



2026-2027

**YADKIN VALLEY REGIONAL
CAREER ACADEMY
Student Handbook**

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DISCLAIMER

This handbook lists a summary of Davidson County School Board Policy and specific Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy expectations and guidelines for the 2026-2027 school year. Please read carefully and do not hesitate to contact a school staff member if you have any questions regarding school policies, guidelines, and expectations. Policies/procedures may be updated as needed.

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Student Handbook

Welcome to Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy! We are so excited you are a member of our team of Valley Innovators. An innovator is among the first to create or improve something better than it was before. Innovators take risks, try new ideas, fail, try again, and, consequently, provide new opportunities and paths for others to pursue.

MISSION

To graduate creative innovators.

VISION

To ignite a lifelong passion for curiosity, creativity, innovation, and service.

As a high school modeled after business practices, Valley Academy expects students to act like young professionals each day. To help students understand what behaviors are expected, we have identified a Portrait of a Valley Graduate.

Valley Innovators are:

Accountable, **S**elf-Directed, **P**rofessional, **I**nnovative, **R**esourceful, and **E**thical.

YVRCA students **ASPIRE** to greatness in all they do. This handbook provides general principles, policies, and procedures that will help staff, students, and families understand our expectations. Complying with these guidelines promotes student success in reaching their maximum potential and aspirations.

PORTRAIT OF A VALLEY GRADUATE

Valley Graduates are...

Accountable Taking responsibility for personal actions, learning from mistakes, and doing what is needed to make things right.

Valley Graduates...

- grow from both success and failure, creating plans for improvement.
- follow through on commitments to build trust.
- manage time and priorities to meet expectations.

Self-Directed Taking charge of their learning by setting goals, staying motivated, and working toward personal growth.

Valley Graduates...

- take initiative to start, and stay engaged and motivated while working.
- seek out learning opportunities that support growth.
- reflect on progress and adjust goals while learning.

Professional Showing respect and responsibility through personal actions, conversation, and disposition in school and work settings.

Valley Graduates...

- show respect, patience, and flexibility through personal words, actions, and effort.
- take pride in work and view challenges as opportunities to grow.
- prepare and commit to bringing best efforts to every task.

Innovative Thinking in new and creative ways, staying curious, and being open to trying something different to grow and improve.

Valley Graduates...

- use curiosity and the Engineering Design Process to turn concepts into products in novel ways.
- ask questions and explore different approaches to solve problems.
- step outside of comfort zones and adapt when things don't go as planned.

Resourceful Offering creative input and solutions in team settings.

Valley Graduates...

- tackle challenges with creative strategies that keep the project moving forward.
- contribute ideas that build on teammates' thinking to design stronger solutions.
- adapt roles and responsibilities to support the team's success.

Ethical Making decisions based on honesty and fairness, guided by a strong sense of what's right.

Valley Graduates...

- act with honesty and integrity, making respectful and responsible decisions.
- stand up for what's right, even when unpopular.
- follow school policies to ensure a safe and fair school for all students.

ATTENDANCE

School-Related Activities

The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

- Field trips sponsored by the school;
- Job shadows and other work-based learning opportunities, as described in G.S. 115C-47(34a);
- School-initiated and scheduled activities;
- Athletic events requiring early dismissal from school;
- Career and Technical Education student organization activities approved in advance by the principal; and
- In-school suspension.

College Visit Days

High school students will receive two (2) college or military days each year during their junior and senior years. These days are eligible for a waiver with documentation from the college or military branch visited. These absences will not count toward the maximum number of absences or toward the total absences for the Exam Exemption policy.

Tardy Policy

6.1.11 Tardiness:

***Excessive tardiness may result in loss of parking privilege & extracurricular activities (prom, etc.)** As a result of tardiness to school and/or class, the following consequences will incur.

# Tardy	Consequence
1 st Tardy	Warning
2 nd Tardy	Warning
3 rd Tardy	Warning
4 th Tardy	Lunch Detention
5 th Tardy	Two Lunch Detentions
6 th Tardy	Two Lunch Detentions
7 th Tardy	One Day of ISS (Loss of Exam Exemption)
8 th Tardy	Two Days of ISS
9 th Tardy	Three Days of ISS
10 th Tardy	One Day of OSS

*Parents will be contacted at the third tardy and a policy reminder will be given. After 6 tardies, the administration will request a meeting with a parent.

