

William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy

**2025-2026**



# **“Viking City”**

## **Student & Parent Handbook**

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**“Empowering Minds. Inspiring Futures.”**

**William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M Academy**

## **Principal's Message**

**From the Desk of:**

**Dr. Tevis Harris, Principal**

Dear Viking Scholars and Families,

Welcome to the 2025–2026 school year at William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy — ***Our Year to Lead, Learn, and Level Up!*** I am honored to serve as your principal and excited about the opportunities that lie ahead as we continue to build a school culture rooted in excellence, equity, and empowerment.

This year, we are committed to elevating our academic performance, embracing our identity as a STEM school, and preparing every student to thrive in middle school, high school, college, careers, and beyond. We will challenge ourselves to grow intellectually, socially, and emotionally — because true success means more than just making grades; it means developing character, curiosity, and confidence.

At Davie, every student is a leader, a learner, and a difference-maker. You will engage in hands-on STEM experiences, explore your talents in the arts and electives, strengthen your literacy and math skills, and connect learning to the real world through meaningful projects, guest speakers, and community partnerships.

Our staff is dedicated to ensuring that you are seen, heard, and supported every step of the way. We believe in you, and we are ready to walk alongside you as you discover your purpose, pursue your passions, and push past every obstacle in your path.

Let's make this a year to remember — filled with excellence, innovation, and Viking pride!

In partnership and purpose,

**Dr. Tevis Harris**

**Principal**

**William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy**

**#VikingStrong #VikingsLead #VikingLearn #VikingLevelUp**

## Our School Objectives

At William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy, our faculty and staff are committed to fostering academic, social, and emotional growth for every student. Our goals are guided by the following core objectives:

- **To create a positive and supportive learning environment** where students feel safe, valued, and motivated to succeed. We emphasize encouragement and the recognition of individual and collective achievements.
- **To help every student develop a strong sense of self-worth, independence, and self-discipline**, preparing them to take ownership of their actions and choices.
- **To recognize and honor individual differences**, ensuring that instructional practices and classroom experiences are inclusive, differentiated, and responsive to diverse learning needs.
- **To promote health and wellness**, encouraging students to develop lifelong habits that support physical and emotional well-being through structured health programs.
- **To develop higher-order thinking and problem-solving skills** by providing learning experiences that require analysis, reasoning, collaboration, and effective communication—both written and oral.
- **To ensure that all students become technologically proficient**, equipping them with the digital literacy and computational skills needed to thrive in a 21st-century learning environment.
- **To inspire curiosity and a love for learning**, encouraging students to ask questions, seek solutions, and explore new ideas with confidence and enthusiasm.
- **To build strong partnerships between school, home, and community**, recognizing that collaboration is essential to meeting the academic, behavioral, and emotional needs of every student.
- **To model lifelong learning as educators**, continuously pursuing professional growth in order to better serve our students, families, and the broader school community.

### School Vision

*To be a bold and brilliant S.T.E.M. academy where learning is immersive, teaching is inspired, and students are equipped to solve real-world problems with confidence, creativity, and compassion.*

### School Mission

*To cultivate a dynamic and inclusive learning environment that empowers students through rigorous academics, hands-on S.T.E.M. experiences, and character-building opportunities. Through innovative teaching, strong community partnerships, and a commitment to equity and excellence, we prepare students to lead, learn, and thrive in a rapidly changing world.*

## Our School Beliefs

At William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy, our beliefs guide our practice and reflect our unwavering commitment to student success, equity, and professional excellence. These principles serve as the foundation for how we educate, support, and grow as a school community.

1. **We believe in the power of collaboration.**

Strong, supportive relationships with all stakeholders—including students, families, staff, and the community—are essential. None of us can do this work alone; we must uplift and lean on each other when needed.

2. **We believe in taking ownership of student learning.**

It is our professional responsibility to ensure that every student learns what we set out to teach. Student success is not optional—it is our shared mission.

3. **We believe every child has the right to a high-quality education.**

This means providing all students with access to a rigorous curriculum and equipping them with the tools and strategies needed to take full advantage of their learning opportunities.

4. **We believe in cultivating a positive and nurturing environment.**

All students deserve a safe, supportive space where learning can flourish. As educators, we must model the respect, behavior, and work ethic we expect from our students.

5. **We believe that all students can and will learn.**

It is our duty to maintain high expectations and to encourage and support students in reaching their full potential.

6. **We believe in recognizing and developing student strengths.**

Every student brings unique talents and perspectives to the classroom. These strengths should be nurtured, celebrated, and leveraged to enhance their educational experience.

7. **We believe in continuous reflection and professional growth.**

We have the tools, knowledge, and capacity to meet students' needs. Therefore, we must regularly reflect on our practice, seek feedback, and commit to ongoing improvement.

8. **We believe students are the most important stakeholders in their own education.**

Students must be taught to take ownership of their learning, reflect on their progress, and strive toward personal and academic growth.

## Statement of Philosophy

William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy, serving students in grades 6–8, is committed to fostering a nurturing, inclusive, and academically focused environment. Central to our philosophy is the belief in cultivating a family-oriented atmosphere, where every student feels seen, supported, and valued. This sense of community forms the foundation for promoting each student’s social, emotional, and academic development.

We recognize that every student possesses unique intellectual, physical, emotional, and social strengths and needs, and we strive daily to meet those needs through personalized learning, supportive relationships, and high expectations.

Education is a continuous, collaborative process shared between the school and the greater community. Together, we prepare students to become thoughtful, responsible, and productive citizens in a diverse and evolving democratic society.

Our educators are highly skilled professionals who are accountable to students, families, and the broader community. They are committed to lifelong learning and the continuous improvement of instructional practices to meet the ever-changing needs of their learners.

With the support of families and community partners, our staff is dedicated to promoting a culture of courtesy, integrity, and responsibility. We expect students to reflect these values in their interactions with peers and adults alike, both within the school setting and in the broader society.

Through a positive and structured learning environment, students are encouraged to grow in self-awareness, independence, and decision-making skills. Our ultimate goal is to help every student build a strong sense of identity, develop a positive self-image, and set meaningful, achievable goals for their future.

# 2025-2026 Halifax County Schools Calendar

<b>Start of School Year/ Return from Break</b>	<b>Holiday;</b> schools closed	<b>Mandatory Teacher Workday (MW)</b> non-student day	<b>PLC Day;</b> early Release for students	<b>Early Release Day</b> Early Release for Students & Staff
<b>End of School Year</b>	<b>Annual Leave (AL)</b> schools closed	<b>Optional Teacher Workday (OW);</b> non-student day	<b>Staff Professional Development (PD);</b> non-student day	<b>PR - Progress Reports GP- Grading Period Ends Harvest Days Festival -10/17</b>

## Halifax County Schools 2025-2026 Elementary & Middle School Calendar

August 2025 5/15							September 2025 21/21							October 2025 21/23							November 2025 14/17						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	PLC	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	C	PD	PD	MW	OW	16	14	15	16	17	18	PLC	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	PLC	15
17	MW	MW	MW	MW	MW	23	21	22	PR	24	25	26	27	19	OW	PD	22	23	GP	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<sup>24</sup> <sub>31</sub>	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		<sup>23</sup> <sub>30</sub>	OW	OW	OW	27	28	29
December 2025 15/15							January 2026 19/20							February 2026 19/20							March 2026 21/22						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	PR	5	6					1	OW	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	PLC	14	8	9	10	11	12	PLC	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	PLC GP	17	15	MW	17	18	PR	20	21	15	PD	17	18	19	20	21
21	AL	AL	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	GP	25	26	27	28
28	AL	AL	AL				25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				
April 2026 16/16							May 2026 20/20							June 2026 3/5							July 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4						PR	2		1	2	GP	MW	MW	6				1	2	3	4
5	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	11	3	4	5	6	7	PLC	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30			<sup>24</sup> <sub>31</sub>	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

\*Open House/Orientation for all grade levels will be August 21th from 2-6PM.

