

SOUTH ORANGETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

FRONT OUTSIDE COVER: CALLIE PARK / FRONT INSIDE COVER: OLIVIA FORMUS
BACK OUTSIDE COVER: CELIA CHARALAMBIDES / BACK INSIDE COVER: SABRINA AVALOS-CHACON

SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent of Schools - Dr. Brian Culot

Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources – Dr. Joe Lloyd

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction – Dr. Rudy Arietta

Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations – Ms. Natalie Espinal

Assistant Superintendent for Technology and Innovation – Mr. George Brady

BOARD OF EDUCATION

J. Robert Coleman

Steven Finn

Katie Gravino

Tracy Holihan

Leigh Ann Porette

SOUTH ORANGETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Chad Corey, Ed.D., Principal	680-1101
Stephanie Grace, Assistant Principal	680-1102
Attendance/Main Office	680-1143
Patricia Iannucci, School Counselor	680-1111
Phillip Farrugia, School Counselor	680-1107
Siobhan Maiorano, School Counselor	680-1109
Bobbie Wong, Prevention Counselor	680-1147
Courtney Malka, School Psychologist	680-1112
Colleen Geyer, School Psychologist	680-1023
Jessica Inglis, Social Worker	680-1028
Jennifer Hind, School Nurse	680-1130

<http://www.socsd.org>

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

President: Corinne Sletner

Vice-President: Jen Van Dina

Treasurer: Amanda Levin

Secretary: Gina Charalambides

STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENTS

Please log into the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) to electronically sign the necessary student and parent/guardian agreements for the 2026-27 school year. This includes the Code of Conduct, School-Parent Compact and Student Handbook.

Four B's of SOMS

Be Responsible
Be Respectful
Be Prepared
Be Kind

Four C's of SOMS

Communication
Collaboration
Critical Thinking
Creativity



SOMS

COMMITTED TO

R**E**SPECT
COE**X**ISTENCE
COURAGE
EQUITY
RESPONSIB**L**ITY
SEL**F** ADVOCACY
EMPATHY
K**I**NDNESS
4 **C**'S
L**E**ARNING

MISSION, VALUES AND GOALS

The mission of the South Orangetown Central School District is to elevate, engage and inspire through personalized and exceptional educational experiences that ensure all students achieve to their fullest potential. The district will utilize and distribute resources and programming that promotes integrity and fairness to ensure a district system of equity, access and opportunities for all.

Our values are to:

- Challenge our students with the highest quality education
- Foster an inclusive school district community based upon respect, responsibility, equity and global citizenship
- Provide a safe and nurturing environment which prepares every student for future success

In alignment with federal Every Student Succeeds Act evaluation measures, SOCSD schools are focused on the following key goals: supporting academic readiness; promoting college, career and civic readiness; decreasing chronic absenteeism; and, improving school climate.



Elevate. Engage. Inspire.

SOUTH ORANGETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Dear SOMS Students,

You are about to embark on an exciting journey filled with opportunities to learn, grow, and discover your potential. At SOMS, we are committed to excellence in everything we do—and that includes helping you achieve your very best. This handbook is designed to guide you along the way. Please review it with your parent or guardian. Inside, you'll find important information, including the Student Code of Conduct, to support your success.

Your daily planner is more than just a tool—it's your roadmap to achievement. Use it every day to stay organized and take ownership of your learning. Remember: strong organization leads to strong results!

This year, you will accomplish amazing things. Our teachers and staff are dedicated to supporting and inspiring you every step of the way. We believe in you and know you have what it takes to excel.

Middle school is your time to explore and shine. Get involved! Try new sports, join clubs, and participate in activities that spark your interests. The more you engage, the more rewarding your experience will be.

Together, we will build a community rooted in respect, responsibility, and kindness. We expect great things from you because we know you are capable of greatness. Let's make this year extraordinary—because together, and with our shared commitment to excellence, anything is possible!

Dr. Corey, Principal

Ms. Grace, Assistant Principal

Dear SOMS Students,

The SOMS PTA would like to welcome back our returning students and extend a big welcome to all of our new students. We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing summer. It is with great enthusiasm that we invite you to get ready for an exciting and successful school year!

