

SOUTH OLDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025-26 Handbook
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About South Oldham Middle School

Our Vision

SOMS will be the pinnacle of middle schools in Kentucky where all students will climb to the summit of their potential.

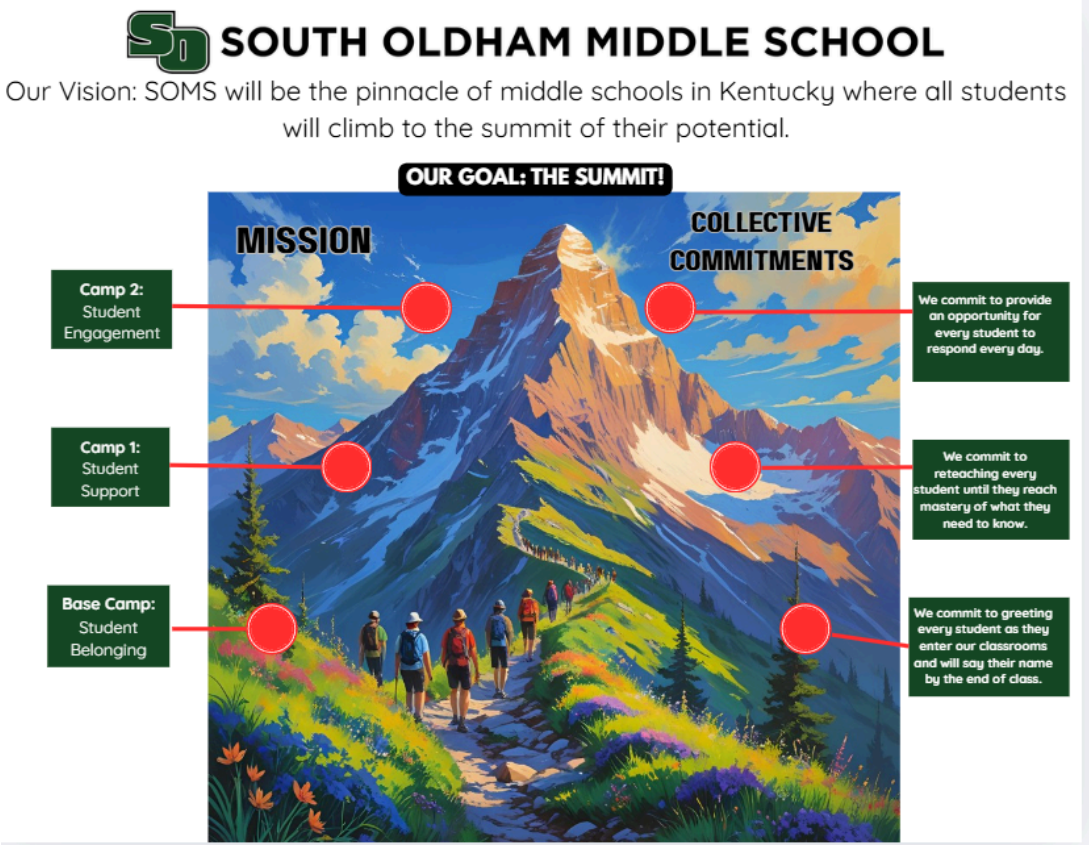
Our Mission

Our journey to the summit is supported by three essential camps, each representing a crucial aspect of our students' educational expedition to the summit:

- **Base Camp: Student Belonging**
  - We create a warm, inclusive environment where every student feels valued and connected to our school community.

- **Camp 1: Student Support**
  - We provide comprehensive academic, emotional, and social support, ensuring each student has the tools they need to overcome challenges and continue their ascent.

- **Camp 2: Student Engagement**
  - We foster curiosity, critical thinking, and active participation, making learning an exciting and rewarding climb for all students.



Operating Hours

- Door 2 will open at 8:00 a.m. Students arriving between 8:00-8:30 should report directly to the cafeteria or gym.
- All students being dropped off by car riders must enter through Door 2.
- Bus students will be dropped off at Door 7.
- Once on campus, students are not allowed to leave. Leaving campus without properly checking out after entering the building between 8:00am & 3:45pm may result in disciplinary action.
- School dismissal is at 3:45 p.m. All students must leave campus at this time unless they are staying for an extracurricular activity supervised by a coach or sponsor. Students may only exit Doors 2 & 7.
- Students may not remain on campus after school waiting for athletic events to begin. They must leave and return when doors open for the event.