\*All Students are required to have clear book bags.

Halifax County Schools

# Strive For Five!

1. READY

2. RESPECT

3. RESILIENT

4. TRIUMPHANT

5. PROFICIENT





# 2025-2026 Daily Schedule



6th GRADE	7th GRADE	8th GRADE
Homeroom 7:30-8:00	Homeroom 7:30-8:00	Homeroom 7:30-8:00
1st Block - 8:03 - 8:58	1st Block - 8:03 - 8:58	1st Block - 8:03 - 8:58
2nd Block - 9:01 - 9:56	2nd Block - 9:01 - 9:56	2nd Block - 9:01 - 9:56
3rd Block - 9:59 - 10:54	3rd Block - 9:59 - 10:54	3rd Block - 9:59 - 10:54
4th Block - 10:57 - 11:52	4th Block - 10:57 - 11:52	4th Block - 10:57 - 11:52
5th Block/Lunch/Recess 11:55-1:35	5th Block/Lunch/Recess 11:55-1:35	5th Block/Lunch/Recess 11:55-1:35
<b>6th Grade Lunch/Recess</b> 12:15-1:00	<b>7th Grade Lunch/Recess</b> 12:30-1:15	<b>8th Grade Lunch/Recess</b> 12:50-1:35
6th Block - 1:38 - 2:33	6th Block - 1:38 - 2:33	6th Block - 1:38 - 2:33
7th Block/Remediation 2:36-3:30	7th Block/Remediation 2:36-3:30	7th Block/Remediation 2:36-3:30

Lunch Schedules: Class Time			Lunch & Recess Times	Class Time	
***6th Grade Lunch/Recess	12:15	1:00	45 minutes L-12:15-12:40 & R-12:40-1:00	11:55-12:15 & 1:00-1:35	55 minutes
***7th Grade Lunch/Recess	12:30	1:15	45 minutes L-12:30-12:55 & R-12:55-1:15	11:55-12:30 & 1:15-1:35	55 minutes
***8th Grade Lunch/Recess	12:50	1:35	45 Minutes L-12:50-1:15 & R-1:15-1:35	11:55-12:50	55 minutes

Announcements for all - 3:25

Dismissal for all begins - 3:30

### Food Delivery Policy

Due to Federal child nutrition regulations, food delivery services and parent restaurant food drop-off are prohibited.



## 2025-2026 Early Release Schedule



<b>6th GRADE</b>	<b>7th GRADE</b>	<b>8th GRADE</b>
Homeroom 7:30-8:00	Homeroom 7:30-8:00	Homeroom 7:30-8:00
1st Block - 8:00 - 8:35	1st Block - 8:00 - 8:35	1st Block - 8:00 - 8:35
2nd Block - 8:38 - 9:13	2nd Block - 8:38 - 9:13	2nd Block - 8:38 - 9:13
3rd Block - 9:16 - 10:03	3rd Block - 9:16 - 10:03	3rd Block - 9:16 - 10:03
4th Block - 10:06 - 10:35	4th Block - 10:06 - 10:35	4th Block - 10:06 - 10:35
6th Block - 10:38 - 11:07 Walk to lunch at 11:07	6th Block - 10:38 - 11:07 Walk to 5th at 11:07	6th Block - 10:38 - 11:07 Walk to 5th at 11:07
<b>6th Grade Lunch</b> -11:07 - 11:37 Walk to 5th-11:37 5th Block-11:37 - 12:00	5th Block-11:07 - 11:15 <b>7th Grade Lunch</b> -11:15 - 11:45 Walk back to 5th-11:45 Rest of 5th Block-11:45 - 12:00	5th Block-11:07 - 11:30 <b>8th Grade Lunch</b> -11:30 - 12:00 Students dismiss from cafeteria

Announcements for all -11:55

Dismissal for all begins - 12:00

\*There will be no Assigned Recess on Early Release Days



## 2025-2026 2 Hour Delay Schedule



<b>6th GRADE</b>	<b>7th GRADE</b>	<b>8th GRADE</b>
Homeroom 9:30-10:00	Homeroom 9:30-10:00	Homeroom 9:30-10:00
1st Block - 10:00 - 10:45	1st Block - 10:00 - 10:45	1st Block - 10:00 - 10:45
2nd Block - 10:48 - 11:33	2nd Block - 10:48 - 11:33	2nd Block - 10:48 - 11:33
3rd Block - 11:36 - 12:21 go to 5th block at 12:21	3rd Block - 11:36 - 12:21 go to 5th block at 12:21	3rd Block - 11:36 - 12:21 go to 5th block at 12:21
<u>6th Grade Lunch</u> 12:24 - 12:54 5th Block-12:54 -1:39	5th Block-12:24-12:39 <u>7th Grade Lunch</u> 12:39 - 1:09 Rest of 5th Block-1:09 -1:39	5th Block-12:24-12:39 <u>6th Grade Lunch</u> 12:54 - 1:24 Rest of 5th Block-1:24 -1:39
4th Block - 1:42-2:27	4th Block - 1:42-2:27	4th Block - 1:42-2:27
6th Block - 2:30-3:30	6th Block - 2:30-3:30	6th Block - 2:30-3:30

Announcements for all -3:25

Dismissal for all begins - 3:30

\*There will be no Assigned Recess on 2-Hour Delay Days



## 2025-2026 1 Hour Delay Schedule



<b>6th GRADE</b>	<b>7th GRADE</b>	<b>8th GRADE</b>
Homeroom 8:30-9:00	Homeroom 8:30-9:00	Homeroom 8:30-9:00
1st Block - 9:00 - 9:55	1st Block - 9:00 - 9:55	1st Block - 9:00 - 9:55
2nd Block - 9:58 - 10:53	2nd Block - 9:58 - 10:53	2nd Block - 9:58 - 10:53
3rd Block - 10:56 - 11:51 Go to 5th block at 11:51	3rd Block - 10:56 - 11:51 Go to 5th block at 11:51	3rd Block - 10:56 - 11:51 Go to 5th block at 11:51
6th Grade Lunch-11:54 - 12:24 5th Block-12:24-1:19	5th Block-11:54-12:14 7th Grade Lunch-12:15-12:45 Rest of 5th-12:45-1:19	5th Block-11:54-12:49 8th Grade Lunch-12:49-1:19 Go to 4th at 1:19
4th Block - 1:22-2:17	4th Block - 1:22-2:17	4th Block - 1:22-2:17
6th Block - 2:20-3:30	6th Block - 2:20-3:30	6th Block - 2:20-3:30

Announcements for all -3:25

Dismissal for all begins - 3:30

\*There will be no Assigned Recess on 1-Hour Delay Days

## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### **Parent Conferences**

Partnerships between home and school are vital to student success. Parent-teacher conferences are strongly encouraged and may be scheduled before or after school hours. To request a conference, please contact your child's teacher through Infinite Campus, or the school office in advance. Your collaboration is greatly appreciated.