Attending Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy is a privilege. Accordingly, enrollment status will reflect student attendance. Excessive absences could jeopardize a student's eligibility for continued enrollment. YVRCA students attending DDCC classes must abide by the additional attendance policies in the course syllabus and DDCC handbook.

ALL absences count as absences. Excused and unexcused absences count toward the total number of days missed in a course.

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral to academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Regular attendance develops patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life.

Procedure to Follow After an Absence

When a student is absent from Valley Academy, he/she must call Valley Academy to report their absence. Parents must verify absences within three (3) days of the student's return to school. For each absence, students are to bring a note from home stating the name, date(s) of absence, reason, parent signature, and phone number where a parent can be reached. The note should be taken to the front office between 8:00-8:15 am. Students failing to submit notes within three (3) days will have their absences coded as unexcused. Forged notes or failure to provide parental verification will be dealt with accordingly.

Student attendance is essential to learn the material and earn credit for the course.

- Students with 3+ absences:
 - Have a one-on-one conversation with the student about their absences during attendance intervention.
 - A student should have a note for all absences. Otherwise, they are coded unexcused.
- Students with 5+ absences:
 - Have a one-on-one conversation with the parent about the student's absences.
 - Develop a contract with the student and parent. Discuss with the student that we are at a very critical point in their absences. Discuss how much time of the semester is left, and clarify that it is imperative they not miss any more days. As a strategy to help, talk with the students about why they are missing so many days and/or why they are having these attendance issues.
- Students with 8 absences:
 - Have a one-on-one conversation with the parent about the student's absences.
 - The Student Assistance Team will develop intervention strategies to improve attendance.

INTERNSHIP/JOB SHADOWING

Opportunities for job shadowing experiences and/or internships are determined by availability, attendance, academic performance, transportation needs, teacher recommendations, and student initiative. Students are expected to collaborate with Valley's career counselors to seek out internship opportunities. Students are required to document their job shadowing/internship duties and will provide written feedback about their experiences.

Approved internships are scheduled prior to the beginning of the semester by the student and Ms. White.

Internship Attendance

A minimum of 120 volunteer hours are required to receive credit during the internship semester. The credit hour will appear on the student's transcript. This credit reflects work experience, a type of volunteer work intended for students to get a feel for professional working environments in fields of interest. Students accepted into internships are expected to complete weekly reflections, goals, programs of work, sponsor evaluations, and a culminating portfolio due upon completion of the internship.

Internship Transportation

Transportation is the responsibility of the student/parent. YVRCA does not provide or arrange transportation to/from the student's off-campus site. Students will not be excused from attending their site due to not having transportation.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

High School Graduation Requirements

YVRCA: Students take courses at DDCC instead of many of the electives listed in the DCS information. Twenty-eight (28) total credits are necessary to earn at least a certificate at DDCC and a high school diploma at YVRCA. See the sections below for details of high school course requirements.

Future Ready Core
English: 4 Credits English I English II English III English IV
Mathematics: 4 Credits Math I Math II Math III 4th Math aligned with the student's post-high school plans
Science: 3 Credits Earth/Environmental Science Biology A Physical Science
Social Studies: 4 Credits World History Honors American History Honors Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy Honors Economics & Personal Finance Honors
Health & Physical Education: 1 Credit Health/PE
At least 12 additional elective credits <i>Students are required to successfully complete CPR instruction as a requirement for graduation.</i>
Total Credits Required for Diploma: 28 *Students take courses at DCCC instead of many of the electives listed in the DCS information. 28 total credits are required for a high school diploma at YVRCA.

Honors Courses

To be successful in college, all students who intend to further their education at a four-year college/university, a community college, or a technical institute are urged to select rigorous academic courses.