Bell Schedule

1st Period	8:45-9:40
2nd Period	9:45-10:40
South Strong	10:45-11:15
3rd Period	11:20-12:45
4th Period	12:50-1:45
5th Period	1:50-2:45
6th Period	2:50-3:45

Transportation

Car Riders & Walkers

- Carpool/walker students will enter/exit the building only through Door 2.
- Cars should pull as far forward as possible, closing any gaps. Please do not stop in the middle of the line to drop off or pick up students.
- As soon as your car has pulled as far forward as possible, your student should enter/exit the vehicle as quickly as possible. Please do not wait until you are at Door 2 to do this.
- Students walking home after school should utilize crossworks and follow all safety guidelines.
- Car riders and walkers do not need notes. We ask that parents/guardians ensure their student(s) know where to report after school. Students who walk to/from school should always use proper crosswalks and be mindful of oncoming pickup/dropoff traffic. Supervision cannot be guaranteed for walkers. Students do not need a note to walk home after school.

Bus Riders

Students riding the bus should be at their bus stop on time and exhibit respectful, appropriate behavior at all times while entering, riding, and exiting the bus. Students who must wait on a late bus after school should report immediately to the cafeteria and follow all school rules and expectations while waiting for their bus to arrive.

Bus Notes

No bus notes will be accepted this year.

After School Activities

Transportation for students attending after school should be pre-arranged by parents/guardians. Students who remain for an after-school activity may not leave the school campus unless accompanied by a parent/guardian or sponsor/coach. Sponsors of after-school activities will supervise groups in designated areas until parents pick up students. Students who are not picked up on time at the end of an after school activity may lose the privilege of attending that activity in the future, especially if the issue is recurring.

Attendance & Tardies

SOMS will follow Board Policy 09.123 which outlines attendance, tardy, truancy, and Educational Enhancement guidelines.

Students will have five (5) school days after an absence/tardy to turn in either a parent note or a doctor's note to the office requesting the absence be excused. ***After five (5) school days, no attendance records will be changed.*** If a student is late to school, he/she must check in with the office and get an admittance slip before being admitted to class. Each student K-12 is allotted eight (8) excused absences via parent notes.

Doctor's Note Only Status: After a student accumulates a total of eight (8) absences , the school will require a physician's authorization or other credible proof for each subsequent absence in order for it to be excused.

Early Dismissals

SOMS will follow Board Policy 09.1231 regarding dismissal procedures. A parent/guardian must come to the office to sign out the student. The school will require identification of any adult who comes to get a student and the school reserves the right to refuse to release to anyone other than the custodial parent.

- Early dismissals will be documented in IC and may impact a student's attendance.

Enrollment Withdrawals

Withdrawal requests go through the counseling office. Please contact Brooke Payne, counseling registrar, if you would like to withdraw your student. Advance notice is encouraged. brooke.payne@oldham.kyschools.us

Registration & Student Fees

Dragon Day: SOMS Registration Day

- August 6th, 9-12 and 3-6
- Students will receive their schedule and have an opportunity to drop off community supplies, personal supplies, and find their locker and classrooms.

In order to receive their schedule, students must have a completed On Line Registration (OLR), a proper proof of residency, a school physical and immunization, and fees must be paid. Student fees are paid through Infinite Campus beginning mid-July. Students qualifying for free and/or reduced lunch will be wholly or partially exempt from paying these fees. Exemption forms will be available on the website.

2026-2027 School Fees are $130 per student ($140 per band student).

Academics & Courses

SOMS Grading Policy

Goal

The goal of the South Oldham Middle School Grading Policy is to ensure that all students are given sufficient opportunities to demonstrate their comprehension of a subject or course and to provide a consistent "grading" procedure at each grade level.

Grading Expectations

Grades reflect student performance on the various subjects at each grade level of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards. Student grades are based on student progress and student mastery of content.

Grading Principles

1. Students will be provided with at least 1 opportunity to retake a summative assessment for up to an 80%.
    a. The retake may be a different version of the original assessment.
    b. Teachers may require students to participate in remediation and/or other forms of re-learning prior to the student earning this opportunity.
    c. The window to reassess will, at a minimum, be 2 weeks.
    d. Any opportunity for retakes on assignments, quizzes, homework, etc., that are not in the summative category, will be up to teacher discretion.

2. No extra credit will be given.

3. Only academic and performance grades will be given.

4. *At a minimum,* students will have 1 week past a unit's summative exam/project to turn in work from said unit.
    a. Late work will not be penalized more than 30 percentage points and the remaining score will be determined based on accuracy and completion.
    b. Students who have shown no effort on completing the assignment during provided class time may not be given this opportunity.
    c. In Infinite Campus, missing or late assignments that can still be submitted for credit will be marked as "missing". Once an assignment can no longer be turned in for credit, the "missing" flag will be replaced with a "0".

5. Grades shall be updated in Infinite Campus within 1 week of the assignment/assessment due date. Large projects and lengthy writing assignments shall be updated in Infinite Campus within 2 weeks of the due date.

