



# O'Fallon Township High School

## Student Handbook Updates for 2026-27



Verbiage that is ***bold/italicized*** indicates a change in the handbook for this school year.

**LOSS OF PRIVILEGES (pg. 22):** (Board of Education Policy 7:190) This penalty may include, but is not limited to, withholding or denying of the student's attendance (home and away) at activities, athletics, homecoming, prom, and/or the graduation ceremony.

- ***If a student accumulates four days of suspension, or has excessive chronic absenteeism/truancy, during the school year, the student will not be able to attend OTHS events for the remainder of the semester in which the fourth suspension day occurred and the following semester.***
- Students engaging in gross disrespect, gross disobedience, gross misconduct, skipping/missing school in groups, or excessive chronic absenteeism/truancy may lose the privilege of participating in the OTHS Graduation Ceremony.
- Students that do not adhere to the "Loss of Privileges" consequence may face additional disciplinary consequences.

**TARDINESS (pg. 40):** ***Students are marked tardy when they are not in their seats when the bell rings.*** Students must produce a pass to be excused if they arrive late to class. Parent/guardian phone calls for arriving late to school will not excuse a tardy.

### **ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (pg. 25):**

This section relates to alcohol as well as:

- a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under Ashley's Law).
- b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
- c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
- d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under Ashley's Law.
- e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
- f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student

expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.

- g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
- h. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form.

***Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.***

**BUS CONDUCT (Pg. 29):** The contracted bus company uses audio and video recordings on school buses while being used to transport students to and from school and school-sponsored activities. Students are expected to follow all school rules when riding the school bus. A student may be suspended from riding the bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for engaging in gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to, the following:

- 1. Violating any school rule or school district policy.***
- 2. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.***
- 3. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.***
- 4. Repeated use of profanity.***
- 5. Repeated willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or other supervisor.***
- 6. Such other behavior as the building principal deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupants.***

**DANCES (pg. 29):** Attendance at school-sponsored dances is a privilege. School dances are for students of OTHS who are in good standing with regard to OTHS policies and procedures. Students will not be allowed to attend school dances, nor will they be approved to attend other school dances, if the student has any outstanding fees without an approved payment plan. ***Students who have received loss of privileges from OTHS will not be able to attend the dance regardless of enrollment status, for the duration of the loss of privilege.*** Students who graduate early (December graduate) cannot purchase their own ticket to prom but may go as a guest of a current OTHS student. Students are not permitted to re-enter the dance after leaving. If an OTHS student is bringing a guest, then a guest request form must be completed and turned into a Vice Principal or an Assistant Principal prior to buying a ticket for the dance. The minimum grade level for all guests is the ninth grade and the maximum age is 20 years old. For a guest to enter a dance, he/she must be accompanied by an OTHS student. All OTHS students must show their student ID to be admitted into the dance and guests will be required to show a photo ID. OTHS students are responsible for their guests. Misbehavior at a dance may result in removal from the dance and/or other disciplinary penalties that may be applicable.

***UAS/DRONES (pg. 29): Operating an unarmed aircraft system (UAS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal.***

**ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES (pg.56):** Participation in extra-curricular activities that include performances, competitions, or field trips is dependent upon course selection and successful progress in those courses. For a student to be eligible to participate in any OTHS school sponsored athletic or extra-curricular activity, a student must be enrolled in and passing at least 5 classes per week (regular full credit classes). Any student-participant failing to meet these academic criteria will be academically ineligible on a weekly basis until the specified academic criteria are met. If a student fails to enroll in and pass at least 5

full credit classes for the semester, he/she will be ineligible for the entire succeeding semester. In other words, a student must earn 2.5 credits to be eligible for the following semester. ***Full credit courses that meet more than 1 hour per day will count as multiple classes. For example, CEO – Business Leadership meets for 2 hours a day and enrolled students earn 1.0 credits per semester. CEO – Business Leadership will count as 2 classes for the purpose of eligibility. Courses at the Collinsville Area Vocational Center meet for 3 hours per day and enrolled students earn 1.5 credits per semester. CAVC courses will count as 3 classes for the purpose of eligibility.***

**ALTERNATIVE CLASSROOM (ACR) (pg. 57):** Students will not be assigned to ACR more than **five (5)** times per semester. After that limit has been reached, out-of-school suspensions will replace ACR assignments.

**OTHS SENIOR 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER FINAL EXAM EXEMPTION INCENTIVE POLICY (pg. 48):** ***Graduating Seniors have the opportunity to earn exemption from their second semester final exams and an earlier release date based on their attendance during their Senior year.***

***To earn exemption, Seniors must not be chronically absent/truant during their second semester of Senior year. Seniors must not have 9 or more absences that count towards chronic absenteeism/truancy as defined in the OTHS Student Handbook Attendance Policy on page 48. Seniors with 9 or more days of absence counting towards chronic absenteeism/truancy will be required to take all of their final exams. Seniors with 9 or more single period absences that count towards chronic absenteeism/truancy will be required to take all of their final exams.***

***Seniors earning exam exemption would not be required to attend for the final five school days of the second semester (two regular school days and three exam days) and would not be required to take final exams.***

***Students with exam exemption can opt to take one or more final exams if they believe their performance on the final exam could improve their overall semester grade for the class. Students should discuss with their classroom teacher before opting to take a final exam. Final exams must be taken during the regularly scheduled final exam time.***

**2026-2027 Calendar:**

- ***May 13, 2027 – Last day for seniors with final exam exemption.***
- ***May 14 & May 17 – Regular days of school attendance for all other students.***
- ***May 18 – May 20 – Final exams for all other students.***