Ozark School District
Junior High School Handbook

2025-2026

Ozark School District
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Welcome Letter

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Greetings and welcome to the new school year. Ozark Junior High (OJH) is excited about the opportunities that await us in the upcoming school year. We would like you to challenge yourself to always try your best, work hard, and hold high expectations and standards for yourself. Keep in mind the reason you are attending school – it is about maturing, growing, and learning in all the activities in which you participate on a daily basis. On behalf of Ozark Junior High, we wish you all the very best in this upcoming school year.

Parents, we encourage you to discuss this handbook with your child. Because the information contained in this handbook is so important, we want to ensure that you and your child have read the handbook and you assist your child in his/her understanding of the contents.

Communication and involvement are the keys to the success in your child's education. We strongly encourage you to participate in your child's education. We will strive to communicate with you in various ways. This may include the District app and website, parent portal, District newsletter, report cards, progress reports, news releases, text message services, phone calls, emails, letters, open house, and conferences.

At any time, if you have questions, concerns or want to make an appointment to meet with an administrator, counselor, teacher or other staff member, please do not hesitate to call or email us.

Counseling Center
Stephanie Kronebusch, Registrar, 582-4718, stephaniekronebusch@ozarktigers.org
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* *To search this document, use the CTRL and F function to seek key words and phrases.*

Ozark School District Calendar 2025-2026

Academic Expectations

Ozark Junior High believes every student has the right to an education free from disruptions in a safe and orderly environment. The teachers at OJH will use the best practices in education and set high but achievable standards for their students. OJH expects all students to put forth the effort necessary to achieve at the highest level, ask for help when needed, and to complete all assigned work.

Grades

Reports of each student's accomplishments will be posted in Parent Portal every nine weeks. These reports are intended to serve only as an indicator of a student's progress for that specific period of time. Semester grades, based on the student's performance for the entire semester, are the grades which become part of the student's permanent academic record. Parent-teacher conferences may be scheduled at any time during the school year by contacting the teacher or school office.

Promotion/Retention Guidelines

To be eligible for promotion to the next grade, a Junior High Student should, at minimum:

- Pass 3 out of 4 core classes (English, math, science, social studies) each semester
- A student who fails the same core class both semesters or fails two or more core classes is required to attend Summer School for promotion to the next grade

Acceptable Usage Policy Agreement

STAFF/STUDENT/PARENT/GUARDIAN
Ozark School District Technology Resources

Acceptable usage of Ozark School District technology can be viewed by clicking here.

The Ozark Junior High thanks you for your support while the school works to help students become productive members at home, school, and society.

Accidents in School

All accidents which occur in school, whether serious or not, must be reported to the school nurse immediately. The school nurse administers first aid, immediate temporary care, and notifies parents whenever it is deemed necessary. No student will be sent or taken home early unless an adult is present to assume responsibility for the student.

Advisory

Advisory is a 30-minute block of time Monday through Friday that meets during the fifth hour for 8th graders and sixth hour for 7th graders. On Mondays, students will watch weekly announcements, check Student Portal for missing work or grades that can be improved, and can attend club/athletic meetings with teacher approval after attendance is taken. The primary purpose of advisory Tuesday-Friday is to provide structured time for academic

interventions. Students are permitted to travel to another teacher for reteaching/tutoring/extra practice with teacher approval via the Advisory Tracker.

(AMI) Inclement weather

In case Ozark School District needs to cancel school, use late start procedures or early release procedures due to inclement weather, we want you to be informed of the process. Student and faculty safety is the primary concern in making the call for canceling versus late start or early release. See the district procedures in the link above.

Assemblies

Attending school assemblies is a privilege. Failure to abide by assembly rules will result in removal from the assembly plus any other consequences as determined by the administration.

- Walk to and from the assembly in a quiet, orderly manner.
- Follow seating procedures as directed.
- Behave in a courteous and respectful manner.
- Show appreciation for the speaker or program by applauding at the proper time.

Attendance

Attendance Policy

Parents need to notify the office when their child is absent.

Regular attendance at school is an important part of every student's success and is necessary in order to best benefit from the educational experience. Students who are frequently absent from school miss out on direct instruction, classroom activities, group discussion, and daily interactions with the classroom teacher and classmates.

The District is legally obligated to monitor student attendance; excessive absence from school will be reported to the proper authorities including but not limited to the Department of Social Services Children's Division and the Christian County Juvenile Office. Each school district in Missouri is expected to meet and/or exceed the goal that 90% of all students attend school at a rate greater than 90%.