6. Parent contact (email or phone call) will be made for each failing student at least once per trimester. Parents are strongly encouraged to monitor grades in Infinite Campus.

7. Gradebook categories will match across all **core content** courses: 70% Summative, 30% Formative.
    a. Only 1 gradebook category across all Arts & Humanities courses, with grade weights being determined by point values.

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy

First Offense - Any student who has been found having cheated/plagiarized, as defined below, will be given the opportunity to reattempt the assignment/assessment.

- The student will not be penalized more than 30 percentage points and the remaining score will be determined based on accuracy and completion.
- This opportunity may be in the form of an alternate assignment/assessment or a re-do of the original assignment/assessment.
- Additionally, a school behavior consequence may be given.

Second Offense and Beyond - Students who have multiple plagiarism/cheating offenses, whether it be in the same class or other classes, may receive a 0% as well as additional behavior consequences.

Cheating/Plagiarism Definition

Students shall not use or represent the words, images, or ideas of others as their own in any academic work. This includes, but is not limited to, the words, images, or ideas of others found online, printed, or presented in media including videos or sound recordings. Additionally, students shall not use human or digital language translators or equation solving programs to generate responses on academic work. Students must make an attempt to cite and acknowledge all direct quotations, summarizations, or paraphrases properly.

Students who aid other students in producing dishonest work will also be considered as cheating. This includes, but is not limited to, providing answers, allowing the copying of work, or completing work for other students without permission from the teacher.

Any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for completing academic work is strictly prohibited unless allowed by the teacher. If allowed by the teacher, all guidelines presented by the teacher must be followed.

Student work may be run through a plagiarism checker, such as TurnItIn, at any time regardless of whether or not plagiarism is suspected. Students should discuss with their teacher any questions about what constitutes plagiarism if further clarification is needed.

Grading Scale

The grading scale for every subject at SOMS is listed below. The grading scales are used to score your child's assignments in order to communicate your child's level of mastery of the content.

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
F	Below 70

Grievances

If a parent has a concern with any part of the grading policy defined above not being met, he or she will be directed to contact the teacher first to resolve the concern. If that meeting is unsuccessful, the parent should reach out to their student's counselor or AP for further discussion.

Instructional Materials

Students will have access to instructional materials. If a student loses, destroys or damages materials, he/she shall be required to account for such loss or damage as a means of fostering respect for public property. It is the student's responsibility to see the bookkeeper to pay any fine(s).

Required Student Devices

All students must bring a charged Chromebook or Laptop daily, along with a charger. Beginning Fall 2026:

- 6th grade students are required to use a SOMS device that will be checked out to them at the start of school.
- 7th/8th grade students will have the option of loaning a Chromebook through SOMS for the school year or they can bring their own device to school as long as it meets district and school tech requirements.
- Any damages or loss of a school Chromebook or charger will be the responsibility of the student/legal guardians to repair or replace. The district shall not be responsible for the loss, theft, or destruction of personal devices brought onto school property.

Physical Education & Health Education

All 6th grade students are required to take P.E. and all 8th grade students are required to take Health Education. These courses are an important fundamental step towards students being prepared to successfully complete state required high school Physical Education and Health requirements.

For P.E. all students are encouraged to have appropriate clothing for physical education. All P.E. outfits must meet school dress code. Students are required to wear athletic socks and shoes. Each student is assigned a locker in the gym locker room. These lockers should always be used to store personal belongings during gym class.

Gifted/Talented Students

South Oldham Middle School staff will differentiate instruction to meet the unique learning needs of those students identified as gifted through the Oldham County Board of Education's formal identification process. Teachers will work with the SOMS gifted/talented coordinator to write goals for a Gifted Student Services Plan (GSSP). The gifted/talented coordinator and the gifted/talented teacher will work with gifted/talented students in the year-long GATES course and will be available to help teachers plan and implement extension activities. Progress reports will be provided to parents twice each school year. Parents interested in whether their children may qualify for the opportunities offered by this program should contact the SOMS Gifted/Talented Coordinator.

SOMS Middle School Math Placement Policy

Each middle school offers 2 advanced level math courses at every grade level. Please see the charts below for requirements to enter into advanced math courses.

Students new to the district who are not able to provide testing data from their preview school will need to take the IOWA Math Assessment and the CogAT test in order to be placed into an above grade-level course.

Consideration for moving students up based on new scores will be by the end of September and is dependent on available space.

All appeals must be submitted through the district Google Form with appropriate documentation uploaded. To obtain the Appeals Form link, please email the student's counselor. All appeals decisions will be made by the District Appeals Committee.