### **Course Offerings**

William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy provides a robust curriculum that includes both core academic subjects and exploratory electives designed to support student growth, creativity, and college-and-career readiness.

Core Subjects:

- English/Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Exploratory Courses:

- Band
- Health & Physical Education
- S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)
- C.T.E. (Career and Technical Education)
- Spanish (Fall)
- Art (Spring)

### **Schedule Changes**

Schedule changes will only be considered when it is determined that such a change will benefit the student's academic, social, or emotional well-being. Any request for a schedule change must be reviewed and approved by the principal.

### **Report Cards & Progress Reports**

Academic performance is formally reported to parents and guardians through:

- Report Cards: Issued four times per year at the end of each nine-week grading period. *Q1 Report Card will require Parent Pick-up.*
- Progress Reports: Distributed at the midpoint of each grading period (Week 3 or 4). These reports must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the student's teacher.

We encourage families to be proactive in monitoring student progress via Infinite Campus. Please contact teachers early in the grading period to schedule conferences or address any academic concerns.

## **Exceptional Children (EC) Services**

Students who qualify for special education services may receive instruction in inclusion or resource classroom settings, based on their Individualized Education Program (IEP). If you have questions or would like to discuss services, please contact the Exceptional Children's Coordinator or a school administrator to schedule a meeting.

### Honor Roll Recognition

Academic excellence is recognized through our Honor Roll Program, which celebrates students' efforts and achievements each grading period.

- Principal's List: 4.0 GPA (All A's)
- High Honors: 3.5–3.9 GPA with no grade lower than a C
- Honors: 3.0–3.4 GPA

Honor roll designations are based on official grades recorded in PowerSchool.

## **Grading System**

In grades 6–8, student performance in all academic and exploratory courses is assessed using the following grading scale:

A	Excellent Performance	90-100
B	Good Performance	80-89
C	Satisfactory Performance	70-79
D	Weak Performance	60-69
F	Unsatisfactory Performance	59 and below

### Grading Breakdown:

- Homework: 10%
- Classwork: 35%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Projects: 20%
- Tests: 25%

Student grades are determined by a combination of class activities, assessments, projects, homework, and participation. If a student fails to complete an assignment, a zero will be recorded in PowerSchool until the assignment is made up. At the end of the grading period, if a student's final average is below 50, the grade will be adjusted to a 50 to support continued growth and recovery in the next term.

## **Homework Expectations**

At William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. homework is considered an essential part of academic development. It reinforces concepts taught in class, promotes responsibility, and builds independence in learning.

Homework Guidelines:

- Homework may be assigned daily, including weekends.
- Assignments must be purposeful, relevant, and aligned with current instructional goals.
- Students should expect to spend 1 to 2 hours per day on homework across all subjects.
- All homework is required and must be completed by the assigned due date.

## **Promotion Criteria (Grades 6–8)**

To be promoted to the next grade level, students in grades 6–8 must meet the following requirements:

- Pass English/Language Arts
- Pass Mathematics
- Pass either Science or Social Studies
- Pass at least 50% of all remaining courses taken

Additionally, students must demonstrate on-grade-level proficiency, as evidenced by a final grade of A, B, or C, or performance consistent with their ability and End-of-Grade (EOG) assessment results.

## **Attendance Requirements for Promotion**

To earn course credit and be eligible for promotion, students must meet the following attendance minimums:

- Semester Course: 80 days of attendance
- Yearlong Course: 160 days of attendance

Excused Absences from the 160-Day Rule:

- Observance of recognized religious holidays
- Quarantine ordered by a health authority
- Illness or injury confirmed by a physician
- Court proceedings where the student is a party or subpoenaed
- Death in the immediate family (up to 5 days)

If one of these situations applies, please notify your child's teacher or the school administration as soon as possible so the absence can be appropriately coded.

## **School Counselor Services**

The school counseling program is an integral component of student development at William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy. We recognize that academic success is deeply connected to social and emotional well-being.

Our counselor is dedicated to supporting the whole child by helping students:

- Build healthy relationships
- Develop positive self-esteem
- Navigate academic and emotional challenges
- Make responsible decisions about their futures

Working in partnership with students, families, teachers, and staff, the school counselor provides a safe, supportive space to ensure that each student reaches their fullest potential—academically, socially, and emotionally.

# **REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

## **Campus Visitation**

To ensure student safety, all visitors must enter through the main entrance and proceed through the standing metal detector. Visitors must then check in at the main office to receive a Visitor's Pass, which must be visibly displayed during the visit. Only individuals with confirmed appointments or official school business (e.g., Central Services staff, DPI staff, approved vendors) will be permitted to remain in the building. Visitors are expected to adhere to all current CDC COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

## **Attendance Policy**

North Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law

In accordance with North Carolina General Statute §115C-378, every parent, guardian, or custodian in the state is legally obligated to ensure that their child attends school continuously for the entire time the assigned public school is in session. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the school of the reason for each absence, in accordance with Halifax County Schools' attendance policy.

School administrators, including principals and teachers, are authorized to excuse absences due to sickness or other unavoidable circumstances that align with state and local Board of Education policies.

## **Notification of Excessive Absences**

- **After 3 unexcused absences**, the school will notify the parent/guardian of the student's attendance status.
- **After 6 unexcused absences**, a formal letter will be sent informing the parent/guardian that they may be in violation of the state's compulsory attendance law. This notice will also outline potential legal consequences.
- Following this, the **school's attendance counselor** will intervene, work with the student and family to determine the cause of absences, and identify supports to promote consistent attendance. A law enforcement officer may accompany the counselor for home visits if deemed necessary.
- **After 10 unexcused absences**, the principal will review the attendance history and determine whether the parent/guardian made a good faith effort to comply with the law. If not, the principal will report the case to the district attorney or file a complaint with the juvenile intake counselor, identifying the student as habitually absent without valid cause.

## Types of Absences

### 1. Lawful Absences

Students must submit a **signed note from a parent/guardian** upon returning to school. This note must include the date and reason for the absence. Notes submitted after the second day of return may not be accepted.

Lawful absences include:

- Illness or injury (a doctor's note may be required)
- Quarantine (physician documentation required)
- Death in the immediate family
- Medical or dental appointments (doctor's documentation required)
- Court or administrative proceedings (official documentation required)
- Religious observances
- Educational opportunities (with prior written approval from the principal)

**Make-Up Work:** Students with lawful absences are entitled to make up all missed assignments, tests, and projects. Middle school students are responsible for contacting teachers upon return to arrange for missed work. All make-up work must be completed within **five school days**.