Our PTA is made up of students, parents/guardians, teachers, staff, and administrators who bridge together home and school life, making your years at SOMS memorable and productive. In addition to dances, parties, assemblies, school store, and school photos, the SOMS PTA Executive Board has been busy exploring additional programs, events and opportunities focused on enhancing the educational environment for our community. You can learn more from the SOMS PTA at www.somspta.org or on our Facebook/Instagram page "SOMS PTA". Make sure to bookmark the SOMS PTA calendar which is updated with all pertinent event information and links.

We have moved to processing all memberships online. Your membership fees directly fund all the programs and assemblies we provide to SOMS students. Our partnership with the administration helps bring our students the best experiences!

Please don't hesitate to make suggestions, ask questions and/or share your thoughts by dropping a note in the PTA mailbox located in the main office, or sending us an email at somspta@gmail.com. We're here to assist your parents/guardians, your teachers, and most importantly, you!

All of us at the SOMS PTA are looking forward to an exciting school year at South Orangetown Middle School. We wish you a successful, happy, and healthy year!

Sincerely,

SOMS PTA Executive Board

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

<https://www.socsd.org/annual-notifications/#code-of-conduct>

Code of Conduct

The Board of Education expects all students to conduct themselves in an appropriate and civil manner, with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, District personnel and other members of the school community, and for the care of District facilities, equipment and property.

The best discipline is self-imposed, and students must learn to assume and accept responsibility for their own behavior, as well as the consequences of their misbehavior. District personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to place emphasis on the students' ability to grow in self-discipline.

The Board recognizes the need to make its expectations for student conduct while on District property or engaged in a District function specific and clear. The rules of conduct listed below are intended to do that and focus on safety and respect for the rights and property of others.

Students may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension from school, when they:

I. Engage in conduct that is disorderly and/or disrupts the normal operation of the school community. Examples of disorderly conduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Using language or gestures that are profane, lewd, vulgar, abusive, or threatening.
- B. Display or use of personal electronic devices, such as, but not limited to, cell phones or digital cameras in a manner that is in violation of District policy.
- C. Computer/electronic communications misuse, including any unauthorized use of computers, software, cell phones, digital cameras, or internet/intranet account; accessing inappropriate websites; use of any electronic device to engage in harassing, bullying or sexting; Inappropriate use of Artificial Intelligence and other similar "emerging technologies".
- D. Using drones on or above District property except as authorized by school personnel with the permission of the Superintendents of Schools or designee.

II. Engage in conduct that is insubordinate. Examples of insubordinate conduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Failing to comply with the reasonable directions of teachers, school administrators or other District employees in charge of students or otherwise demonstrating disrespect.
- B. Missing class, leaving school without permission, chronic lateness and/or absenteeism.
- C. Failing to report for detention.
- D. Failing to vacate school grounds at the conclusion of school authorized activities.

III. Engage in conduct that is violent. Examples of violent conduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon a teacher, administrator or other District employee or attempting to do so.
- B. Committing an act of violence (such as hitting, kicking, punching, and scratching) upon another student or any other person on District property or attempting to do so.
- C. Possessing a weapon. Authorized law enforcement officials are the only persons permitted to have a weapon in their possession while on District property or at a District function.
- D. Displaying what appears to be a weapon.
- E. Threatening to use any weapon.
- F. Intentionally damaging or destroying the personal property of a student, teacher, administrator, other District employee or any person on District property, including graffiti or arson.
- G. Intentionally damaging or destroying District property.

IV. Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Lying or withholding information to impede inquiry or investigation by proper authority.
- B. Stealing, misappropriating, or misusing the property of other students, school personnel or any other person on school property or attending a school function.
- C. Defamation, which includes making false statements or representations about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group by demeaning them.