The following are expectations for students in advanced math courses:

- Working with academic honesty

- When working independently, completes work on time consistently
- Work in a mature and independent manner, whether inside or outside of the classroom
- Independently check for missing work after an absence
- Participate thoughtfully in class discussions by providing insightful feedback to teachers and peers, and questioning in a respectful way
- Be actively involved in group work to build upon each other's strengths
- Regular attendance is expected and critical due to the rigorous curriculum, fast pace and classroom interactions involved in any advanced math course

6th Grade Math Placement

Students will be placed in the highest class where they meet 2 of 3 criteria.

Scores falling below the cutoff, even by one point, will not be considered. Scores must completely fall within the outlined percentage range to meet criteria.

	5th Grade Spring iReady Composite (or comparable universal screener)	**3rd Grade CogAT Quantitative Composite**	**4th Grade KSA Data**
6th Grade Math	74th percentile or below	74th percentile or below	74th percentile or below
6/7 Integrated	75th-89th percentile	75th-89th percentile	75th-89th percentile
6th Grade Pre-Algebra	90th Percentile or above	90th percentile or above	90th percentile or above

The most recent iReady, CogAT & KSA Data will be used to determine placement.

- Students will be moved to a lower math class if:
    - Student earns below an 80% on half or more of their summative assessments on the first attempt throughout Fall semester. (Class change will occur by January 1st)
    - Student earns below an 80% on half or more of their summative assessments on the first attempt throughout Spring semester. (Class change will occur following year)
    - Student earns overall grade below 80% in the class at the end of the year. (Class change will occur starting following year)

7th Grade Placement

Students will be placed in the highest class where they meet 3 of 4 criteria and have demonstrated mastery of prerequisite skills.
Scores falling below the cutoff, even by one point, will not be considered. Scores must completely fall within the outlined percentage range to meet criteria.

	6th Grade Spring iReady Composite (or comparable universal screener)	6th Grade CogAT Quantitative Composite	5th Grade KSA Data	Teacher Recommendation
7th Grade Math	74th percentile or below	74th percentile or below	74th percentile or below	-
7th Grade Pre-Algebra	75th-89th percentile	75th-89th percentile	75th-89th percentile	Recommended
7th Grade Algebra 1*	90th Percentile or above	90th percentile or above	90th percentile or above	Recommended
**Students enrolled in the 7th Grade Algebra I course will receive a high school credit on their transcript. Anything lower than an 80% will require students to take Algebra 1 again as an 8th grader.*				

The most recent iReady, CogAT & KSA Data will be used to determine placement.

- Students will be moved to a lower math class if:
    - Student earns below an 80% on half or more of their summative assessments on the first attempt throughout Fall semester. (Class change will occur by January 1st)
    - Student earns below an 80% on half or more of their summative assessments on the first attempt throughout Spring semester. (Class change will occur following year)
    - Student earns overall grade below 80% in the class at the end of the year. (Class change will occur starting following year)

Teacher recommendations take into consideration, but are not limited to, the student's work ethic, study habits, ability to learn new concepts quickly, work completion, class attendance, higher-order thinking skills and knowledge of basic math facts.

8th Grade Placement

Students will be placed in the highest class where they meet 3 of 4 criteria and have demonstrated mastery of prerequisite skills.
Scores falling below the cutoff, even by one point, will not be considered. Scores must completely fall within the outlined percentage range to meet criteria.

	7th Grade Spring iReady Composite (or comparable universal screener)	**6th Grade CogAT Quantitative Composite**	**6th Grade KSA Data**	**Teacher Recommendation**
8th Grade Math	74th percentile or below	74th percentile or below	74th percentile or below	-
8th Grade Algebra 1*	75th-89th percentile	75th-89th percentile	75th-89th percentile	Recommended
**Students enrolled in the 8th Grade Algebra I course will receive a high school credit on their transcript. Anything lower than an 70% will require students to take Algebra 1 again as a 9th grader.*				
8th Grade Geometry*	90th Percentile or above	90th percentile or above	90th percentile or above	Recommended
**Students enrolled in the 8th Grade Geometry course will receive a high school credit on their transcript. Anything lower than an 70% will require students to take Geometry again as a 9th grader.*				

The most recent iReady, CogAT & KSA Data will be used to determine placement.

- Students will be moved to a lower math class if:
    - Student earns below an 80% on half or more of their summative assessments on the first attempt throughout Fall semester. (Class change will occur by January 1st)

Teacher recommendations take into consideration, but are not limited to, the student's work ethic, study habits, ability to learn new concepts quickly, work completion, class attendance, higher-order thinking skills and knowledge of basic math facts.

Media Center (Library)

South Oldham Middle School Media Center houses over 17,500 books that are cataloged, inventoried and circulated using the Cataloging and Circulation Plus automated system from Follett Software.

Operating hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30a.m. - 3:45p.m.