The following courses are planned to be offered only at the Honors level at YVRCA:

- English 1, 2, 3, 4
- Math 1, 2, and 3
- Biology, Earth and Environmental Science
- Civic Literacy, World History, American History, Economics & Personal Finance

Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy recognizes these courses as being at the Honors level due to the depth and scope of work required for a student to be successful. By embedding additional content areas and expectations into these core subjects, students are exposed to and assessed on standards that exceed the current Standard Courses of Study. Students at YVRCA are required to collaborate and exhibit a greater level of responsibility for their learning. Furthermore, students also complete self and peer critiques in addition to receiving feedback from their instructional coaches and professionals in their respective fields. By embracing a project and problem-based learning environment, our students are challenged to find solutions to complex problems and enhance their creativity. Ultimately, all courses at YVRCA are distinguished by a difference in the quality of work expected rather than the quantity of work.

- Honors students must have a strong work ethic and be responsible and disciplined learners.
- Honors students must be able to read independently for comprehension, analyze, and evaluate material. They must be able to organize their thoughts for both written and oral expression (essays, research, speeches, etc.).
- Honors students must realize that they will be required to spend a great deal of time working outside of class. Some courses require independent projects, community service, and other activities that must be completed outside the regular school day.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy Valley Academy/DDCC

- Students who fail to meet academic expectations for any course, need to follow the standard procedures of academic support and interventions established by YVRCA.
- Students who fail two or more YVRCA courses during a semester lose eligibility to take DDCC courses the following semester.
- Review the [DDCC SAP Policy Information](#)
- Students who do not meet the academic requirements for YVRCA and DDCC to earn a Certificate, Diploma, or Degree will meet with the administration to discuss their academic future.

Seniors and Super Seniors

Seniors and Fifth Year Seniors are also required to attend and pass YVRCA anchor courses and/or internships to continue eligibility for internships and DDCC courses.

Grading Guidelines

The following outlines adopted grading practices for all Davidson County Schools high schools:

- Homework may be graded for accuracy and/or for participation.
- Academic contracts will include due dates for demonstrating achievement of skills. If a due date is missed, the contract becomes null and void and the student will maintain the average as reported on the report card.
- All weekly grades shall be entered into Infinite Campus within 7 days from the assignment's due date. The exception will be lengthy written assignments.
- For Standard and Honors courses, grades shall be comprised of one of the following choices:
 - 60% Major works, 30% Minor works, 10% Class/Homework, or 60% Major works, 40% Minor works
 - Performance-based courses may count a weekly participation grade as minor grades
- There shall be a minimum number of grades in the following categories each grading period:
 - Major works (tests, projects, labs, presentations, research papers, etc.) - 3
 - Minor works (quizzes, classwork, homework, journals, notebooks, small scale labs, projects, group work, etc.) - 10

Testing

Students enrolled in classes with an End-of-Course (EOC), or CTE Post Assessment, must take the final exam. Students must meet the local performance standards to receive credit for a course. These standards are achieving an overall final class average of 60 or above. Teacher-made final exams, EOC Final Exams, and CTE Final Exams will count 20% of the grade. A student who passes a final exam but fails to meet the overall average of at least 60 will not receive credit for the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching." -C.S. Lewis

Academic integrity is an integral part of the learning process. Students at Valley Academy are expected to show academic integrity in all aspects of their schooling by completing their own assignments, working to the best of their ability, and not receiving unauthorized help.

The following academic integrity policy outlines student expectations and closely mirrors the expectations of Davidson-Davie Community College.

DEFINITIONS - Adapted from DDCC Academic Integrity Policy

<https://catalog.davidson-davie.edu/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=998>

Cheating: turning in someone else's work as your own; giving or receiving unauthorized help during any academic assignment including using or attempting to use unauthorized:

- information (e.g. notes, someone else's work, test bank information, use of unauthorized internet searches, use of unauthorized resources at inappropriate times);
- communication (e.g. talking, listening, writing, or signing/signaling others, unauthorized collaboration on assignments);
- electronic devices (e.g. cell phones, mp3 players, calculators, digital recorders/cameras, or other data storage device) during any academic assignment or test.