- D. Discrimination, which includes the use of age, ancestry, color, creed, disability, ethnic group, gender (including gender expression and identity), genetic predisposition, marital status, national origin, parental status, physical characteristics, actual or perceived race (including traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as but not limited to braids, locks, and twists), religion, religious practice, reproductive health decisions, sex, sexual orientation, or weight as a basis for treating another in a negative manner.
- E. Harassment, which includes a severe action, or a persistent, pervasive pattern of actions or statements directed at an identifiable individual or group which are intended to be or which a reasonable person would perceive as ridiculing or demeaning.
- F. Intimidation or bullying, including cyberbullying which includes engaging in actions or statements that put an individual in emotional distress or fear of bodily harm.
- G. Hazing, which includes any intentional or reckless act directed against another for the purpose of initiation into, affiliating with or maintaining membership in any District sponsored activity, organization, club or team.
- H. Selling, using, possessing or distributing obscene material.
- I. Using obscene or abusive language or gestures.
- J. Smoking (the burning of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco, cannabis or cannabinoid hemp) and all other tobacco use or the use of electronic cigarettes and other products containing nicotine, except for current FDA-approved smoking cessation products, are also prohibited. Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, known collectively as ENDS – Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, are defined as electronic devices that deliver vapor that is inhaled by an individual user (including but not limited to e- pens, e-pipes, e-hookah, e-cigars, vaporizers, vapor pipes, vape pens or any other personal vaporizing device, and includes any refill, cartridge or other component used in such a device.
- K. Possessing, consuming, selling, distributing, manufacturing or exchanging alcoholic beverages or illegal substances, or synthetic versions thereof whether specifically illegal or not, or being under the influence of such substances on District property, at a District function, on a school bus, or when representing the school district.
- L. Gambling.
- M. Indecent exposure, that is, exposure to sight of the private parts of the body.
- N. Initiating a report warning of fire, bomb threat or other catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.
- O. Forging any school related document or correspondence.
- P. Knowingly making false statements of knowingly submitting false information to school staff during a disciplinary process.
- Q. Selling, using, possessing or distributing firearms.
- R. Hiding evidence of an illegal act or school violation.
- S. Taking or sharing pictures or videos of other students or school personnel without permission. [View Board of Education Policy 5695 – Students and Personal Electronic Devices here.](#)

V. Engage in misconduct while on a school bus or at a designated school bus stop.

It is crucial for students to behave appropriately while riding on district buses to ensure their safety and that of other passengers and to avoid distracting the bus driver. Students are required to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Excessive noise, pushing, shoving and fighting will not be tolerated.

VI. Engage in any form of academic misconduct. Examples of academic misconduct [include, but](#) are not limited to:

- A. Plagiarism.
- B. Cheating.
- C. Copying.
- D. Altering records, including altering the work of others without permission.
- E. Assisting another student in any of the above actions.

VII. Engage in off-campus misconduct that endangers the health and safety of students or staff within the school or substantially disrupts the educational process. Examples of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- A. Cyberbullying (i.e., inflicting willful and repeated harm through the use of electronic medium text).
- B. Threatening or harassing students or school personnel over the phone or other electronic medium.
- C. Using message boards to convey threats, derogatory comments or post pornographic pictures of students or school personnel.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Discipline is most effective when it deals directly with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that students view as fair and impartial. School personnel who interact with students are expected to use disciplinary action only when necessary and to strictly adhere to the requirements of due process.

Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair and consistent. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, school personnel authorized to impose disciplinary penalties will consider the following:

1. The student's age.
2. The nature of the offense and the circumstances that led to the offense.
3. The student's prior disciplinary record.
4. The effectiveness of other forms of discipline.
5. Information from parents/persons in parental relation, teachers and/or others, as appropriate.
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

As a general rule, discipline will be progressive.

Range of Consequences

Students who are found to have violated the District's Code of Conduct may be subject to the following range of consequences, either alone or in combination. The school personnel identified after each penalty are authorized to impose that penalty, consistent with the student's right to due process.

- A. Verbal warning (may be accompanied by the below)
 - 1. Explanation of expectations moving forward
 - 2. Conflict resolution discussion with staff
 - 3. Student statement form completed by student
 - 4. Parent phone call
- B. Modified lunch/recess
- C. Written notification to parent/person(s) in parental relation
- D. In-school community service
- E. Temporary loss of activity or privilege
- F. Detention
- G. Suspension from transportation
- H. Suspension from athletic participation
- I. Suspension from social or extracurricular activities
- J. Suspension of other privileges
- K. In-school suspension
- L. Removal from classroom by teacher
- M. Short-term (five days or less) suspension
- N. Long-term (more than five days) suspension from school
- O. Permanent suspension from school
- P. Any suspension out of school will be followed by a reentry meeting with administrators, PPS staff, student and family upon the return to school.