Makeup Work

With these considerations in mind, the following attendance rules apply to Ozark Junior High School:

- Students are expected to make up any work missed by obtaining missed assignments from their teachers.
- Occasionally instances may occur which constitute truancy or willful and unnecessary absence. Such instances are addressed as disciplinary incidences and are subject to investigation and handling by school officials. Every effort will be made to work with the parents and keep them informed in the event of such circumstances.

Before School
Seventh-grade students will go directly to the East gym when they arrive at school. Eighth-grade students go directly to the Main Gym when they arrive at school. Students wishing to eat breakfast go directly to the cafeteria. First block begins promptly at 7:25 a.m. Parents may drop off students at the East Lot or North Lot locations. **Do not drop students off in the bus lane located at the front entrance.**

During School
Students and teachers cannot be called to the office to take a telephone call during class. Parents wishing to leave a message for their child or to contact a teacher may call the Junior High office. Children arriving late or leaving school early must be signed in/out by their parents. Adults coming to the school to retrieve a child should report to the office with a valid photo ID. Students cannot leave school without checking out through the office.

After School
Students should remain in the building after school only for specified organized activities or when under the direct supervision of a teacher or coach. All students must be picked up by 3 p.m. in the pick-up lane.

Behavior Score and Expectations

Starting this year (25-26), students will receive a score that reflects their behavior, responsibility, and daily engagement with school-wide expectations.

The score also connects directly to the Portrait of a Graduate skills we value as a district, such as collaboration, communication, and resilience. It serves as a tool to help students reflect on how they show up each day—not just academically, but as learners and leaders in our school community.

The behavior score is a communication tool used to support student growth and help families stay informed. It will not impact a student's academic grade or GPA.This score may be used to guide student incentives and recognitions.

Details about how the score is calculated and used will be shared with students at the beginning of the school year. Our goal is to promote consistent, positive behavior and to ensure clear expectations.

Book Bags

Students are allowed to carry book bags between classes. Students may lose the privilege if the book bag is used inappropriately. Students can use lockers in order to reduce the number of items they must carry. Lockers are assigned through the main office.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

In order to promote a safe learning environment for all students, the Ozark School District prohibits all forms of bullying. The District also prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying among or against students.

Bullying is defined as intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property; that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities or benefits of any student without exception; or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying committed by transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer or pager. The District has jurisdiction over cyberbullying that uses the District's technology resources or that originates on District property, at a District activity or on District transportation. Even when cyberbullying does not involve District property, activities or technology resources, the District may impose consequences and discipline for those who engage in cyberbullying if there is a sufficient nexus to the educational environment, the behavior materially and substantially disrupts the educational environment, the communication involves a threat as defined by law, or the District is otherwise allowed by law to address the behavior.

Students who wish to report alleged incidents as bullying, either as a victim or witness, should report to the office and complete a student statement form. The assistant principal will review the student statement form and begin an investigation.

Upon conclusion of the investigation the victim(s) of bullying will work with the assistant principal to develop a plan of support. As part of that plan, the victim(s) will have access to the school counselor for additional support.

Bus Information

Please contact the Ozark Transportation Department for bus assignment at (417) 582-4735. Riding the school bus is a privilege. *Students must board at the junior high and ride their assigned bus only.*

Students, parents/guardians, bus drivers and school officials must work together to provide for the safe transportation of students. The school buses, bus stops, and all other forms of transportation provided by the district or provided incidental to a school activity are considered school property. Students are subject to district authority and discipline while waiting for, entering and riding district transportation. The superintendent or designee will create and enforce administrative procedures detailing the conduct expected of students and will make that information available to students and parents.

Students who fail to observe district rules or fail to contribute to a safe transportation environment will be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension of the privilege of riding the bus. Students with disabilities will be disciplined in accordance with their Individualized Education Program (IEP) or applicable law. The bus driver or other authorized personnel shall report all misbehavior or dangerous situations to the principal as soon as possible.

Care of Computers, Books, Equipment & School Property

When students accept their school-issued computer, textbooks, or any other equipment, they are entrusted with the responsibility of caring for books and equipment beyond ordinary wear and tear. If students lose or damage books or other school-issued items, they are liable for the costs, allowing for normal depreciation. If school-provided supplies are stolen or misplaced, the student is responsible.