Fabricating: generating false data, sources, or citations for any academic assignment.

Plagiarism: any attempt to pass another's work off as one's own, in part or in whole, without properly acknowledging the source. This includes directly quoting, summarizing, or using ideas, images, or data from another's work without properly citing the source; as well as submitting purchased or borrowed papers as one's own. Submitting one's own work for multiple assignments without the express consent of the instructor is also prohibited.

Because Valley Academy embraces a Project Based Learning approach to education, students often work in collaborative groups to complete assignments. Academic dishonesty in collaborative group work may also include:

- taking credit for group work to which you did not contribute significantly or meet your obligations
- submitting work completed by another group member and claiming it as your own
- using other's ideas and claiming them as your own
- providing others with work, and allowing them to claim it as their own
- inflating or deflating peer evaluations based on personal opinions and friendships

Honor Statement

As evidence of abiding by the academic integrity policy, students may be asked to write and sign the following statement on any major assignments:

“I affirm that the work I am submitting is my own original work. I have not cheated, plagiarized, or received unauthorized assistance from another person. If I used artificial intelligence (AI) tools, I did so only as permitted by my teacher and have properly acknowledged that use according to assignment guidelines. I understand that academic integrity is essential to my education, and I accept responsibility for maintaining honest and ethical standards in all of my work.”

Individual instructional coaches may adapt the phrase better to suit the needs of the course and assignment.

Consequences for Violating the Academic Integrity Policy

Students who violate the academic integrity policy will be subject to the following consequences. Violations are cumulative, not per class.

1st Violation:

- Parent/guardian will be contacted
- Student will complete an ethics reflection within three (3) school days of violation
- Student will receive a 0 for the assignment; the instructor will determine if the student may resubmit the assignment or complete an alternate assignment based on situation

2nd Violation:

- Parent/guardian will be contacted
- Student will complete an ethics reflection within three (3) school days of violation
- Student will not receive credit for the assignment

3rd Violation:

- Parent/guardian will be contacted and meet with the principal and/or designated staff member
- Student will complete an ethics reflection within three (3) school days of violation
- Student will meet with principal and business partner (if available) to discuss academic standing
- Students who do not complete the required ethics reflections will be subject to further disciplinary action.

EXHIBITION

Purpose

The purpose of Exhibition is to provide the outside community with an event that highlights **student learning** and **critical thinking** that happens through **collaboration** and **inquiry** on a daily basis at Valley Academy, providing students the opportunity to showcase their learning with **authentic audiences**.

Goals

Visitors who attend Exhibition will walk away knowing:

- Students can communicate professionally about the process and the content of their learning.
- Teams of students work collaboratively to solve problems and meet challenges that connect the subject content to the real world.
- Students are producing high-quality work in all disciplines.
- Teachers are designing lessons and projects that integrate STEM thinking skills (Strategies That Engage Minds) into the curriculum at Valley Academy.
- Work at Valley Academy is purposeful, organized, and relevant for student growth and future success.

Exhibitions will be held on **November 19, 2026**, and **April 15, 2027** after school. **All students are required to participate in Fall and Spring Exhibitions of Learning and all preparation sessions.** If a student has any other conflicting circumstance, an application for exemption must be submitted prior to five (5) school days before the exhibition and approved by the principal. Emergency situations occurring within five (5) school days of Exhibition need to be discussed with the principal, personally. Making up the true Exhibition experience is not equitable to the actual experience, but if a student is absent from Exhibition, he/she will present all aspects of information shared at Exhibition to a panel of professionals at a date and time to be determined by the administration and the classroom teacher.

During preparation time, students

- are required to participate in all preparation sessions unless approved by the principal or have a direct conflict with a DDCC course/lab in their school schedule.
- will utilize all times provided to plan and practice how they will host and communicate their information to visitors.
- create plans where their presence and explanations are required for guests to understand
- should be able to state the driving question and explain how their learning experiences helped them answer it
- identify key features, processes, skills, and/or information that their product exemplifies
- focus on WHAT they learned, HOW they learned, and WHY it is important
- formulate and internalize talking points so they can hold educated conversations with guest; avoid memorizing speeches
- should remain in the assigned location, unless there is an extenuating circumstance

During Exhibition time, students

- will showcase and communicate what, how, and why they learned in relation to the corresponding PBL
- should be able to explain all parts of the learning process at any given time, above and beyond the product
- are expected to remain on campus for the entire duration of each Exhibition of Learning
- are expected to remain at their assigned Exhibition locations throughout the event.