This is a summary and is not intended to replace the complete Code of Conduct for the South Orangetown Central School District. [View Board of Education Policy 5300 – South Orangetown Central School District Code of Conduct here.](#)

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is recorded electronically each period by the teacher. Consistent attendance and punctuality are essential for success and are expected of all students. Absences, tardiness, or early departures will only be excused for reasons outlined in [Board of Education Policy 5100](#).

To have an absence excused, a signed note or email from your parent/guardian is required.

- Handwritten notes should be submitted to the Main Office on your first day back.
- Emails should be sent to attendancesoms@socsd.org.

You are responsible for making up all missed schoolwork during any absence. Failure to do so, or an unexcused absence, may result in a grade of zero. Unexcused absences are considered truancy (illegal absence from school).

Early Dismissal:

If you need to leave school early, bring a note to the Main Office or have your parent/guardian email attendancesoms@socsd.org before the start of the school day. Your parent/guardian must pick you up in the Main Office and sign you out. Due to limited parking during afternoon bus arrival, pickups between 2:30–2:55 p.m. should only occur in emergencies.

Tardiness:

You are considered late if you are not in homeroom by 8:15 a.m. After that time, report to the Main Office instead of your classroom. You must present a written explanation for your lateness signed by your parent/guardian. Without a written explanation, and for repeated lateness, detention may be assigned.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Morning drop-off takes place at the front of the building, while school buses arrive at the side of the building. From 7:45 a.m. to 8:10 a.m., students report to the following locations – 6th Grade: Gym; 7th Grade: Cafeteria; 8th Grade: Auditorium. Lockers may not be used during this time. At 8:10 a.m., a supervising teacher will dismiss you to your locker. Homeroom begins promptly at 8:15 a.m.

Dismissal is at 2:55 p.m. After visiting your locker, if you are staying on campus, you must report directly to an after-school activity such as sports, clubs, or office hours. Students are not permitted to remain in the building unsupervised.

If your parent/guardian is picking you up at dismissal, they must use the side parking lot to avoid congestion and conflicts with school buses in front of the building. For student safety, the driveway in front of the school is closed to private vehicles from 2:30 p.m. to 3:05 p.m.

ATHLETICS

Our modified sports program provides 7th and 8th graders with the opportunity to compete against teams from other schools. When participating in after-school athletic activities, you will be under the direct supervision of a teacher or coach and are expected to follow all guidelines outlined in the Athletic Handbook. Students are not permitted to remain in the building without their supervising teacher or coach present.

BACKPACKS

You are encouraged to use a backpack to carry your school supplies to and from school. During the school day, however, only string bags may be used. Please note that backpacks with wheels do not fit in lockers and should not be brought to school. If you require special accommodations, arrangements can be made under certain circumstances.

BICYCLES

Students may ride bicycles directly to and from the designated bicycle racks only. Riding bicycles elsewhere on school property is not permitted. Bicycle racks are located in front of the building, and you must park and lock your bike there. Please bring your own lock to ensure security. The school is not responsible for damage to or theft of bicycles.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH PROGRAM

Breakfast is available for purchase in the cafeteria from 7:40 a.m. to 8:10 a.m. Lunch can be purchased during each student's scheduled lunch period. Parents and guardians may view account balances or add funds through the [MySchoolBucks](#) online payment system. The application for free or reduced-price meals is available on the SOCSO website.

BUSES

Riding the bus is a privilege, and keeping everyone safe is very important. While at the bus stop or on the bus, stay calm and respectful. Always remain seated when the bus is moving and listen to the bus driver's directions. If the windows are open, keep your head, hands, arms, and belongings inside the bus. Late buses leave from the front of the school at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

CAFETERIA

Arrive on time for lunch and go directly to your table. Do not enter the food service areas. Make sure to clean your table and the area around it before leaving. Wait for a teacher's direction before going to recess. Once outside, you must stay outside for the entire recess period. Food, drinks, and snacks may not be taken out of the cafeteria. Bring everything you need for lunch with you. The school may assign students to specific tables if necessary. All students should know their PIN number before entering the lunch line.