Students may check out up to two (2) items at a time and may keep those items for two (2) weeks. Students may renew them as needed. Items not returned by the due date are considered overdue. No further items may be checked out until overdue items are returned. Students will be responsible for paying for items that are lost, stolen or damaged while checked out under their name.

Students must have a signed parent permission form on file to check out materials from the Young Adult collection. This form may be obtained in the Media Center at any time. The Young Adult collection contains books that are written for more mature readers. Parents are welcome to come in and peruse our materials so as to be familiar with what their children are checking out.

Communication & PTO

Contacting SOMS
The SOMS office is open 8:30am-4:15pm Monday-Friday. Phones will be answered only during the time the office is open. School office: 502-241-0320

Website
Visitors will find information about the school at www.oldham.kyschools.us/soms.

PTO
South Oldham Middle School is fortunate to have a dedicated and active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that supports our students, staff, and school community. Working closely with school leadership, the PTO helps create meaningful events and activities that enrich the middle school experience for every student. Our goal is to boost student engagement, enhance learning opportunities, and ensure teachers have the resources they need to succeed.

All parents, guardians, and staff are automatically members of the PTO at no cost. Everyone is encouraged to get involved in ways that fit their schedule and interests. Whether volunteering, attending events, sharing ideas, or supporting fundraisers, every contribution strengthens the SOMS community.

Cafeteria & Nutrition

Cafeteria - (Prices subject to change)

Breakfast: $1.50	**Lunch:** $3.05
Reduced Breakfast: $0.30	**Reduced Lunch:** $0.40
Free Breakfast: $0.00	**Free Lunch**: $0.00

To ensure an orderly and safe atmosphere, the following rules are enforced in the cafeteria:

1. Students will sit in assigned rows.
2. Students will only go through the serving lines once as they enter with their class.
3. Students will remain seated until dismissed.
4. Students will clean up after themselves.
5. Students will use good table manners.

The Oldham County School District has partnered with the *My School Bucks School Food Service Software Program* to give parents more direct access to their children's cafeteria accounts. This technology allows you to use the Internet to view your children's eating patterns. To participate in this process, please visit the school district's website at www.oldham.kyschools.us. Once on the website, under Departments, choose Nutrition Services. This site will give you a lot of information about Oldham County School Food Services. If you have any questions, please contact SOMS' Lunchroom Manager.

Oldham County School Nutrition: Meal Charge District Policy

I. Purpose

The Oldham County Board of Education is committed to providing students access to nutritious meals while maintaining the financial integrity of the USDA Child Nutrition Program. This policy ensures a consistent procedure for managing unpaid meal charges that prioritizes student dignity and eliminates any form of stigmatization or public identification of students with outstanding debt. The provisions of this policy apply exclusively to regular-priced, reimbursable school breakfasts, lunches, and snacks.

II. Meal Benefits and Charging

Free Meal Benefit: Eligible students receive one breakfast and one lunch daily at no cost.

Reduced Meal Benefit: Eligible students receive one breakfast and one lunch daily at no charge.

Full-Pay Students: Students will be charged the district's published paid meal rate.

If a student lacks funds, they will be provided a reimbursable meal unless a parent/guardian has submitted a written request to withhold meals. Restrictions: Charging for non-reimbursable items (a la carte, snacks, second entrees, or adult meals) is strictly prohibited.

III. Parent Notification and Outreach

The district shall maintain proactive communication with households to prevent the accumulation of significant debt:

• Immediate Notification: Parents/guardians will receive an automated email notification for every charge accrued once the account balance is exhausted.

• Proactive Outreach: When a student reaches three (3) meal charges, school staff will contact the household to: o Verify eligibility for the Free or Reduced-Price Meal program. o Assist with the completion of meal applications. o Identify potential household hardships and offer appropriate district or community resources.

IV. Minimizing Student Distress

To ensure a supportive educational environment, school staff are prohibited from:

1. Public Identification: Openly discussing a student's debt or account status in the presence of other students or staff.
2. Student Collection: Requiring a student to perform chores or take any specific action to "work off" a debt.
3. Direct Confrontation: Dealing with the student regarding payment; all collection efforts must be directed solely to the parent or guardian.

V. Account Management and Refunds

Prepayment and Balance Maintenance: Parents and guardians are encouraged to pay for meals in advance to ensure students always have sufficient funds. Detailed information regarding payment methods and the Free and Reduced-Price Meal program can be found at Oldham County Nutrition Services. Any remaining funds at the end of the term will automatically carry over to the following school year. Refunds and Account Transfers

Withdrawals and Graduation: To receive a refund for remaining account funds, a written or emailed request must be submitted to the Nutrition Services department.