STUDENT SCHOOL FEES

Each year the Davidson County Board of Education approves fees that will be assigned to students for various purposes. **Students will pay fees online using School Cash Online** and an application to apply for a waiver for school fees will be available on the first day of each school year.

Technology fees must be paid within the first week of school. If the student does not pay, their computer will be shut down and eventually taken back until payment is made.

Remaining school fees must be paid or waived within the first quarter of school. If fees are not paid they will carry over into the next school year but students will not receive a computer until payment is received. Parents may apply for a waiver of school fees during the current year only. Schools may withhold things such as, commencement tickets, prom tickets, parking permits, etc. until school fees have been paid. If a student has acquired charges for parking tickets, these charges must be paid before the student can purchase a parking permit. Please see our counselor if there is a financial hardship.

DCS DAILY DRESS EXPECTATIONS

STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE (Policy 6.37)

The following attire is considered **inappropriate** for secondary students:

- Clothing or attachments that are disruptive to the teaching learning process or are revealing, indecent, vulgar or obscene.
- Clothing which promotes alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or the use of controlled substances by words or symbols, or is of a disruptive nature.
- Hats, sweatbands, bandannas, or sunglasses inside school buildings.
- Shorts, skirts, and dresses shorter than mid-thigh.
- Shirts and blouses that do not cover the waist, midriff or go past the waistline.
- Clothing that contains profanity, nudity, depicts violence or is sexual in nature by words or symbols.
- Clothing that is sheer or mesh. Undergarments that are visible.
- Pants worn in such a manner that underwear is exposed to view or which are generally revealing in nature.
- Footwear that may present a hazard to health and safety.
- Oversized shirts are prohibited due to the potential for concealment of disruptive/violent items/weapons.
- Pants are to be worn at appropriate height (waist) without allowing them to sag.
- Pajamas, hoods, and blankets

The principal or the principal's designee shall handle student violations of this policy. Before being disciplined, a student who is not in compliance with this policy will be given a reasonable period of time to adjust so that the student will be in compliance.

Consequences

1st offense: warning and a parent contact

2nd offense: may result in a short-term suspension from the school for up to ten (10) days

3rd or subsequent offense: may result in long-term suspension

As dress should not be a factor in providing an optimal instructional program, schools may elect to enact additional restrictions as deemed appropriate by the principal.

YVRCA BUSINESS CASUAL DRESS

Valley Academy students will be expected to dress more professionally than the guidelines listed when there are announced field experiences or guest speakers on campus. The business casual guidelines are as follows:

Tops:

- Shirts with collars
- Sweater worn over a shirt with a collar
- Blouse
- Sweater set
- Turtleneck sweater
- T-shirts and sweatshirts (hoodie or zip-up) are **not** acceptable.

Bottoms:

- Slacks or trousers in black, navy, charcoal, gray, or khaki
- Skirts or dresses(at least mid-thigh) when appropriate to events
- Jeans that are all one color, with no holes, and are not skin tight
- Shorts, sweatpants, and capris are **not** acceptable.

Shoes:

- Dress shoes that are clean and in good repair
- Tennis shoes that are clean and in good repair
- Flip flops, slide-on shoes, and exceptionally high heels are **not** acceptable.