Cell Phones & Other Electronic Devices

Students are discouraged from bringing cell phones and other electronic devices to school. The school shall not be responsible for any lost or damaged items. Should a student choose to bring a device to school, the device is to remain off and put away upon their arrival to school until after dismissal from school. Violation will result in confiscation. Failure to comply with confiscation could result in disciplinary action.

- 1st Offense: Verbal warning: The student is reminded to turn off and put away their cell phone.
- 2nd Offense: Teacher confiscates phone/electronic device, notifies the office, and turns phone/electronic device into the office.
- Consequences will increase for additional violations of the policy which may include detentions, ISS, or OSS.

The Board desires to protect students' personal privacy in accordance with law. Thus, students are prohibited from using camera phones or other cellular devices to take photographs or to record photographic images, whether in digital or other form, during any class or instructional period during the school day.

Students are prohibited from using camera phones or other cellular devices to take photographs or to record photographic images, whether in digital or other form, of inappropriate school behavior.

In addition, students are prohibited from using camera phones/photographic devices in a facility or location at which students or others have a reasonable expectation of privacy. Examples

include, but are not limited to, restrooms, locker rooms, and changing areas. This prohibition also includes the taking of a photograph of an individual, regardless of location on District property or at a District-sponsored event, when such photograph either invades or could be perceived as invading the privacy of an individual.

Students may not use camera phones/photographic devices in staff offices, staff areas or records storage areas.

Students who use their cell phones or any device to record (video/audio) another student or adult, regardless of the expectation of privacy, are in violation of school policy and will receive disciplinary consequences.

Students who use such camera phones/photographic devices to record photographic images in violation of this policy are subject to an out-of-school suspension for up to 180 school days for the first offense. In addition, the actions of such students may be reported to law enforcement. Students are also warned that the transfer, distribution or posting of images taken in violation of this policy may subject them to school disciplinary action and possible referral to law enforcement.

Specifics on audio/video recording can be found by reviewing policy KKB.

Counseling Services

The purpose of the counseling center is to help each student in his/her social, educational, and personal development. Conferencing with students is the counselor's first priority and appointments are scheduled as necessary. The counselors also conduct the testing services at school. Areas tested include mental ability and achievement. Conferences with parents and students concerning test scores, grades, and other issues may be held.

Dances

Attending school dances is a privilege awarded to students in good standing. All handbook/ district policies including but not limited to those regarding behavior, dress code, electronic devices, cell phones, and leaving campus are enforced at all school dances.

Definition of Disciplinary Actions

The Student Code of Conduct is designed to foster student responsibility, respect for the rights of others, and to provide for the orderly operation of District schools. No code can be expected to list each and every offense that may result in disciplinary action. **Any conduct not included herein, or an aggravated circumstance of any offense or an action involving a combination of offenses may result in disciplinary consequences that extend beyond this code of conduct as determined by the principal, superintendent and/or Board of Education.** In extraordinary circumstances where the minimum consequence is judged by the superintendent or his/her designee to be unfair or not in the interest of the District, the superintendent or designee may reduce the

consequences listed in this policy, as allowed by law. It is the policy of the Ozark School District to report all crimes occurring on school grounds to law enforcement.

The administration shall also notify the appropriate law enforcement agency and superintendent if a student is discovered to possess a controlled substance or weapon in violation of the District's policy JGF. In addition, the superintendent shall notify the appropriate division of the juvenile or family court upon suspension for more than ten (10) days or expulsion of any student who the District is aware is under the jurisdiction of the court.

Disciplinary Procedures- Code of Conduct

It is the responsibility of the student to be familiar with all policies and procedures. Students are expected to follow classroom and general school policies. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

General Behavior Expectations:

Students are expected to be respectful, responsible, and safe:

1. Address teachers as Miss, Ms., Mrs., Mr. or Coach followed by their last name.
2. Care should be taken of all school property.
3. Drinks and food may only be brought to school for consumption in the cafeteria. Individual water bottles that are in spill-proof containers may be brought to school. No liquid or food should be stored in a locker.
4. Headphones, earbuds, and AirPods must be put away at the end of each class.
5. No running, shoving, hitting, fighting, scuffling, or horseplay.
6. No hats are to be worn in the building at any time.
7. If a student fails to report for a detention or ISS, a more severe consequence will result, including but not limited to detentions, hourly in-school suspension, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, or loss of privileges or incentives.
8. In order to ensure safety in congested areas, no skateboards, skates, scooters, or e-bikes may be ridden on campus. Bikes must be locked at the bike rack.
9. Students should be in their assigned classrooms/areas at all times. Those found to be in violation are subject to school discipline, including but not limited to detention and ISS.
10. Consistent with the decision of the Missouri Supreme Court in RMA v. Blue Springs, students will be required to use gender specific restrooms, locker rooms, hotel rooms, and similar accommodations that align with their birth sex.
11. Students must not operate school equipment or use school materials unless it is done under the direct supervision of a teacher.
12. Students must not arrive more than 30 minutes before scheduled events. Students must have a ride arranged for pickup immediately following events.
13. While attending junior high ball games, students are to be in the stands supporting the teams.

Computer Usage Expectations:

1. Computers are to be treated and used with respect.
2. Only school-appropriate content, as deemed by the administration and/or teacher, should be accessed and/or produced using school computers.
3. Any individual using the internet must have a signed responsible use form on file.
4. The teacher reserves the right to limit student time on computers to best serve the interest of the class.

Discipline & Consequences - Defined

Student Discipline can be found by reviewing Policy JGR

Detentions

Detentions are held either before school, during lunch, or after school with a teacher or in the office.

Hourly Detention

Hourly detentions are served in the ISS room during the specific class in which the undesired behavior occurred. Failure to appear during the specified time or failure to abide by ISS classroom rules or directions from the instructor will result in either full day ISS or OSS.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

In-school suspension is used for various violations of school policy. In-school suspension occurs when a student's behavior warrants removal from classes for a period of time, but suspension or expulsion from school is not recommended. It is an alternative to suspension or expulsion and is an effort by the administration to allow the student to work on classroom assignments in a restricted setting under the direct supervision of a staff member. Failure to abide by ISS classroom rules or directions from the instructor will result in OSS.

- Students must report to the attendance office upon arrival on the day he/she is scheduled to serve ISS.
- Students must bring all books, notebooks, and other material needed for assignments to the office. Daily assignments must be completed on time. This includes the work assigned to address the inappropriate behavior.
- Students must stay in the designated area and may not leave unless permission is given. Restroom privileges will be granted only during class time when other students are not in the hall.
- Students may not visit with other students without permission.
- ISS students eat lunch at a designated table. ISS students are given an opportunity to eat breakfast when a breakfast is requested. The student is allowed to bring his/her own lunch.
- Students assigned to ISS are not eligible to represent the school in any extracurricular activities for the number of days assigned.
- Full participation during AMI days can count towards the student's ISS assignment at the administration's discretion.

Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS)
Out-of-school suspension is used when a student violates a significant school rule or commits repeated violations. During OSS, students are not allowed on school grounds, school buses or to attend any school activity. AMI days count towards the student's OSS assignment, but OSS students cannot participate in AMI synchronous classes.

Dress Code

The Board of Education recognizes the value of allowing individual student expression as well as the necessity of protecting student health and safety and maintaining an atmosphere conducive to education. Student dress code procedures must be designed with the goal of balancing these competing interests.

All dress code procedures will adhere to health and safety codes and comply with applicable law. Dress that materially disrupts the educational environment will be prohibited. No procedure will impose dress and grooming rules based on gender in violation of Title IX. District procedures will specifically define ambiguous terms, and examples will be provided when practicable.

Philosophy

Ozark Junior High values individual expression while maintaining an environment conducive to learning, safety, and mutual respect. Student attire should reflect personal responsibility and readiness to engage in school activities without distracting from the educational process.

General Expectations

- Clothing and grooming must not disrupt or interfere with the educational process, safety standards, or others' rights to learn.
- Final decisions on dress appropriateness rest with the school administration.

Required Standards

1. Coverage and Fit

- Clothing must fully cover private body parts and undergarments while standing, sitting, or moving.
- No spaghetti straps, halter tops, backless, see-through, or midriff-revealing tops.
- Sleeveless shirts such as muscle shirts must have appropriate arm hole coverage, and should not expose the chest or undergarments.
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses must be an appropriate length. Must provide appropriate coverage and be of a length that allows students to move, sit, and participate in school activities.
- Clothing may not be excessively tight, baggy, ripped, or sheer.

2. Footwear

- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Footwear should be safe for school activities.