CLUBS

SOMS offers a variety of [extracurricular activities](#) after school, and students are encouraged to get involved! Joining clubs is a great way to explore your interests. If you find more than one club, activity, or sport you'd like to join—even if they meet on the same day—go for it! Advisors and coaches will help you balance your time. After-school activities are a fun way to do what you enjoy and make new friends.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & HOMEWORK

At the beginning of each course, teachers will provide an overview of expectations. These will be shared with students, and parents or guardians may be asked to review and sign an acknowledgment form.

Teachers will offer office hours throughout the year and will share their schedules. If you have questions or need assistance, schedule an appointment as soon as possible. Teachers may also request that you attend office hours.

You are expected to arrive on time, prepared with all necessary materials such as notebooks or binders, a Chromebook, and pens or pencils. Gum chewing is not allowed. During class, you should remain engaged, respect the rights and property of others, and wait for the teacher to dismiss at the end of the lesson.

Interim reports will be available online about five weeks into each marking period, and report cards will be posted shortly after each quarter ends. To access these, log in to the PowerSchool portal. For a printed copy, contact the Counseling Office at 680-1106.

Homework plays an important role in building strong study habits, promoting independence, and reinforcing classroom learning. Parents can support this process by providing a quiet, distraction-free space, setting a consistent homework schedule, asking questions about assignments, helping when needed while ensuring students complete their own work, and encouraging organization using this agenda book. Teachers may assign a minimum 20 minutes of homework per class each night, with additional time for studying and long-term projects. Completing homework is essential for academic success, and both students and parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers with any questions or concerns. Students are responsible for making up missed work by checking Google Classroom or contacting classmates. For absences of three or more days due to illness, homework will be provided upon request through the Counseling Office. For planned absences, assignments will be completed after returning to school.

COMPUTERS

Each student is provided with a school-issued Chromebook for academic purposes. The [handbook](#) can be accessed on our website. All students are required to comply with the rules and guidelines outlined in the district's Acceptable Use Policy and Procedures regarding computer use.

SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE

- **BE SAFE** - Passwords are secret. Don't share your password or use anyone else's password. It's like stealing a key and is an invasion of privacy. Never reveal personal information including your or another's personal address and telephone number. Never transmit credit card information.
- **BE YOURSELF** - Never use anyone else's name or account. Do not post anonymous messages.
- **BE HONEST** - Observe copyright law. Be certain to cite sources properly. Do not transfer any commercial software onto school computers.
- **BE POLITE** - Do not insult anyone or use offensive language, not even in private messages to friends. Do not send or access pornographic materials or files containing racial, ethnic or minority slurs.
- **BE FAIR** - Use the Internet for schoolwork only. Do not use it for commercial purposes or political lobbying.
- **BE CONSIDERATE** - Do not waste time on-line.
- **BE CAREFUL** - Do not download or transmit any file with a computer virus. Do not violate federal, state, or local laws.
- **BE ALERT** - Report any security problems, violations, or abuses to your teacher.
- **BE RESPONSIBLE** - Access to the Internet and the school computer network is a privilege, not a right.
- Electronic material that is transmitted or stored is not private. The district reserves the right to monitor, edit or remove any material stored on the system.
- The SOCSO does not guarantee the Network will provide all the information needed or that the Network will be error free or uninterrupted.
- I must not damage computer equipment, software or networks.
- Any violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense.
- Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action will be taken.

DRESS AND APPEARANCE

SOMS follows the [SOCSO Board Policy on Dress and Grooming](#).

Students are expected to dress and groom themselves in an appropriate manner. The responsibility for the dress and appearance of students shall rest with the individual student and his/her parents. Students and their parents have the right to determine how the student shall dress, provided that the attire is not destructive to school property, complies with requirements for health and safety, does not interfere with the educational process and does not infringe upon the rights of others. Students must be dressed in appropriate clothing and protective equipment as required for physical education classes, participation in athletics, science laboratories and home and careers skills classes. While students participating in physical education classes may be required to wear certain types of clothing, such as sneakers, socks, shorts and tee shirts, they may not be required to purchase or wear a specified brand.

Student, faculty or parent groups may recommend appropriate dress for school or special occasions. However, a student shall not be prevented from attending school or a school function, or otherwise be discriminated against, so long as his/her dress and appearance meet the above requirements.