VALLEY ACADEMY MAKERSPACE SAFETY INFORMATION

1. **Students may work in the makerspace only with immediate adult supervision. (Adults other than YVRCA faculty must be approved by the principal.)**
2. Safety glasses must be worn in MakerSpace by everyone when machines or tools are in use and as specified by the instructor or facilitator.
3. Shoes that cover the entire foot must be worn when working with tools.
4. Hearing protection will be worn in certain areas of the MakerSpace (outside and inside the building) when loud equipment is in use, as specified by the instructor or facilitator.
5. Safety gloves will be used when using tools like drills, dremels, etc...
6. Concentrate on the task at hand and avoid being distracted by other activities. Conversely, avoid distracting others.
7. No running, boisterous behavior, or horseplay in the MakerSpace or with MakerSpace tools.
8. Clothing and jewelry that could become caught in equipment must not be worn. Long hair must be properly secured so it doesn't get caught in machines.
9. Before operating tools or machinery, make sure you are authorized by your supervising adult. Do not use any tools or equipment without proper safety and use instructions. Please refrain from "fiddling" or playing with things that are lying out.
10. All work will be properly secured before using hand or power tools.
11. Report any loose, broken, or out-of-adjustment tools, machines, jigs, and fixtures to the instructor or facilitator immediately.
12. Tools, equipment, jigs, and fixtures will only be used in the manner in which they are intended.
13. Never test a tool for sharpness by touching its edge.
14. Finishing materials (paints, solvents, and stains) will only be used according to instructions in the proper locations. Brushes, rags, and waste must be promptly taken care of in the correct manner.
15. Report any injuries to the instructor or facilitator immediately.
16. Help keep the MakerSpace clean! Clean-up will occur each period so that the next class has a clean environment to begin projects. Complete your cleaning assignment and leave things better than you found them.

Any person who is working, teaching, observing, supervising, assisting, or engaging in any work, activity, or study in the MakerSpace where the process used tends to damage the eyes or where protective devices can reduce the risk of injury to the eyes shall wear an eye-protective device of industrial quality in the manner in which such device was intended to be worn. When in doubt, wear goggles.

In order to maintain a safe working environment for all occupants, teachers are required by the district safety compliance officer to remove from the classroom any student who is out of compliance. This is for your own protection and that of fellow students.

DCS TECHNOLOGY USE INFORMATION

EXPECTATIONS FOR USE OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Policy 7.6)

General student and employee behavior standards, including those prescribed in applicable board policies, the Code of Student Conduct, and other regulations and school rules, apply to use of school technological resources, including access to the Internet. In addition, anyone who uses school system computers or electronic devices, accesses the school's electronic storage or network, or connects to the Internet using school system-provided access must comply with the additional rules for responsible use listed in Section B, below. These rules are intended to clarify expectations for conduct but should not be construed as all-inclusive.

All students must be trained about appropriate online behavior as provided in policy 7.6, Acceptable Computer Use and Internet Safety.

Failure to adhere to the requirements of this policy will result in disciplinary action, including revocation of user privileges. Willful misuse may result in criminal prosecution under applicable state and federal law, disciplinary action for students, and/or adverse personnel action for employees.

1. School system technological resources are provided for school-related purposes only. Acceptable uses of such technological resources are limited to responsible, efficient, and legal activities that support learning and teaching. Use of school system technological resources for commercial gain or profit is prohibited. Student personal use of school system technological resources for amusement or entertainment is also prohibited unless approved for special situations by the teacher or school administrator. Because some incidental and occasional personal use by employees is inevitable, the board permits infrequent and brief personal use by employees so long as it occurs on personal time, does not interfere with school system business and is not otherwise prohibited by board policy or procedure.
2. Unless authorized by law to do so, users may not make copies of software purchased by the school system. Under no circumstance may software purchased by the school system be copied for personal use.
3. Users must comply with all applicable laws, board policies, administrative regulations, and school standards and rules including those relating to copyrights and trademarks, confidential information, and public records. Plagiarism of Internet resources will be treated in the same manner as any other incident of plagiarism, as stated in the Student Code of Conduct.
4. Users must follow any software, application, or subscription services terms and conditions of use.
5. No user of technological resources, including a person sending or receiving electronic communications, may engage in creating, intentionally viewing, accessing, downloading, storing, printing, or transmitting images, graphics (including still or moving pictures), sound files, text files, documents, messages, or other material that is obscene, defamatory, profane, pornographic, harassing, abusive, or considered to be harmful to minors.
6. Users must not circumvent firewalls. The use of anonymous proxies to circumvent content filtering is prohibited.
7. Users may not install or use any Internet-based file sharing program designed to facilitate sharing of copyrighted material.
8. Users of technological resources may not send electronic communications fraudulently (i.e., by misrepresenting the identity of the sender).