3. Headgear & Accessories

- Hats, hoods, and sunglasses are not allowed inside the building, except for medical or religious reasons or on designated spirit days.
- No bandanas, do-rags, blankets, face paint, or costume accessories unless pre-approved.
- Jewelry and accessories must not be dangerous (e.g., spiked collars, chains, sharp objects).

4. Graphics & Language

- Clothing must not display:
    - Profanity, obscene or sexually explicit content.
    - References to alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or illegal activities.
    - Symbols or language that promote hate, violence, or gang affiliation.
    - Inflammatory or derogatory content toward any group or individual.

Consequences:

- Violations will result in a request to change clothes.
- Repeated offenses or noncompliance may lead to progressive disciplinary actions (e.g., detention, ISS, and OSS).

Student dress code can be found by reviewing Policy JFCA

Emergency Drills

Fire, tornado, earthquake, and intruder drills are held at regular intervals during the year. Each student should learn the instructions posted in each classroom for proper procedures to use during these drills. **Please note that falsely pulling fire alarms results in severe disciplinary action.**

Emergency Notification

During severe weather situations, many factors are involved in the decision to close school. The primary consideration is always the safety of the students. The decision,

once made, is given immediately to the radio and television stations. Additional weather and school cancellation information will be disseminated through social media, the school website, and an automated phone call.

Extracurricular Activities

Participation in extracurricular programs in the Ozark School District is a privilege that must be earned by all students. To attain such privileges, the student must meet the standards of eligibility of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. Furthermore, students must meet the requirements of the Ozark School District.

Sports

The sports programs for 7th and 8th grade students at OJH consist of:

Cross Country	Football	Wrestling
Basketball	Track	Volleyball
Cheerleading	Softball	

Prior to beginning workouts/practices for any sport, students must have had a physical examination by a licensed physician, at which time a physical exam form must be completed by the doctor. This form must be returned to the school.

Citizenship Standards

Student activities in the Ozark School District provide a program for students to pursue special interests in addition to the more formal class activities. The values students gain through participation in activities supplement and promote academic learning. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right or entitlement. Participants are expected to conform to a higher standard of conduct than is applicable to nonparticipants. Participants serve as representatives and leaders of the District, school, and community. Thus, they are expected to set a positive example for others.

As part of its activities program, the District has established written Regulations and Guidelines so that participants and their parents/legal guardians will be aware of the behavioral expectations attendant to participation in District activities. An important component of the Regulations and Guidelines is the Good and Creditable Citizenship Requirement.

Citizenship standards can be viewed by clicking here.

Sportsmanship

- Respect for Opponents
    - The opponent should be treated as a guest, greeted cordially upon arriving, given the best accommodations, and accorded with tolerance, honesty, and generosity.
- Respect for Officials
    - Officials should be recognized as impartial arbitrators who are trained to do their job and who can be expected to do it to the best of their ability.

- Knowledge and Understanding of Rules

    - Familiarity with the most up-to-date rules of the game are essential.
- Self-Control
    - Good sportsmanship requires one to understand his/her own bias and possess the ability to prevent the desire to win from overcoming rational behavior.
- Appreciation of Skill in Performance
    - Applause for an opponent's good performance is a demonstration of generosity and goodwill.

Responsibilities of OJH Student Spectators

- Know and demonstrate the fundamentals of sportsmanship.
- Correct fellow students whose conduct is unbecoming.
- Respect school property and authority.
- Show respect for injured players.
- Avoid applauding errors or penalties of opponents.
- Not heckle, jeer, or distract opponents.
- Refrain from criticizing players or coaches for a loss.
- Respect the judgment and strategy of the coach.

Student Drug Testing

The Ozark R-VI School District recognizes that drug and alcohol abuse is a serious problem in the United States, and that schools in the United States are experiencing an increase in this problem. Students participating in extracurricular activities are increasingly experimenting with controlled substances which they are legally prohibited from possessing, using or distributing. Some student athletes are also attracted to so-called “performance-enhancing” drugs, such as steroids, in misguided efforts to increase their strength and endurance.

The purpose of this policy is to help prevent substance abuse among students, to encourage treatment for students with substance abuse problems and to ensure that students have the opportunity to attend school and participate in activities in a fair, safe and healthy environment.

Ozark R-VI School District’s drug testing policy and guidelines can be reviewed by clicking on the hyperlinks below.