The following are considered to be inappropriate dress, grooming, and appearance and are prohibited in school or at school functions:

- Any dress or appearance which constitutes a threat or danger to the health and safety of students (e.g., heavy jewelry or jewelry with spikes which can injure the student or others);
- Any dress or appearance which is vulgar, lewd, obscene or indecent or profane, or which exposes to sight the private parts of the body (e.g., t-shirts with a phallic symbol and messages consisting of sexual metaphors; see-through garments, extremely plunging necklines or waistlines);
- Any dress or appearance which encourages or advocates the use of illegal drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco;
- Any dress or appearance which advocates or encourages the other illegal or violent activities;
- Any dress or appearance which advocates discrimination or denigrates others based upon race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability;
- The wearing of hats in the classroom (unless worn for religious or medical reasons);
- Any dress or appearance that is reasonably foreseeable to cause a substantial disruption to the educational process.
- The wearing of outdoor clothing, such as jackets, and hats/hoods in school.

If a student does not follow the guidelines listed above, they may be asked to change, and a parent will be contacted. Parents may also be asked to bring an appropriate change of clothing to school.

EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe and productive learning environment within its schools. Bullying and/or hazing of a student by another student is strictly prohibited on school property, in school buildings, on school buses, and at school sponsored events and/or activities whether occurring on or off campus. A person is bullied when they are exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other people, and when they have difficulty defending themselves.

- a. Physical (including, but not limited to, hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, taking personal belongings);
- b. Verbal (including, but not limited to taunting, malicious teasing, name calling, making threats); and
- c. Psychological (including, but not limited to, spreading rumors; cyberbullying; manipulating social relationships; or engaging in social exclusion, extortion, or intimidation).

Bullying is punishable as per our Student Code of Conduct. Please see the South Orangetown Middle School Bullying Prevention Policy.

You are responsible for your own learning, which means completing your work honestly and never engaging in cheating.

Arrive to class on time, prepared, and ready to participate, and always follow your teacher's directions.

Laser pointers and similar items are not allowed in school.

You are responsible for properly caring for and returning all school-issued items, including Chromebooks, textbooks, and library books. Failure to do so will result in charges for replacement or repair.

During class periods, you may not be in the hallways without a signed pass or a staff member accompanying you, and each hall pass may only include one student's name.

EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

No student at this school will be denied access to or benefit from any education program or activity on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, social or economic status, handicap, or disability.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills are held regularly as required by state law. When the alarm sounds, stop talking and listen carefully to your teacher's instructions. Leave your belongings at your desk and exit the room or building quickly and quietly, following the evacuation plan posted in your classroom. Your teacher will turn off the lights and close the door. Once outside, move to the designated safe distance from the building and remain there until directed otherwise.

FIELD TRIPS

Participating in field trips is a privilege, not a right. The school may exclude students from field trips or other special activities if their behavior does not align with the Student Code of Conduct. If you are not attending a field trip, you must be in school for the entire day. Remember, field trips are an extension of the school day, so all school rules and expectations apply while you are on a trip.

HARASSMENT

It is the policy of our Board of Education to maintain a learning environment that is free from harassment through conduct or communication, including sexual harassment. No student or staff member will be subjected to harassment by other students or staff members.

As per the policy of the Board of Education, the South Orangetown Central School District provides learning and working environments for all students, employees and visitors, free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal and physical conduct when made by any staff to a student, when made by any student to another student, or when made by a student to a staff member. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to verbal harassment or abuse, pressure for sexual activity, unwelcome and repeated remarks with sexual implications, unwelcome touching, suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by, implied, or explicit threats concerning one's grades, jobs, etc.

Violators will be subject to the consequences set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.

HEALTH SERVICES

If you're not feeling well during the school day, ask your teacher for permission to get a pass to the Nurse's Office. Only in emergencies may you go to the Nurse without a pass. If the nurse determines you need to go home, they will contact your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must pick you up in the Main Office and sign you out.

All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be administered by the school nurse. Medications must be delivered to the nurse with the proper information and documentation. For more details, contact the school nurse at 680-1130.