Unclaimed Funds: Refunds for inactive accounts must be requested within one school year of the student's departure. Any funds remaining unclaimed after this period will become the property of the Oldham County School Food Authority and will be used to support the Food Service Program.

Health & Wellness

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Immunizations:
Below are the MANDATORY immunization requirements that must be met prior to the 1st day of sixth grade entry (age eleven (11) or twelve (12) years or older). In order to attend Kentucky Public Schools, each student must have a current Kentucky immunization certificate on file in the school office at all times. Students not adhering to this policy will not be allowed in school.

1. One (1) dose of Tdap if it has been at least two (2) years since the administration of the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine;
2. Two (2) doses of varicella, unless a healthcare provider states that the child has had a diagnosis of typical varicella disease or verification of a history of varicella disease by a healthcare provider or a diagnosis or herpes zoster disease or verification of a history of herpes zoster disease by a healthcare provider;
3. One (1) dose of MCV or MPSV (meningococcal vaccine).
4. Two (2) doses of Hepatitis A vaccine given.

If your child will not be 11 years of age before 6th grade entry and vaccine cannot be given until such time, please bring proof of physician appointment to registration.

Preventative Health Exam:
A Kentucky Preventative Health Care Examination Form is required for all students entering 6th grade. This exam may be completed up to one (1) year prior to entry into 6th grade.

In order for your student to complete enrollment into middle school, the KY Immunization Certificate and KY Preventative Health Care Exam Form must be on file at your child's school prior to the first day of attendance. Parents are urged to maintain copies of all medical documents. Questions may be directed to the Director of School Health Services at 241-3500 ext. 228.

OUT OF STATE TRANSFER HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

The following documents are required to be on file at the time of enrollment. **New students will not be enrolled at South Oldham Middle School without these proper documents:**

1. Certified birth certificate
2. Kentucky immunization certificate (out of state certificates can be transferred to KY with the assistance of the Oldham County Health Dept)
3. Child's social security card (copy will be filed)
4. Custody/Guardian papers (if applicable)

Out-of-state transfer students have ***30 days*** to complete the requirements for the Kentucky School Physical Examination.

SCHOOL INSURANCE

Information regarding optional/voluntary student insurance is available at this link: https://www.kandkinsurance.com/sites/K12Voluntary/Pages/Home.aspx

HEALTH ROOM

The prevailing belief is that if a student is too ill to remain in class, he/she should not be at school. Consequently, when a student reports that he/she is ill, parents will be contacted to provide transportation. Except in an emergency, students are not admitted to the health room without a pass from a teacher. In the event a student must leave school due to illness or injury, school officials will contact parents. Students are to report to the office for admittance to the health room. Other important health information regarding medication administration during the school day is available at this link: https://www.oldham.kyschools.us/departments/student-health-services/medication-administration

School Safety

Disaster/Safety Drills

There are specified procedures in the Safe Schools Manual for a variety of emergencies. In order to prepare students how to respond during an emergency, safety drills are routinely conducted. Exit procedures and safe areas are posted in each classroom. All teachers review this information with their students.

Visitors/Volunteers to SOMS

- All visitors/volunteers must first report to the office via Door 1 and state their name and reason for their visit prior to entry.
- All visitors/volunteers must show a valid ID upon entering the office.
- All visitors/volunteers staying in the building must sign in and then obtain a badge from the front office that must be visibly worn at all times.
- All visitors/volunteers must sign out in the office before leaving the building.
- All volunteers must have a completed criminal background check on file at the school.

Student Conduct Expectations

SOMS Dress Code

South Oldham Middle School expects all students to dress in a manner that is appropriate for the school day. Student dress choices should reflect respect for our school community and support the District's goal of fostering an inclusive and diverse environment. The primary responsibility for a student's attire rests with the student and their parent(s) or guardian(s). The school is responsible for ensuring that student clothing does not interfere with the health or safety of any student, does not create a hostile or intimidating environment, and that dress code enforcement is carried out in a way that does not reinforce or increase marginalization or oppression of ANY group.

Clothing must meet all guidelines when the student is engaged in any normal activity, including sitting, standing, running, carrying a backpack and bending at the waist. If a student must continuously adjust their clothing to meet guidelines while doing normal activity, they will be considered out of dress code. (i.e. always having to pull the top down to cover the belly after movement). Administration will communicate any exceptions to dress code guidelines on special occasions, such as spirit days.

General:

- No clothing that represents or advocates alcohol, smoking, drugs, gangs, profanity, weapons, violence, nudity, or anything inappropriate, illegal, or negative.
- Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected groups.
- No blankets, pillows, or stuffed animals.
- No costumes, costume props, masks, face paint, capes, or other similar items.