9. Users must respect the privacy of others.
 - a. Students must not reveal any personally identifying, private, or confidential information about themselves or fellow students when using e-mail, chat rooms, blogs, or other forms of electronic communication. Such information includes, for example, a person's home address or telephone number, credit or checking account information, or social security number. For further information regarding what constitutes personal identifying information, see policy 6.14.1, Confidentiality of Personal Identifying Information.
 - b. School employees must not disclose on school system websites or web pages or elsewhere on the Internet any personally identifiable, private, or confidential information concerning students (including names, addresses, or pictures) without the written permission of a parent or guardian or an eligible student, except as otherwise permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or policy 6.14, Student Records.
 - c. Users may not forward or post personal communications without the author's prior consent. Students may not use school system technological resources to capture audio, video, or still pictures of other students and/or employees in which such individuals can be personally identified, nor share such media in any way, without consent of the students and/or employees and the principal or designee. An exception will be made for settings where students and staff cannot be identified beyond the context of a sports performance or other public event or when otherwise approved by the principal.
10. Users may not intentionally or negligently damage computers, computer systems, electronic devices, software, computer networks, or data of any user connected to school system technological resources. Users may not knowingly or negligently transmit computer viruses or self-replicating messages or deliberately try to degrade or disrupt system performance, including by streaming audio and video for non-instructional purposes. Users may not disable antivirus programs installed on school system-owned or issued devices.
11. Users may not create or introduce games, network communications programs, or any foreign program or software onto any school system computer, electronic device, or network without the express permission of the technology director or designee.
12. Users are prohibited from engaging in unauthorized or unlawful activities, such as "hacking" or using the computer network to gain or attempt to gain unauthorized or unlawful access to other computers, computer systems, or accounts.
13. Users are prohibited from using another individual's ID or password for any technological resource or account without permission from the individual. Sharing of an individual's ID or password is strongly discouraged. If an ID or password must be shared for a unique classroom situation, students must have permission from the teacher or other school official.
14. Users may not read, alter, change, block, execute, or delete files or communications belonging to another user without the owner's express prior permission.
15. Employees shall not use passwords or user IDs for any data system (e.g., the state student information and instructional improvement system applications, time-keeping software, etc.) for an unauthorized or improper purpose.
16. If a user identifies or encounters an instance of unauthorized access or another security concern, he or she must immediately notify a teacher, school system administrator, or the technology director or designee. Users must not share the problem with other users. Any user identified as a security risk will be denied access.

17. It is the user's responsibility to back up data and other important files.
18. Employees shall make reasonable efforts to supervise students' use of the internet during instructional time.
19. Views may be expressed on the Internet or other technological resources as representing the view of the school system or part of the school system only with prior approval by the superintendent or designee.
20. Users who are issued school system-owned-and-maintained devices for home use (such as laptops, Chromebooks, etc.) must adhere to any other reasonable rules or guidelines issued by the superintendent or technology director for the use of such devices.

Restricted Material on The Internet

The Internet and electronic communications offer fluid environments in which students may access or be exposed to materials and information from diverse and rapidly changing sources, including some that may be harmful to students. The board recognizes that it is impossible to predict with certainty what information on the Internet students may access or obtain. Nevertheless, school system personnel shall take reasonable precautions to prevent students from accessing material and information that is obscene, pornographic, or otherwise harmful to minors, including violence, nudity, or graphic language that does not serve a legitimate pedagogical purpose. The superintendent shall ensure that technology protection measures are used as provided in policy 7.6, Acceptable Computer Use and Internet Safety, and are disabled or minimized only when permitted by law and board policy. The board is not responsible for the content accessed by using a cellular network to connect a personal device to the Internet.