If you have an accident in the school building, on school grounds, on a school bus, or at a school event, notify the person in charge immediately and report to the Nurse's Office.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

The Library Media Center is open during the day for classes and students. If you need to visit during the day, please get a pass from your subject teacher. Students may check out up to two books for a two-week period and renew them once if needed. Please return books on time, as you are responsible for any lost or damaged items. Books overdue by more than a month may result in loss of library privileges. To keep the library a welcoming space for everyone, please work quietly and respect others. Failure to follow these guidelines may lead to losing library privileges.

LOCKERS

Only school-issued locks are permitted. Each student is assigned a locker to store items such as textbooks, notebooks, binders, folders, coats, hats and personal internet-enabled devices. It is your responsibility to keep your locker locked and in good condition, and you should never share your lock combination. You are not permitted to write on your lockers. While the school is not responsible for lost or stolen items, we will assist you in keeping your belongings secure. If the Principal or Assistant Principal suspects that your locker contains prohibited items, they may inspect your locker at any time.

LOST & FOUND

If you find an item and are unsure who it belongs to, please bring it to the main office.

- Clothing, lunch boxes, string bags, sneakers, or shoes will be placed in the Lost and Found bin located in the cafeteria.
- Electronic devices, books, eyeglasses, or jewelry will be kept in the main office for safekeeping.

Remember to check the Lost and Found bin regularly to reclaim any missing items. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

PERSONAL INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICES

New York State requires that all public schools implement "bell-to-bell" restrictions on personal internet-enabled devices (e.g., smartphones, tablets, smartwatches). Please review [SOCSD Board Policy 5695 – Students and Personal Electronic Devices](#).

Students are required to power off cell phones and store them in a school-issued pouch during school hours (8:15 AM - 2:55 PM). A pouch will be provided to all students during homeroom on the first day of school. If the pouch is lost or damaged, a new pouch must be purchased through the main office at a cost of \$9. Until a new pouch has been purchased, the student must leave their cell phone in the main office during the school day.

All other personal internet-enabled devices are to be powered off and stored in the student's locker.

Only district-issued Chromebooks may be used by students during school hours.

OUTDOOR RECESS

These guidelines were established by the SOMS School Level Team (SLT):

- 20°F or below – Outdoor recess will not be held.
- 21°F to 45°F – Students should wear a sweatshirt or coat.
- Above 45°F – Students are expected to use good judgment regarding appropriate attire.

Please note: Throwing snowballs is not permitted.

SOUTH ORANGETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Bullying Prevention Policy

In line with the Dignity for all Students Act (2010) which went into effect on July 1, 2012, bullying, harassment or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated at South Orangetown Middle School. This includes harassment and discrimination based on a person's race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, disability, gender or sexual orientation. Bullying, harassment, or discrimination will not be tolerated on school property or at school functions (any school sponsored or PTA event).

In addition, the school will investigate and have the ability to impose consequences for off campus bullying (cyber-bullying), harassment or discrimination that is brought to its attention, particularly if it is disruptive to the school environment or a child's experience in school.

The Dignity for All Students Act Coordinators at
South Orangetown Middle School are:

Dr. Corey, Principal	845-680-1101
Ms. Grace, Assistant Principal	845-680-1102

SOUTH ORANGETOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL**BELL SCHEDULE****Regular Period Schedule**

Warning Bell: 8:12am

Homeroom	8:15-8:20	(5 min)
Period 1	8:20-9:01	(41 min)
Period 2	9:04-9:45	(41 min)
Period 3	9:48-10:29	(41 min)
Period 4	10:32-11:13	(41 min)
Period 5 & Café 7	11:16-11:57	(41 min)
Period 6 & Café 6	12:00-12:41	(41 min)
Period 7 & Café 8	12:44-1:25	(41 min)
Period 8	1:28-2:09	(41 min)
PM Announcements	2:09-2:11	(2 min)
Period 9	2:14-2:55	(41 min)

One-Hour Delay Schedule

Warning Bell: 9:12am

Homeroom	9:15-9:23	(8 min)
Period 1	9:23-9:57	(34 min)
Period 2	10:00-10:34	(34 min)
Period 3	10:37-11:11	(34 min)
Period 4	11:14-11:48	(34 min)
Period 5 & Café 7	11:51-12:25	(34 min)
Period 6 & Café 6	12:28-1:02	(34 min)
Period 7 & Café 8	1:05-1:39	(34 min)
Period 8	1:42-2:16	(34 min)
PM Announcements	2:16-2:18	(2 min)
Period 9	2:21-2:55	(34 min)