Tops:

- Sleeveless tops are permissible and must have straps over both shoulders.
- Tops cannot be mesh, see-through, have open or minimal back coverage, or contain any holes unless a dress code approved top is worn underneath.
- No tops that expose the midriff, belly, back or show cleavage when engaged in any normal activity as outlined above.
- All tops must cover the rib cage (no large arm holes).

Bottoms:

- Undergarments, buttocks, and private areas must be fully covered.

Headwear:

- No hats, hoods, caps, beanies, bandanas, or other head coverings.

Footwear:

- No house slippers, sock feet, or bare feet.
- No Crocs worn in P.E. (must wear tennis shoes)

Students in violation of the SOMS Dress Code will be spoken to and offered garments deemed appropriate if available. If appropriate garments are not available, the parent or guardian will be notified to bring a change of clothing. Additional school consequences, including losing the right to wear certain types of clothing, may be given to repeat offenders.

SOMS reserves the right to modify the dress code to meet the special needs of students for religious, cultural, or approved medical reasons.

Food & Drink Policy

Students must eat breakfast and lunch inside the cafeteria and cannot take any open food or drink containers into the hallways when leaving the cafeteria. Consumption of food, candy, or any drinks besides clear water is not permitted in the hallways, lobby, or other common areas, and any drinks besides clear water must be in an unopened or closed container in these areas. It is strongly recommended that students avoid bringing any type of energy drink to school. Classroom food/drink guidelines are up to teacher discretion.

Personal Communication Devices

POLICY STATEMENT

The use of personal devices during school hours may serve as a distraction to students and instructors. This policy aims to foster a conductive learning environment by minimizing distractions and promoting focused engagement during school hours.

DEFINITION

A "personal communication device" is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the

possessor, or another person, including, but not limited to, a paging device, a cellular telephone, MP3 players, iPhones, iPods, iPads, communicable and/or smart watches, electronic notebooks, netbooks, tablet computers and e-readers.

Telecommunication device does not include any device a student is authorized to use pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

POSSESSION AND USE

While on school property or while attending school-sponsored or school-related activities, whether on or off school property, students shall be permitted to possess and use personal telecommunications devices as defined by law and other related electronic devices, provided they observe the following conditions:

1. Unless an emergency situation exists that involves imminent physical danger or a certified employee authorizes the student to do otherwise, personal communication devices shall be turned off and not in use during the following times designated below.

2. Such devices shall not be used during the regular school day which includes the following periods: Oldham County Middle Schools: 8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

3. During regular school hours, personal devices must be completely silenced and out of **sight**. Students may keep devices in their bag, backpack, purse, etc.

4. Devices shall not be used in a manner that disrupts the educational process, including, but not limited to, use that:

a. Poses a threat to academic integrity, such as cheating;

b. Violates confidentiality or privacy rights of another individual. This includes, but is not limited to, taking photographs, video, or audio recordings of others without the permission of the Principal/designee and the affected individual(s). An exception may be made for events considered to be in **the** public arena (e.g. sporting events, academic competitions, or performances to which the general public is admitted) where the activity does not materially disrupt the event, prevent others from observing the event, or otherwise violate legal rights. School social events for students, activities sponsored by student clubs, and activities during the school day that are not open to the public are not considered to be in the public arena;

c. Is profane, indecent, or obscene;

d. Constitutes or promotes illegal activity or activity in violation of school rules; or

e. Constitutes or promotes sending, sharing, or possessing sexually explicit messages, photographs, or images using any electronic device.

These restrictions shall not be interpreted to prohibit material protected under

the state or federal constitutions where such material does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the education process or intrude upon the rights of others.

5. When students violate prohibitions of this policy, they shall be subject to disciplinary action, including the following:

a. First Offense:

- Student referral
- parent contact
- confiscation of the personal communication or personal electronic device, which shall be returned to the student or student's parent or guardian at the conclusion of the school day.

b. Second Offense:

- Attendance at the next-scheduled detention (lunch detention)
- Student referral
- parent contact
- confiscation of the personal communication or personal electronic device, which shall be returned to the student's parent or guardian at the conclusion of the school day
- School device plan: student must turn phone into office for 30 days.

c. Third Offense:

- One day of in-school suspension (AIM)
- Student referral
- parent contact
- confiscation of the personal communication or personal electronic device, which shall be returned to the student's parent or guardian at the conclusion of the school day
- School device plan: student must turn phone into office for remainder of school year

d. Additional offenses:

- Third offense consequences, in addition to potential suspension at the discretion of the District.
- OCATS/Suspension
- Continued loss of device privileges

6. Parents or guardians may retrieve forfeited student devices during regular office hours.

7. Students are responsible for devices they bring to Oldham County schools. The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft**,** or destruction of devices brought onto school property.

8. The decision to allow device use is vested within each Oldham County School's administration, not individual school staff or instructors.