### 2. Unlawful Absences

Any absence not justified or approved by the principal or designee will be marked as unlawful. Students are still allowed to make up work from unlawful absences within **five days**, but failure to do so may result in a grade of zero. Extended absences will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

### 3. Excessive Absences (Lawful and Unlawful)

To receive credit for coursework:

- Students in **grades K–8** must be present for at least **160 school days** per academic year.
- Students in **grades 9–12** must attend **at least 80 class sessions** per course.

Course credit may be **withheld** if more than **10 days** are missed (excluding school-related absences). Parents of students at risk of exceeding this limit will be notified in advance.

Students with extenuating circumstances may appeal through the district's formal grievance process.

# **INSTRUCTIONAL EXPECTATIONS AND DAILY PROCEDURES**

## **Face-to-Face Instruction**

All students enrolled at William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy are expected to participate in daily, in-person instruction. At this time, remote learning is not an option. Consistent attendance is essential for academic success, student engagement, and social-emotional growth.

## **Withdrawing from School**

Students who plan to transfer or withdraw must follow the official process through the Guidance Office:

- Notify the school counselor **at least 3–5 days prior to the withdrawal date.**
- The counselor will provide instructions and necessary forms.
- Students must return all school property, including textbooks, Chromebooks, and library books.
- All fees, fines, and outstanding obligations must be resolved prior to withdrawal.

## **Textbooks & Library Materials**

Textbooks and library books are issued to students on loan and must be properly cared for throughout the year.

- Students are responsible for preventing **damage, defacement, or loss.**
- Charges will apply for books that are **lost or returned in poor condition.**
- All materials must be returned at the end of the school year or upon withdrawal.

## **Daily Arrival & Dismissal Procedures**

### **School Hours**

- **Start Time:** 8:00 a.m.
- **End Time:** 3:30 p.m.
- **Early Pickup Cut-Off:** 2:30 p.m. 11:30 on Early Release days.

To support optimal learning, students should be present and remain in school for the **entire instructional day** unless an emergency arises.

### **Late Arrivals**

- Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. must be signed in by a parent or authorized adult and receive an **admit slip** from the front office.
- Students arriving **after 11:30 a.m.** will be marked **absent for the day.**
- Students arriving after 8:00 a.m. will be considered tardy. After 3 tardies, the parent/guardian will be required to come in for a meeting with the school counselor. After 5 tardies, the parent/guardian will be required to come in for a meeting with the Principal and the Social Worker. After the 6th tardy, truancy paperwork will be filed.

## Early Dismissals

- Only individuals listed in **Infinite Campus** may pick up a student early; **valid ID is required.**
- If someone not listed is picking up the student, the parent must submit a **signed note in advance.**
- Phone calls for dismissal changes will only be accepted from **verified phone numbers** on file.
- Students **signed out before 11:30 a.m.** will be considered **absent for the day.**
- Students need to be in all classes daily. Consistent early dismissals can lead to absences and consequences related to truancy.

## Change in Transportation

To change from **bus rider to car rider**, a written note must be submitted by **11:00 a.m.** If no note is submitted, the individual picking up the student must enter the school and present **photo identification.**

To change bus transportation (to temporarily ride a different bus than assigned), a written note must be submitted by **11:00 a.m.** Parent/guardian must be contacted for approval. Requests may be denied if the requested bus is at capacity. Note: If a signed request is not received by the deadline, the request may be declined. Please ensure that your child's Infinite Campus contact information is current and accurate.

To change to a different bus permanently, a change of address must be filled out with official documentation of the correct address (water bill, power bill, lease, etc) provided. This will require parent/guardian come into the office with proper I.D.

## Class Tardiness Policy

Timeliness is essential for learning. Students are expected to be seated and prepared when class begins. Tardiness interrupts learning for the student and their classmates.

## Tardy Consequences

1st Tardy = Verbal warning documented by the teacher

2nd Tardy = Parent Contact and **1 day ISS** assignment

3rd Tardy = Parent contact again and **1 day OSS**

# **BUILDING EXPECTATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY USE**

## **Hall Passes**

To maintain a safe and productive learning environment, students are not permitted in hallways during class time without an authorized hall pass. Passes must be obtained from the classroom teacher prior to leaving the classroom. Students found in unauthorized or restricted areas without a valid pass may be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Restricted Areas**

Students are strictly prohibited from entering the following areas unless granted permission by staff:

- Staff Lounge
- Staff Restrooms
- Vending Machine Area

## **Bathroom Use Policy**

To minimize disruptions to instruction:

- Students may not use the restroom during the first or last 10 minutes of class or during class transitions.
- Restroom breaks must be granted one student at a time per classroom.
- If a student has a documented medical condition that requires frequent restroom access, parents must submit appropriate documentation to the school nurse.
- Multiple students from the same class will not be permitted to use the restroom simultaneously.

## **Chromebook Policy**

Chromebooks are an essential learning tool and must be used responsibly and appropriately.

\*General Guideline—It is preferred that every students has their own chromebook

- Students may opt to check out a Chromebook for home use by paying a \$20 user fee and signing the Technology Use Agreement.
- All students without a checked out device will be assigned a Day Use Chromebook for in-school use only.

## **Expectations**

- Students are expected to bring their Chromebook fully charged to every class, unless directed otherwise by a teacher.
- Chromebooks are intended for educational use only (not for games or social media).
- Devices are the property of Halifax County Schools and must be treated with care.
- Damaged or lost Chromebooks and chargers must be replaced at the student's expense.
- At the end of the school year, devices and accessories must be returned in good working condition.

Note: Personal electronic devices are not allowed. All personal devices will be collected during morning check-in and returned at dismissal. Unauthorized devices will be confiscated.

### **Use of Office Telephone**

The school phone is designated for school business and emergencies only.

- Students will not be allowed to make personal calls for non-emergency reasons (e.g., arranging playdates, rides, or social plans).
- Students may use the phone only with staff permission.
- To protect instructional time, students will not be called out of class to receive phone calls unless it is an emergency.

## **STUDENT DRESS CODE & APPEARANCE**

Policy Code: 4316 – Student Dress Code and Uniforms

The Halifax County Schools Board of Education maintains that a safe, respectful, and focused learning environment is essential. Student attire and appearance should promote self-respect, minimize distractions, and support a school culture of achievement.

### **A. Dress Code Overview**

The following expectations apply to all students:

#### **1. Bottoms (Pants, Dresses, Skirts, Shorts, Skorts, Jumpers, Capris)**

- Must be appropriately sized and worn at the waist.
- Undergarments must not be visible at any time.
- Distressed jeans with skin revealed are **NOT** permitted.
- Dresses, skirts, and shorts must extend to fingertip length with arms resting at the side.
- Belts must be worn properly and not hang loosely.
- Leggings, jeggings, and bicycle shorts are not allowed.