Two Hour Delay Schedule

Warning Bell: 10:12am

Homeroom	10:15-10:23	(9 min)
Period 1	10:23-10:49	(26 min)
Period 2	10:52-11:18	(26 min)
Period 3	11:21-11:47	(26 min)
Period 4	11:50-12:16	(26 min)
Period 5 & Café 7	12:19-12:49	(30 min)
Period 6 & Café 6	12:52-1:22	(30 min)
Period 7 & Café 8	1:25-1:55	(30 min)
Period 8	1:58-2:24	(26 min)
PM Announcements	2:24-2:26	(2 min)
Period 9	2:29-2:55	(26 min)

Three Hour Delay Schedule

Warning Bell: 11:12am

Homeroom	11:15-11:23	(8 min)
Period 1	11:23-11:39	(16 min)
Period 2	11:42-11:58	(16 min)
Period 3	12:01-12:17	(16 min)
Period 4	12:20-12:36	(16 min)
Period 5 & Café 7	12:39-1:09	(30 min)
Period 6 & Café 6	1:12-1:42	(30 min)
Period 7 & Café 8	1:45-2:15	(30 min)
Period 8	2:18-2:34	(16 min)
PM Announcements	2:34-2:36	(2 min)
Period 9	2:39-2:55	(16 min)

Minimum Attendance Procedure

In order to receive credit for a course at TZHS, students must earn an average of 65% or higher (including a final exam or assessment). In addition, students are expected to meet minimum attendance thresholds as outlined below.

COURSE	ABSENCES
1 Credit Course	18
½ Credit Course	09
Physical Education	06

Students with absences (for any reason) that exceed these thresholds are considered chronically absent. Chronic absenteeism can lead to gaps in understanding, affecting overall academic performance and hindering social development. It's a key factor in preparing students for future responsibilities, emphasizing the value of commitment and responsibility.

Students with unexcused absences from classes will not be allowed to make up missed work for academic credit. Please see procedures (under "Residency and Attendance") to ensure that absences are communicated to avoid potential academic implications.

Extended Illness

During the first week of an extended illness, a parent or guardian must contact the school. Parents must provide a doctor's note, detailing the nature of the illness as well as the potential length of absence. Students of compulsory age who anticipate an absence of two or more consecutive weeks will be provided a home tutor.

Notification of Class Absences

Students and their parents or guardians will be informed of class absences at various intervals as noted below:

	Unexcused Absences*			Total Absences**	
Course	1st Warning	2nd Warning	Potential Loss of Credit	Warning Notice	Chronic Absence
1 credit/full year	7	12	19	9	18
½ credit/semester	4	7	10	4	9
Physical Education	3	5	7	3	6

* Includes attendance codes A (Unexcused Absence) and U (Late Unexcused)

** Includes attendance codes A (Unexcused Absence) and U (Late Unexcused) plus ED (Early Dismissal), L (Late Excused), X (Excused Absence) and N (Nurse).

All unexcused absences are counted toward the attendance policy in which students may **no longer receive credit** in a course if they reach the number of absences specified in the Loss of Credit column. If a student is absent for more than the allowable number of class meetings due to an extenuating circumstance or if there is a disagreement in the number of absences, he/she can make an application to the Appeals Committee. **Appeals must be requested within 10 school days from the date of the Final letter.**

The Appeals Committee is composed of teachers and administrators, and this committee will make a recommendation to the Principal for a final decision. If the decision of the Appeals Committee is not to reinstate the student's eligibility to earn credit, this information will be reflected on the student's transcript. If a student exceeds the number of allowable absences and chooses not to appeal, the student's transcript will reflect that the withdrawal/drop was due to excessive absences.

BOTH UNEXCUSED AND EXCUSED ABSENCES ARE COUNTED TOWARD CHRONIC ABSENCE. IF A STUDENT REACHES THE NUMBER OF ABSENCES SPECIFIED IN THE CHRONIC ABSENCE COLUMN, THEY WILL BE CONTACTED BY A STAFF MEMBER TO DISCUSS ATTENDANCE CONCERNS, STRATEGIES AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR CONTINUED NON-ATTENDANCE.