Ozark R-VI School District Drug Testing Policy

Ozark R-VI School District Drug Testing Guidelines

Student Council

Student Council is composed of elected members of the 7th and 8th grade. Student Council strives to maintain a positive school spirit with special projects, special days, and student elections. Student Council helps to ensure effective communication between the administration and the student body. Elections are held in the spring. Student council members may need to spend extra time at school to assist with council projects.

Student Clubs

A variety of clubs are available for students; check with the guidance and counselor’s office for the list of clubs.

Federal Programs (ESSA)

Please go to the following links for updated notifications:
Parent Letter
Complaint Procedure

Health Services

A registered professional nurse with special training in public and school health is assigned to OJH. It is the duty of the nurse to counsel students with health problems, arrange for adjustments in the student's school program when health factors make this necessary, and offer assistance in case of an emergency. Parents are urged to inform the school nurse of any student health problems. It is very important that the Emergency Card be completed and returned to school as soon as possible after registering. Any medications (including over-the-counter) must be dispensed from the office. The school district will contact EMS at the district discretion if nurse/admin feels the incident warrants outside assistance.

Medications

Some students require medication during the school day. Authorization for Medication forms must be filled out by a parent and/or physician. Forms are available from the school nurse. Administering medication to students during school hours is discouraged and restricted to necessary medication that cannot be given at home. If the physician's orders indicate that a medication must be given during school hours, the medication may be administered by complying with the following instructions:

Prescription Medications:

1. The parent or guardian must provide the medication in the original prescription bottle (the pharmacist will provide properly labeled containers).
2. The parent or guardian must provide written permission which includes: the student's name, date, name of medication, dosage, time of administration and a parent/guardian's signature.
3. The parent should not provide more than a one week supply at a time.
4. Long-term medications (longer than two weeks) must be accompanied by a Physician's Request form provided by the school.

Non-Prescription Medications:

1. The parent/guardian will provide the medication in the original container.
2. The parent should not provide more than a one week supply at a time. (Board Policies JHC & JHCD)

Parents/guardians are required to transport all medication. Please contact the **Parents should make the school aware of any medical condition a child may have.** If a child has a temporary injury or condition and should be excused from or have limited participation in physical activities, we require a note from the parent.

Lockers

The school administration has the right to search lockers at any time. Each student may request a locker with a school lock for the storage of books and equipment. It is the student's responsibility to see that this locker is kept in good order at all times. Students are offered a locker in the locker room for physical education. Since lockers are a permanent part of the building, students are expected to keep them in good, usable condition.

Lunch/Food Service

The school cafeteria is a vital part of the health program of the school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered at a reasonable price. Free and reduced-price meals shall be served to those students eligible as determined by the family size/income scale. No discernable distinction is made between paying and non-paying students who receive meals at school. **Applications for free and reduced-price meals may be picked up in the office.**

All students eat in the school cafeteria. Students may buy lunch at school and/or bring lunch from home. No student may leave school during the lunch period. **Third party food delivery services are not permitted.** Food or drink may not be taken from the cafeteria. Lunch money should be brought to the office in an envelope labeled with the student's name and ID number. Lunch money can be placed electronically on My School Bucks or should be brought to the office in an envelope labeled with the student's name and student ID number.

The Junior High Cafeteria offers students a variety of choices each day. Items may be purchased individually or as part of a regular tray lunch. A regular tray lunch contains one main item, two side items, and a carton of milk. This requires students to select items and calculate the amount they will be charged for the items. To assist students in this process, all lunch items are clearly marked as a main item or a side item. All prices are listed. Price lists are also available in the school office. Student lunch accounts must have a positive balance at all times. Lunch purchases may be tracked on the parent portal on SIS; see the school office for details.

Media Center Policies

The Ozark Junior High Library Media Center offers students resources to prepare them with 21st century research and literacy skills. The Ozark Junior High librarians work to empower students to become prudent researchers and partner with the other libraries within the District and county to ensure access to the most up-to-date resources. These resources include academic databases with peer-reviewed and peer-edited journals and articles with links found on the media center's website. This allows students to have access from home and at school. Students are encouraged to read for pleasure, which promotes cognitive growth and development.

The entire library's collection can be accessed from the school website through Destiny Quest. The website features information about Missouri's award nominated books: Truman Awards Nominees and Gateway Award Nominees and other library resources and happenings. The technology help desk is also located in the Media Center where students can access tech support for their school-issued Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education accounts.