#### **2. Tops & Shirts**

- Must have appropriate necklines and clearly defined shoulder lines.
- Undergarments should be fully covered at all times.
- Only solid color camisoles or T-shirts may be worn underneath outer garments.
- Clothing must not display any content that is obscene, suggestive, or promotes illegal behavior.
- Clothing associated with gang activity is prohibited (refer to Board Policy 4326).

### 3. Footwear

- Shoes must fit securely and be worn at all times.
- Footwear must be appropriate for PE, recess, science labs, and other school activities.
- The following shoes are **NOT permitted**:
  - Bedroom slippers
  - Slip-on shoes such as slides, Crocs, or bubble slides.

### 4. Outerwear

Students are permitted to wear hooded sweatshirts and jackets; however, hoods may not be worn over the head while inside the school building. Repeated violations may result in students losing the privilege to wear hooded garments at school.

The following items are not permitted to be worn inside the building during the school day:

- Hats
- Toboggans or beanies
- Headscarves (unless for religious or medical purposes)
- Bonnetts
- Sunglasses
- Bandanas
- Skull caps
- Sweatbands

All outerwear must align with the school's commitment to maintaining a safe, distraction-free learning environment. Exceptions will be made for students with documented religious or medical needs, with prior approval from school administration.

### 5. Other Items NOT allowed

The following items are also not allowed to be brought to school. They will be taken at check-in.

- Blankets
- Pillows
- Stuffed Animals

## **B. Exceptions to the Dress Code Policy**

### 1. Religious or Medical Accommodations

Students who, due to sincerely held religious beliefs or documented medical reasons, require exemption from a specific dress code requirement may request a waiver.

- A written waiver request must be submitted annually.
- The school principal or designee may require additional documentation from a licensed medical provider or religious leader to support the request.

## 2. Special Activity or Program Accommodations

Students participating in special school-sanctioned activities that require alternate dress (e.g., athletics, physical education, JROTC, career internships, or specific extracurricular events) will be permitted to wear non-conforming attire during those activities.

- Students enrolled in classes with specific dress requirements may wear the necessary attire throughout the school day.

### **C. Enforcement**

The school principal or designated staff member is responsible for ensuring this dress code is applied fairly, consistently, and in alignment with Halifax County Schools policy across all school settings.

- Expectations will be clearly communicated to students and families at the beginning of the school year and reinforced regularly.

### **D. Compliance Measures**

William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy encourages student dress code compliance through proactive communication and positive reinforcement.

Before disciplinary action is taken, the following steps will occur:

- A school administrator or counselor will contact the parent or guardian to discuss the dress code concern and seek their support.

All disciplinary action will follow a progressive discipline approach, aligned with Halifax County Schools' Board Policy 4300 (Student Behavior Policies), to promote understanding and correction with minimal disruption to learning.

### **E. Disciplinary Consequences for Dress Code Violations**

**Violations of the dress code will result in the following consequences:**

- 1st offense -Parent phone call & ISS Until clothes are brought, if no clothes are brought, student will receive **1 day OSS**.
- 2nd offense -Parent phone call & OSS will be assigned

***Legal References: G.S. 115C-47, -390.2***

***Cross References: Board Policies 4300, 4302, 4315, 4328***

## **STUDENT CELL PHONE AND ELECTRICAL DEVICES**

[\(Policy Code: 4318 Use of Wireless Communication Devices\)](#)

The board recognizes that cellular phones and other wireless communication devices (tablets, laptops, paging devices, two-way radios, gaming devices, and SmartWatches) are an important tool through which parents communicate with their children and through which students gather information. The board also understands that excessive use of wireless communication devices may pose significant health and social risks for students. Therefore, to balance these interests and the needs of students, parents, and the school community, the board limits the use of wireless communication devices as provided in this policy. Principals may establish additional limitations on the use, possession, or display of wireless communication consistent with this policy.

If students do bring cell phones to W.R. Davie, they are subject to the following policy guidelines: Cell phones will be collected upon entering in the mornings and kept stored in a safe area throughout the day. All cell phones will be returned to students at the end of each day.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

Any student attempting to sneak in a cell phone, or caught with a cell phone during the instructional day, will face the following consequences:

- 1st offense -Confiscated and parent must come get it
- 2nd and additional offenses -Parent phone call, parent must pick up phone, &1 Day OSS
- If a student refuses to turn in their cell phone in the morning or in a confiscation, the student will automatically be suspended.
- Beats, headphones, earbuds, airpods, and SmartWatches are encouraged to be left at home, however if brought to school, they will also be confiscated at morning check in along with cell phones. The teacher will provide ear buds if private audio is needed for class. Please make sure to clearly mark your devices and please refer to board policy [4318](#) concerning the school not being responsible for lost or stolen items. Consequences for failure or refusal to turn them in are the same as with cell phones.

# **SAFETY: BAG SEARCH AND METAL DETECTOR PROTOCOL**

**All bookbags MUST be clear.**

## **Purpose**

To ensure a safe and secure learning environment for all students, staff, and visitors, William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy maintains a clear and consistent search protocol for all individuals entering the building.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to all students entering the school building with backpacks, bags, or personal items.

## **Bag Inspection Procedures**

- **Arrival Protocol**

Upon arrival, students are required to present their bags to designated school personnel (Teacher, School Resource Officer, or Administrator) for inspection.

- **Contents to be Removed**

Students must remove all items, including but not limited to:

- Electronic devices
- Textbooks and notebooks
- Personal belongings
- All pockets in clothing should be emptied

## **Metal Detector Procedures**

- After placing their items on the inspection table, students must walk through the standing metal detector.
- If the device signals an alert: Additional screening will be conducted by the School Resource Officer or a school administrator.

## **Additional Search Expectations**

- **Student Cooperation:** Students are expected to comply with all inspection procedures.
- **Refusal to Comply:** Refusal to participate in the screening process may result in disciplinary action aligned with the Student Code of Conduct.
- **Prohibited Items:** Any items found to be unsafe, prohibited, or in violation of school policy will be confiscated immediately, and disciplinary consequences may result.
- **Respect and Dignity:** All searches will be conducted with professionalism and respect, ensuring student dignity and privacy are maintained at all times.
- **Notification:** Parents/guardians and students will be informed of the search protocol at the beginning of the school year, including its purpose, procedures, and consequences for non-compliance.

## **Annual Review**

This protocol will be reviewed annually to ensure effectiveness and alignment with safety regulations. Updates will be shared with stakeholders as needed.

## **Implementation**

This safety protocol is effective beginning with the **2025–2026 school year** and will be communicated to all students, staff, and families through student handbooks, parent meetings, and school communications.

Here is a professionally revised version of your **Fire Drills, Lockdowns, Camera Monitoring, and Selling Policy** section for the student handbook:

# **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS**

## **Fire Drills & Evacuation Procedures**

Fire drills are an essential part of our emergency preparedness plan and are designed to ensure the safety of all students and staff in the event of a real emergency.