9. Students shall comply with any additional rules developed by the school concerning appropriate use of personal communication or other electronic

devices.

10. The use of a personal communication device for instructional purposes must be approved by administration prior to usage in the classroom.

11. Students shall not utilize a personal communication or similar electronic device in a manner that would violate the District's Acceptable Use policy or procedures or its Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline.

Lockers/Backpacks

Every student will have the option to use a locker for individual use. Lockers are the property of the school and are subject to OCBE regulations, supervision and inspection (refer to OCBE Policy 09.436). Students are responsible for proper care of their lockers and will be assessed for any damage that occurs. Backpacks are permitted to be taken to classrooms. Lockers are approximately 30" H x 11" W x 11" D, STUDENTS ARE NOT TO SHARE LOCKERS OR GIVE THEIR COMBINATION TO ANYONE.

Solicitation

Students are not to engage in any type of buying, trading or selling of articles on school property unless it is part of a school sanctioned fund-raising event. Students caught in violation of this policy will forfeit any product they are selling/trading/buying in addition to any money made while on school property. Both the product and money will be donated to charity.

Tobacco Products/Vapes

The possession and/or use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, are prohibited. Also prohibited is the possession and/or use of vapes.

ALCOHOL/DRUGS/WEAPONS

Alcohol, drugs, and weapons violations are expellable offenses. Please refer to OCBE Student Policies 09.423, 09.4232, and 09.425.

BULLYING/HARASSMENT

Bullying and harassment are taken very seriously at SOMS and should be reported immediately to administration if witnessed.

"Bullying" is defined as any unwanted verbal, physical, or social behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated or has the potential to be repeated:

1. That occurs on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at a school-sponsored event

2. That disrupts the education process.

This definition shall not be interpreted to prohibit civil exchange of opinions or debate or cultural practices protected under the state or federal Constitution where the opinion expressed does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the education process.

Discipline

The primary prerequisite for a successful school is that an orderly atmosphere for learning prevails. When disciplinary action is necessary, it will be firm, fair, and immediate, and in accordance with board policy. Discipline methods may include, but are not limited to: Admin Warning Conference, Lunch Detention, Loss of Priveleges, AIM, OCATS, Suspension, Renaissance, and/or Expulsion.

AIM (Alternative Instructional Method)

For students that are disruptive to the educational environment and impacting the learning of other students, they may be placed in AIM. While in AIM, students will complete their assignments and any other work from teachers. Students will be monitored by a staff member throughout their placement in AIM.

OCATS (Oldham County Alternative to Suspension)

OCATS is a monitored, quiet work environment that is housed at Buckner Alternative High School. On the day a student is assigned to OCATS, the student must report to the front office as soon as they arrive at school and bus transportation will relocate them to BAHS for the day. Students will return to SOMS by 3:30pm and will take their normal transportation method home. While in OCATS, students will receive work from each of their teachers to complete.

Renaissance Program

The Renaissance Program is designed for students who are found to be in possession of drugs/alcohol, under the influence of drugs/alcohol, or to have used drugs/alcohol on school property. Trafficking drugs/alcohol is to be handled through the expulsion process with the Oldham County Board of Education.

Athletics & Clubs

Athletic Offerings:

We are proud to offer 13 individual sports programs for 6th-8th grade students enrolled at SOMS. Communication is given throughout each year regarding team try-outs, practices, games, etc.

- Boys/Girls Basketball
- Boys/Girls Soccer
- Football
- Cheerleading

- Dance
- Tennis
- Golf
- Volleyball
- Track & Field
- Cross Country
- Wrestling

Club Offerings:
Each year SOMS is excited to offer various club opportunities that span a range of student interests. These clubs typically meet once a week after school. Communication can be found in the SOMS Monthly Newsletter.

Examples of Club Offerings include:
- Kindness Club
- Beta Club (Invitation Only)
- Art Club
- Fishing Club
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Chess Club
- Y Club - KYA/KUNA
- Dragon Digest
- Yearbook
- Future Cities
- and more!

Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletic Participation

- **EXTRA CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES:** A key to student success at South Oldham Middle School will be active participation in extracurricular activities. South Oldham Middle School promises to be alive with numerous offerings for our students. We encourage every student to participate in at least one extracurricular activity. Students participating in sports must have a current sports physical on file submitted through final forms. Go to: https://oldham-ky.finalforms.com/dashboard .

- **EXTRA CURRICULAR CODE OF CONDUCT**: All SOMS students who participate in an extracurricular activity are bound by the Extracurricular Code of Conduct policy. All students and parents are strongly encouraged to read this policy and familiarize themselves with the high level of expectations in place for our student participants.

- Review the full Extracurricular Code of Conduct here