With permission, students may access the media center before school, during advisory, after school until 3 p.m., and during the day when teachers permit. English classes visit the library on a regular basis, as well. Students are responsible for any materials checked out under their names. If they are lost or damaged, then students will need to pay the replacement cost.

MOCAP

Ozark School District strives to provide students with access to a wide array of learning opportunities including online courses. Offerings for all grade levels may be available through selected online vendors through the Missouri Course Access Program (MOCAP). In accordance with 161.670 RSMo and School Board policies IGCD and IGCE, registration and payment for online courses will be completed by Ozark School District.

Any parents or student interested in online courses should work with the school counselor to create the best plan of action for the individual student. For more information, please visit the MOCAP website.

Nondiscrimination

For details on the District's Nondiscrimination policy, as well as how to file a grievance, please click here.

Office Phone Use

The school telephones in the office are for school business only. They may not be used for social purposes. Students will not be called to the telephone during class time except in cases of emergency.

Return Check Policy

Ozark School District has contracted with eTech Transaction Solutions Inc., to facilitate the District with a check recovery plan effective July 1, 2007. Please note returned checks are presented to the bank electronically; additional fees are applied for returned checks. Call the Junior High Business Office at (417) 582-5902 with questions.

Educational Trips

Educational trips are typically taken during the last weeks of school. In order to be eligible for the trip, a student must -

- Not currently serving ISS
- May not exceed 2 instances of assigned ISS (full days) during the semester the event takes place
- Must not have received OSS during the semester the event takes place

Student in Good Standing

During the year, special event opportunities arise for students to attend or participate in activities outside the traditional school curriculum. Some examples include community service projects, field trips, dances, etc. To attend such events, a student must be in good standing on the day of the event, both academically and behaviorally. Academic good standing means a student currently has no more than two failing grades. Behavior good standing is defined as –

- Not currently serving ISS
- May not exceed 2 instances of assigned ISS (full days) during the semester the event takes place
- Must not have received OSS during the semester the event takes place

Student Recognition

Ozark Junior High recognizes the importance of positive reinforcement for meeting and/or exceeding expectations. Some of the ways the Junior High recognizes student achievement is through Portrait of a Graduate and Academic Awards.

Student Records

In order to provide students with appropriate instruction and educational services, it is necessary for the district to maintain extensive and sometimes personal information about students and families. These records must be kept confidential in accordance with law, but must also be readily available to district personnel who need the records to effectively serve district students.

Specifics on how student records are managed can be found by clicking here.

Tardy Policy

Students may be tardy to each class three times per quarter without penalty. The penalty for subsequent tardiness is as follows:

- 3rd tardy- Teacher emails parent/guardian
- 4th and 5th tardy – Lunch Detention(s)
- 6th tardy – Hourly Detention. Served in the ISS room during the specific class in which the undesired behavior occurred
- 7th and 8th tardy – Two days of ISS
- 9th tardy – Four days of ISS

- Subsequent tardies – May result in OSS.

Although advisory period meets every day, the same tardy policy applies. Teachers will be responsible for keeping a record of all tardies for each hour and advisory. If a student arrives to school during class, s/he will be counted tardy to that class. Tardies can be viewed in Parent Portal under Attendance.

The following will NOT count as a tardy, as long as appropriate documentation is provided to the Attendance Office:

1. Doctor and dentist appointments
2. Late buses
3. Parental verification of attendance of funerals
4. Extenuating circumstances as approved by school administrators.

Students intentionally missing classes or any part of the school day to avoid a tardy will be addressed accordingly. The school reserves the right to require documentation from doctors and dentists. Students should be aware that the school will investigate and address suspected cases of truancy and/or falsification of documents.

Teaming

Ozark Junior High is structured around a Team Concept. Each student is assigned a core team of teachers. The 7th- and 8th-grade teams consist of math, English, social studies, and science. This team of teachers may schedule parent/teacher conferences to include each member. The Team Concept is designed to allow each student to belong to a family in the school environment, and to allow teachers to have a better overall understanding of each child's unique needs.

Visitors

Parents and citizens are encouraged to visit Ozark Junior High. In order to maintain the proper security, we request that all visitors follow these procedures:

1. All visitors entering the Junior High are required to sign-in at the office.
2. Visitors are required to wear an identification sticker.
3. All stickers are to be returned to the office at the time of departure.
4. No student visitors are permitted during the school day without prior administrative approval.

Thank you for helping OJH maintain a safe school environment.