### **During a fire drill or actual emergency, students must:**

- Follow all instructions from teachers and staff immediately and without question.
- Treat every drill as a real emergency.
- Exit the building using the route posted on the classroom evacuation chart.
- Walk quickly and quietly in a single-file line. Do not run.
- Remain silent to ensure clear communication.
- Once outside, proceed to the designated area and line up in a single file with your class.
- Wait quietly for instructions. Re-enter the building only when directed by an administrator or staff member.

## **Lockdown Drills**

To ensure preparedness in case of a potential threat inside or near the school, **lockdown drills will be conducted throughout the school year.**

- Parents/guardians will be notified in advance of scheduled lockdown drills.
- Students must follow all directions from school staff and remain silent and still during the drill.
- All doors will be secured, and no one will be allowed to enter or exit the building until the “all clear” signal is given.

### **Surveillance Notice: "Smile, You're on Camera!"**

To maintain a safe and secure environment, **William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy is monitored by security cameras 24/7** in all common areas of the building.

In addition:

- All staff are assigned student supervision duties throughout the day.
- A full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) is stationed on campus to support student safety, conflict resolution, and law enforcement needs.

### **Selling Items on Campus**

Students are **not permitted to sell any items on school property for personal profit.**

- All sales or fundraising efforts must be pre-approved and aligned with Halifax County Schools' district policies.
- Unauthorized items will be confiscated and returned only to a parent/guardian.
- Repeated violations will result in disciplinary consequences according to the Student Code of Conduct.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

At William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy, the health and safety of every student is a top priority. The following guidelines ensure that all students receive appropriate care and support when health-related needs arise.

### **Accidents and First Aid**

In the event of an accident or illness:

- First aid will be administered by the school nurse or authorized personnel.
- In serious situations, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.
- If a parent cannot be reached, the school will follow the emergency instructions on file.
- Emergency services may be contacted if necessary.

### **Medication Administration**

To ensure the safe administration of medication at school:

- No medication will be administered without a completed Medication Authorization Form, signed by both the parent/guardian and a licensed physician.
- A new form is required each school year or when medication dosage/timing changes.
- All medication must be brought in a pharmacy-labeled container.
- Parents must retrieve unused medications at the end of the school year or when discontinued.
- Forms are available from the school nurse or front office.

### **Immunization Requirements**

Per North Carolina state law:

- All students must be up-to-date on required immunizations to attend school.
- Students without current immunization records will not be permitted to remain in school.

### **Communicable Diseases**

If a student is suspected of having a communicable illness (e.g., chickenpox, strep throat, pink eye, ringworm):

- Parents/guardians are responsible for having the student evaluated by a healthcare provider.
- A doctor's clearance note is required for reentry to school.

### **COVID-19 Protocols (2025–2026)**

Students are expected to follow the most current CDC guidelines:

- You can go back to your normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both are true:
  - Your symptoms are getting better overall, **and**
  - You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).
- When you go back to your normal activities, take added precaution over the next 5 days, such as taking additional [steps for cleaner air](#), [hygiene](#), [masks](#), [physical distancing](#), and/or [testing](#) when you will be around other people indoors.

- Keep in mind that you may still be able to spread the virus that made you sick, even if you are feeling better. You are likely to be less contagious at this time, depending on factors like how long you were sick or how sick you were.
  - If you develop a fever or you start to feel worse after you have gone back to normal activities, stay home and away from others again until, for at least 24 hours, both are true: your symptoms are improving overall, and you have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication). Then take added precaution for the next 5 days.

### **Chronic Health Conditions**

Parents must inform the school nurse and administration if a student has any of the following:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Severe allergies
- Seizures
- Other chronic or serious medical conditions

Appropriate care plans will be developed to support the student's needs.

# **DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND TOBACCO POLICY**

## **Drugs and Alcohol**

Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited:

- On school property
- During the school day
- At any school-sponsored event or activity

Violations will result in a suspension of up to 10 days and may lead to expulsion. Offenders may also be referred to law enforcement.

Any student found selling or distributing any illegal or controlled substance—including look-alikes—will be detained on campus and released to law enforcement.

## **Tobacco-Free School Policy**

William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy is a 100% Tobacco-Free Campus under Halifax County Schools Policy 6239.1:

- The use or possession of any tobacco or vape product is strictly prohibited for all students, staff, and visitors at all times, including after school hours and during extracurricular events.
- Violations will result in disciplinary action per the Student Code of Conduct.

## **Consequences for students violating this policy are as follows:**

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Parent/Guardian notification/conference with school counselor. Tobacco education will be required. This will also result in a <b><i>5-10 day suspension</i></b> .
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	Parent/Guardian notification/conference with school counselor. Tobacco education with emphasis on cessation will be required. This will also result in a <b><i>10 day suspension</i></b> .
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	Parent/Guardian notification and student will not be allowed to return without a conference with the school principal or designee. This will also result in a <b><i>10 day suspension</i></b> .
4 <sup>th</sup> Offense	Meet with principal or designee and <b><i>student will be referred to long-term suspension/Diversion Plan</i></b> .

# **INCLEMENT WEATHER AND SCHOOL CLOSINGS**

In the event of severe weather, the **Halifax County Schools Superintendent** will determine whether schools will be closed or operate on a delay. Timely and accurate communication is essential during these times.

## **Communication Channels**

School closings, delays, or early dismissals will be announced via:

### **School Messenger (Primary Notification Method)**

Ensure your contact information is **up to date in Infinite Campus** to receive calls, texts, or emails.

### **Local Television Stations:**

- WRAL-TV (Raleigh)
- WTVD-TV (Raleigh/Durham)
- WITN-TV (Washington)
- WNCT-TV (Greenville)

### **Local Radio Stations:**

- WSMY (Weldon)
- WYAL (Scotland Neck)
- WCBT (Roanoke Rapids)
- WVSP (Warrenton)
- WRSV (Rocky Mount)

If your contact information changes, please notify your child's teacher or the school data manager immediately to ensure uninterrupted communication.

## **Make-Up Days**

In the event of school closures, the Superintendent will determine designated make-up days. Parents and guardians will be notified in advance of any calendar changes.

## **SPORTS PROGRAM**

At William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy, we believe athletics build character, discipline, and teamwork.

### **Eligibility to Participate**

All students are eligible to **try out and participate** in school-sponsored sports. However, participation is a privilege and may be **revoked** due to:

- Academic ineligibility
- Repeated behavior concerns (including ISS or OSS)
- Violation of school or athletic policies

### **Athletic Requirements**

Student-athletes and parents are responsible for reviewing and adhering to all athletic expectations, eligibility requirements, and conduct policies.

Please contact our Athletic Director, **Mr. Keshawn Haskins**, for any questions or concerns.

### **Student Participation During Suspension**

Students serving **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)** are not permitted to:

- Attend or participate in any after-school events
- Be present at any extracurricular activities (sports, dances, performances, etc.)

This policy ensures that students reflect on their behavior and uphold the standards of the school community.

## **TESTING PROGRAM**

William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy adheres to all district, state, and federal testing guidelines to ensure academic accountability and student growth.

