left at home.** Students in Physical Education or participating in athletics after school, should bring a form of solid or roll-on antiperspirant/deodorant. Sprays are not permitted in locker rooms, even during athletic functions or practices. These items will be confiscated and will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian. Misuse of spray products may result in disciplinary action.

### **Disruptive Behavior**

Classroom rules are established to maximize instructional time. Students should always be mindful of how their actions impact the learning environment for all students. Students who are talking excessively, out of their seat, and distracting other students disrupt the class's learning and are therefore unacceptable. Continued behavior of this type will result in disciplinary action and a behavior plan as needed.

### **Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress appropriately while at school. Administration will make the final decision on appropriate school dress. Special days such as hat days are approved on occasion at the discretion of administration and will be announced in advance.

**The following attire will be the Dress code for ALL Dixon Middle School students during the instructional day.**

### **Examples of inappropriate attire:**

- Exposed undergarments.
- See-through or excessively short, tight, or revealing clothes.
- Bottoms shorter than fingertip length, to include holes/rips.
- Bare midriff shirts. Skin should not show when arms are raised above head.
- Shirts or tops that have a strap less than the width of three fingers.
- Clothing with lewd, indecent, or vulgar messages or illustrations.
- Clothing that advertises products or services illegal to minors.
- Head coverings, headgear, or bandanas.
- Chains, spikes, or other accessories that could be perceived as or used as a weapon.
- Clothing that violates the school system's policies against gangs and gang-related activities.

Students dressed inappropriately will have a parent called for a change of clothing. Students dressed inappropriately will not be allowed to return to class until they are appropriately attired. Any lost class time and class work must be made up.

### **Drugs, Alcohol, and Illegal Substances**

Possession, use, and/or distribution of drugs, alcohol, and other illegal substances are strictly forbidden at DMS and are in violation of the law. Charges will be filed by the School Resource Office (SRO). Students involved in these activities will receive out-of-school suspension. Long-term suspension, alternative school, and expulsion may also result.

### **Fighting**

Any student who engages in a fight and who is determined to have either provoked it or who could have reasonably prevented it from happening will be charged with fighting. Often, students indicate that they have simply been defending themselves in a fight. Self-defense involves getting away from the fight and notifying an adult without throwing punches or engaging in the altercation. **Fighting is unlawful on public property and may result in charges being filed by the SRO.** During an exchange, if students are asked to disperse and they do not, they

will be disciplined for failing to follow an administrative directive.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: up to 5 days OSS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: up to 10 days OSS
- Additional offenses: OCLC referral or long-term suspension

### **Food, Gum, Candy, Drinks**

No food, gum, candy, or drinks (**except water**) are allowed on school property during the school day, except at lunch. Students may not have outside food delivered and/or dropped off by anyone to include meal delivery services and friends/family. No student should sell or buy food, beverages, candy, etc. as this behavior will not be tolerated. While we understand the need for students to stay hydrated, students may only have water in a clear, non-glass water bottle. Outside drinks such as coffee, frozen coffee drinks, and energy drinks will not be permitted.

### **Inappropriate Materials**

The possession of inappropriate magazines, books, images/videos, or internet materials is prohibited. This includes possession of or distributing/showing to other students inappropriate or lewd materials/images and non-instructional games on school grounds. Disciplinary action can include the following:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Loss of technology and /or up to 3 days ISS.
- Repeat Offenses/Severe Offenses will result in additional consequences.

### **Profanity**

The use of profanity in school is strictly prohibited. Please respect yourself and those around you. Students caught using or writing profanity on campus will receive the following disciplinary action:

- Not directed towards an individual: Up to 3 Days ISS.
- Directed towards a staff member: Up to 5 Days OSS.

\*Profanity on the bus may result in bus suspension.

### **Prohibited Items**

Students **may not** possess the following items on school property or at school events:

- Skateboards or wheelies.
- Pillows and blankets.
- Non-educational toys.

### **Refusal of Teacher/Administrator Directive**

The refusal to follow reasonable directives of teachers or other school personnel will be considered defiance. Students may not refuse to follow a directive because they do not like the directive or believe it to be unfair. If a student has a question or concern with the directive of a teacher, it should be discussed with the teacher in private or brought to the attention of an administrator later. **Students may not walk out of class without permission.**

\*Refusal to follow a directive may result in up to 3 days OSS.

### **Skipping School or Class**

Any student who is not in his/her scheduled class is considered skipping. Failure to sign in or out during the day for any reason is considered skipping school. Any student in the hall without an approved pass is considered skipping.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Up to 1 Day ISS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Up to 3 Days ISS

### **Vandalism, or Destruction of School Property**

Any student found guilty of vandalism, and/or destruction of school property will be disciplined by the school, pay restitution, and may be referred to law enforcement officials.

- Minimum action: up to 3 days ISS
- Maximum action: up to 5 days OSS

### **Technology**

All students must have signed permission by parents/guardians to have and use technology or the internet at DMS. Students must follow all school and OCS guidelines and policies for internet and technology use and will face disciplinary action for failure to do so. These consequences may include ISS, OSS, and loss of technology and internet privileges.

### **Theft**

Stealing can be a serious problem in schools. Students should take care to protect their possessions. Items that are valuable or not necessary should not be brought to school. The possession of property (books, clothing, and equipment) that is not your personal property will be viewed as stealing. Such property should be turned into a school official immediately. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged property.

In these situations, the student will be given the opportunity to file a report with the school's SRO.

### **Throwing Objects**

Any "wasps", spitballs, rubber bands, pencils, erasers, or any other airborne item or device is a serious **safety hazard** and behavioral issue. This will result in disciplinary action.

### **Vapes/Tobacco Products/E-Cigarette/Juul**

OCS Board Policy #4320:

The board is committed to creating safe, orderly, clean, and inviting schools for all students and staff. To this end, the board supports state laws that prohibit the **sale or distribution** of tobacco products to minors and that prohibit the use of tobacco products by minors. The board also supports state and federal laws that prohibit the use of tobacco products in school buildings, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board. **For the purposes of this policy, the term "tobacco product" means any product that contains or that is made or derived from tobacco and is intended for human consumption, including all lighted and smokeless tobacco products, as well as electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, and other electronic smoking devices even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine.**

**Prohibited Behavior** - In support of the board's commitments and state and federal law, students are prohibited from using or possessing any tobacco product (1) in any school building, on any school campus, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the school board, including school vehicles; (2) at any school-related activity, including athletic events; or (3) at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of school personnel, including during school trips.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Up to 3 days OSS
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Up to 5 days OSS
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and further offenses: Up to 10 days OSS
- Additional offenses: OCLC referral or long-term suspension

All Onslow County Schools are tobacco free at all times and at all activities, including athletic events. This includes students and adults.

### **Weapons**

Any weapon, facsimile of a weapon or item that can be used as a weapon, is strictly prohibited. This will result in up to 10 days' suspension and possibly more serious consequences such as long-term suspension. Weapons are reported to law enforcement and charges will be filed. This is a very serious rule violation. **Please read closely the section on weapons in the school system handbook.**