### **End-of-Grade (EOG) Assessments**

Students in grades 3–8 are required by the **North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI)** to take EOG exams in:

- Reading (Grades 3–8)
- Mathematics (Grades 3–8)
- Science (Grade 8) Parents will receive additional details on testing expectations and support resources through the **Parent’s Right to Know Letter**, distributed at the beginning of the school year.



# William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy

4391 Hwy 158, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina 27870  
Telephone: (252) 519-0300 Fax: (252) 583-1474



Dr. Tevis Harris, Principal - Joann Pearson, Assistant Principal - , School Counselor

## “Nurturing Curiosity.....Igniting Potential”

August 8, 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian,

This letter is intended to inform you that your student will take districtwide and state-mandated tests this school year as reflected on the attached test calendar, which is also posted online at <https://www.halifax.k12.nc.us/>.

Per [16 N.C. Admin Code 06D .0307](#)–Test Administration in Public Schools, “(g) LEAs shall, at the beginning of each school year, provide information to students and parents or guardians advising them of the district wide and State-mandated tests that students will be required to take during that school year. In addition, LEAs shall advise students and parents or guardians of the dates the tests will be administered and how the results from the tests will be used. Also, information provided to parents shall include whether the State Board of Education or the local board of education requires the test(s). (h) LEAs shall report scores resulting from the administration of State-mandated tests from the Annual Testing Program to students and parents or guardians no later than 30 days after the test is administered and along with available score interpretation information within 30 days from receipt of the scores and interpretive documentation from the NCDPI.”

[N.C. Admin. Code 06G .0315](#) requires all public school students in membership (i.e., enrolled in a school) in grades 3 through 8 and high school courses requiring an end-of-course assessment, to participate in the Annual Testing Program. North Carolina does not allow any student to opt out of required state testing. The only exceptions granted are for a limited number of students who meet certain eligibility requirements or have extenuating circumstances primarily related to a significant medical emergency or condition and are unable to participate in a specific test administration.

[N.C. Admin Code 06D .0309](#) requires schools to use end-of-course tests as “at minimum of twenty percent of the student’s final grade for each respective course.” As such, a student’s grade for these courses and overall grade-point-average calculation may be negatively impacted by not taking the required end-of-course state tests. Schools have the flexibility to use end-of-grade test scores as necessary.

Please feel free to contact me at 252-519-0300 ext 2019, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

***Joann Pearson***

Assistant Principal and School Testing Coordinator

\*Copy of the Test calendar is on the county website, or available upon request from the receptionist.

# **SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION**

Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right. To maintain a safe and respectful transportation environment, all students are expected to follow district transportation rules, regulations, and expectations at all times. Any behavior that endangers the safety of others or disrupts the bus environment may result in temporary or permanent suspension of bus privileges.

## **Bus Transportation Contacts**

For questions regarding bus routes or schedules, please contact the Halifax County Schools Transportation Department at:

☎ (252) 583-2381 or Mrs. Pearson at Davie

## **Bus Changes**

- To change bus transportation (to temporarily ride a different bus than assigned), a written note must be submitted by **11:00 a.m.** Parent/guardian must be contacted for approval. Requests may be denied if the requested bus is at capacity. Note: If a signed request is not received by the deadline, the request may be declined. Please ensure that your child's Infinite Campus contact information is current and accurate.
- To change to a different bus permanently, a change of address must be filled out with official documentation of the correct address (water bill, power bill, lease, etc) provided. This will require parent/guardian come into the office with proper I.D.

## **Bus Expectations & Regulations**

In accordance with Halifax County Schools Board Policy 6250, students are expected to follow all bus rules to maintain their privilege to ride. Safe transportation requires cooperation, self-discipline, and respect for others.

While on the bus, students must:

1. Obey all instructions from the bus driver.
2. Be on time at the morning bus stop.
3. Look both ways when crossing the road to board or exit the bus.
4. Always cross in front of the bus, never behind it.
5. Remain seated in assigned seats unless given permission to move.
6. Keep all body parts inside the bus at all times.
7. Enter and exit the bus only at their designated stop.
8. Speak in a normal tone of voice. Loud, profane, or inappropriate language is prohibited.

9. Refrain from adjusting windows or doors unless permitted by the driver.
10. Keep the bus clean—no littering, eating, or throwing objects on or from the bus.
11. Refrain from using tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or possessing weapons—violations carry the same consequences as in the school conduct code.
12. Respect school property. Vandalism or damage to the bus will result in disciplinary action and a requirement to pay for damages.

**Bus Misconduct & Reporting**

Bus drivers are responsible for maintaining a safe environment and will report any misconduct or rule violations to school administration. Reported incidents will be addressed by the principal or assistant principal, and consequences will be issued in alignment with the student code of conduct.

Penalties for bus offenses are as follows:

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	Conference with student, bus driver and assistant principal or designee with warning phone call or letter to parent
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	Exclusion from the bus for three days
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Offense</b>	Exclusion from the bus for five days
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Offense</b>	Exclusion from the bus for ten days

**The principal reserves the right to deny riding privileges to any student for up to 10 days regardless of the number of offenses.**

**Consequences for Serious or Repeated Bus Misconduct**

In cases of **serious or repeated violations** of bus rules, disciplinary action will escalate accordingly to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

If a student’s behavior warrants removal from bus transportation for more than ten (10) days, the **principal may recommend a Long-Term Bus Suspension.**

**Long-Term Bus Suspension Procedures:**

- The student will first be issued a **10-day suspension from the bus.**
- The principal will **submit a formal recommendation** for a long-term suspension, outlining the total number of suspension days being proposed.
- The **parent/guardian will be notified in writing** of the recommendation.
- A copy of the **Halifax County Schools Student Grievance Procedure** will be provided to the parent to inform them of their right to appeal or respond to the suspension.
- The recommendation will be submitted to the **Superintendent or their designee** for review and final approval.

This process ensures due process for the student while maintaining the integrity and safety of school transportation services.

# W.R. DAVIE STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

At William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy, we believe that **every student is a leader** and that positive behavior is essential for academic success and a strong school community. All students are expected to demonstrate the following behaviors that reflect our core values of **Respect, Responsibility, and Resilience**.

## Respect for Teachers, Staff, and Peers

Students are expected to:

- Treat all teachers, staff, and fellow students with **kindness, respect, and courtesy**
- **Follow directions** the first time they are given
- Speak and act with **integrity and compassion**

## Punctuality & Attendance

Students must:

- Arrive to school and class **on time and ready to learn**
- Follow all **attendance procedures** when absent or tardy
- Understand that consistent attendance is essential to **academic achievement**

## Academic Responsibility

Students are responsible for:

- **Completing all assignments, projects, and homework** to the best of their ability
- **Submitting work on time** and asking for help when needed
- Taking pride in their academic efforts

## Behavior in School and on Campus

All students must:

- Follow school rules and **conduct themselves appropriately** at all times
- Refrain from disruptive, inappropriate, or disrespectful behaviors
- Show **good sportsmanship and teamwork** in group activities

## Conflict Resolution & Nonviolence

Students are expected to:

- Handle disagreements peacefully and **avoid physical confrontations**
- Report any incidents of **bullying, threats, or unsafe behavior** to a trusted adult
- Support a safe and inclusive environment for all

## Prohibited Substances

Students are strictly prohibited from:

- **Using, possessing, or being under the influence** of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, or any illegal substances on school grounds or during school-sponsored events

### **Care for School Property**

Students must:

- Treat all school property and facilities with care and respect
- Avoid vandalism, defacement, or theft of school or personal items
- Take responsibility for keeping the campus clean and orderly

### **Technology Use**

Students are expected to:

- Use technology and school devices **responsibly and only for academic purposes**
- Follow the school's **technology and Chromebook policies**
- Never use personal devices during the school day unless explicitly permitted

### **Dress Code Compliance**

All students are required to:

- Follow the **dress code guidelines** to ensure a respectful and distraction-free learning environment
- Dress appropriately for school-related activities and events

### **Reporting Concerns**

If a student feels unsafe or witnesses behavior that goes against school expectations:

- They should **immediately report it** to a teacher, counselor, administrator, or trusted adult

### **Behavioral Health Support**

William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy offers free behavioral assistance services during the school day through our contracted Day Treatment Program. **Licensed professionals are available to support students in areas such as:**

- Emotional regulation
- Conflict resolution
- Behavior management
- A **signed parent/guardian consent form** is required for participation in these services.

Students and Parents are expected to sign and return the behavioral contract on the next page.



# William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy

4391 Hwy 158, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina 27870

Telephone: (252) 519-0300

Fax: (252) 583-1474

Dr. Tevis Harris, Principal

Joann Pearson, Assistant Principal

, School Counselor

At William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy, we are committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and academically focused environment. To support this goal, all students and their parents/guardians are asked to review and agree to the behavioral expectations outlined below. This agreement affirms a shared commitment to maintaining a positive school culture both on campus and during all school-related activities, including bus transportation.

## Student Pledge

As a student of W.R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy, I pledge to:

1. Abide by all school rules, including the **Student Dress Code Policy**.
2. Respect and follow the directives of **teachers, substitutes, administrators, the school counselor, and the School Resource Officer (SRO)** at all times.
3. Refrain from the use of profanity, vulgar, or offensive language.
4. Avoid bullying of any kind—including in-person, text messages, or social media—and report any such behavior.
5. Not engage in or provoke physical altercations.
6. Never use, possess, or distribute drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, or any other illegal substances.
7. Use technology responsibly and comply fully with the **school's technology and cell phone policies**.
8. Seek support from the school counselor (Ms. Jones) when feeling overwhelmed, angry, or frustrated.
9. Attend all classes and arrive on time each day.
10. Maintain appropriate classroom behavior by avoiding disruptions, arguments, or disrespect.
11. Respect school and personal property; I will not vandalize, deface, or steal.
12. Take academic responsibility by completing and submitting all assigned schoolwork on time.

## Consequences for Failing to Meet Expectations

If I do not meet these expectations:

1. I will be assigned to the **R3 Center (Reflect, Rethink, Return)** and my parent/guardian will be notified.
2. After one R3 assignment, further infractions may result in **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)** for up to 10 days.
3. Repeated OSS assignments may lead to a recommendation for a **Diversion Plan, Long-Term Suspension, or placement in the Empowerment Zone**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Student )

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signed Name of Parent/Guardian) Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Counselor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **R3 CENTERS: REFLECT, RETHINK, RETURN**

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe, respectful, and productive learning environment, William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy has implemented the **R3 Center Program**—a restorative approach to school discipline that emphasizes accountability and student growth, also known as ISS

### **What Are R3 Centers?**

R3 stands for:

- **Reflect on actions**
- **Rethink** choices
- **Return** ready to succeed

R3 Centers are designed to serve as a structured alternative to traditional in-school suspension (ISS), helping students understand the impact of their behavior, maintain academic progress, and develop self-regulation and decision-making skills.

### **Purpose**

The R3 Center provides a restorative discipline environment that promotes:

- Reflection and responsibility
- Reengagement with academic work
- Reintegration into the school community with new tools for success

### **Behaviors That May Result in R3 Assignment**

Students may be assigned to the R3 Center for the following infractions:

1. Accumulating three or more unexcused class tardies
2. Unauthorized use or possession of cell phones during instructional time
3. Disruptive or inappropriate classroom behavior
4. Profanity or disrespectful conduct towards teachers, staff, or peers
5. Skipping or cutting class
6. Dress code violations
7. Failure to complete classwork or assignments
8. Other infractions deemed disruptive to the learning environment

 *This list is not exhaustive. Disciplinary decisions are made at the discretion of school administration.*

### **Expectations While in R3**

Students in the R3 Center are expected to:

- Complete all assigned academic work
- Participate in behavior reflection and reentry planning activities
- Adhere to all R3 guidelines and staff instructions

**Failure to comply** with R3 expectations may result in **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)**.

### **Parental Notification**

Parents/guardians will be notified of:

- The **infraction** that led to the R3 assignment
- The **duration** of the R3 placement
- Any additional disciplinary action if noncompliance occurs

 **Note:** Students who are assigned to R3 more than **two times** will automatically be considered for **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)**.

### **Infractions That Bypass R3 and Result in OSS or More Serious Consequences**

Certain severe offenses will **not** result in R3 assignment but will lead directly to **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)** or further disciplinary action:

1. **Fighting or physical altercations**
2. **Possession of weapons** or dangerous items
3. **Use or possession of drugs, vapes, or other illegal substances**
4. **Threats made toward individuals or the school**
5. **Gang-related activity**
6. Any other violation deemed serious by school administration

These incidents will be addressed in alignment with Halifax County Schools disciplinary policies and may involve law enforcement when necessary.

### **Disciplinary Protocol Overview**

#### **Infraction Level    Disciplinary Action**

2 R3 Assignments    Automatic OSS

3 OSS Assignments    Recommendation for Long-Term Suspension and/or  
Diversion Plan

We believe the R3 Center will positively support our students in developing responsibility, resilience, and the readiness to succeed. For questions regarding the R3 Program, please contact the school administration.

## **Student and Parent Handbook Acknowledgement Form**

**To:** All Parents/Guardians and Students  
**From:** Dr. Tevis Harris, Principal  
**Subject:** Acknowledgement of Student Handbook Review

**School Year:** 2025–2026

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

This form serves as confirmation that you have received the **William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy Student Handbook**, which includes important information regarding school and district policies, expectations, procedures, and student responsibilities.

While key sections of the handbook will be discussed during school orientation and homeroom meetings, it is the responsibility of both students and parents/guardians to review the entire handbook thoroughly. Please note that updates or revisions to the handbook may occur throughout the school year, and these will be communicated as needed.

Once the handbook has been reviewed, please sign and return this acknowledgement form to your child's **Homeroom Teacher** no later than the designated due date.

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### **Acknowledgement Statement**

By signing below, I confirm that I have received and reviewed the **2025–2026 Student Handbook** for William R. Davie Middle S.T.E.M. Academy. I understand that it is my responsibility to be familiar with the policies and expectations outlined within the handbook.

**Student Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Homeroom Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_