Privacy

Students, employees, visitors, and other users have no expectation of privacy in anything they create, store, send, delete, receive, or display when using the school system's network, devices, Internet access, email system, or other technological resources owned or issued by the school system, whether the resources are used at school or elsewhere, and even if the use is for personal purposes. Users should not assume that files or communications created, transmitted, or displayed using school system technological resources or stored on servers, the storage mediums of individual devices, or on school managed cloud services will be private. Under certain circumstances, school officials may be required to disclose such electronic information to law enforcement or third parties, for example, as a response to a document production request in a lawsuit against the board, in response to a public records request, or as evidence of illegal activity in a criminal investigation.

The school system may, without notice, (1) monitor, track, and/or log network access, communications, and use; (2) monitor and allocate file server space; and (3) access, review, copy, store, delete, or disclose the content of all user files, regardless of all medium, the content of electronic mailboxes issued by the school system, and system outputs, such as printouts, at any time for any lawful purpose. Such purposes may include, but are not limited to, maintaining system integrity, security, or functionality, ensuring compliance with board policy and applicable laws and regulations, protecting the school system from liability, and complying with public records requests. School system personnel shall monitor online activities of individuals who access the Internet via a school-owned device. By using the school system's network, Internet access, electronic devices, email system, devices, or other technological resources, individuals consent to have that use monitored by authorized school system personnel as described in this policy.

Use of Personal Technology on School System Property

Users may not use private WiFi hotspots or other personal technology on campus to access the Internet outside the school system's wireless network. Each principal may establish rules for his or her school site as to whether and how other personal technology devices (including, but not limited to smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) may be used on campus. Students' devices are governed also by policy 6.46, Use of Wireless Communication Devices. Use of personal technology devices is also subject to any rules established by the superintendent under a bring your own device plan authorized by Section C of policy 7.6.1, Technology in the Educational Program, and for employees, policy 4.11.13, Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business. The school system assumes no responsibility for personal technology devices brought to school.

Personal Websites

The superintendent may use any means available to request the removal of personal websites that substantially disrupt the school environment or that utilize the school system or individual school names, logos, or trademarks without permission.

1. Students-Though school personnel generally do not monitor students' Internet activity conducted on non-school system devices during non-school hours, when the student's online behavior has a direct and immediate effect on school safety or maintaining order and discipline in the schools, the student may be disciplined in accordance with board policy to the extent consistent with law.
2. Employees-Employees' personal websites are subject to policy 4.28, Section 1, Employee Use of Social Media. Employees may not use their personal websites to communicate with students, as prohibited by policy 4.28 and policy 4.11.3, Staff-Student Relations.
3. Volunteers-Volunteers are to maintain appropriate relationships with students at all times. Volunteers are encouraged to block students from viewing personal information on volunteer personal websites or online networking profiles in order to prevent the possibility that students could view materials that are not age-appropriate. An individual volunteer's relationship with the school system may be terminated if the volunteer engages in inappropriate online interaction with students.

Use Agreements

All students, parents, and employees will be informed annually of the information in this policy. Prior to using school system technological resources, students and employees must agree to comply with the requirements of this policy and consent to the school system's use of monitoring systems to monitor and detect inappropriate use of technological resources. In addition, the student's parent must consent to the student accessing the Internet and to the school system monitoring the student's Internet activity and electronic mailbox issued by the school system.

GENERATIVE AI STUDENT EXPECTATIONS AND RELATED POLICY

Students will adhere to the parameters set by teachers on the acceptable level of Generative AI use on assignments. Failure to adhere to assignment expectations will be in violation of Board policy 6.11.1 which states that utilizing Generative AI and representing it as your own work is considered plagiarism.

USE OF GENERATIVE AI TOOLS

1. Students and teachers must adhere to the age restrictions outlined in Terms of Service for any digital tool including Generative AI tools.
2. Students must always start by asking the teacher for permission to use GenAI for assigned work.

3. Once obtaining permission, students should document their usage of the GenAI and specify which information was contributed by AI and which was the student's original work.
4. Cite the tool used when the work is submitted.

Examples:

Appropriate Use of GenAI	Inappropriate Use of GenAI
Research Assistance: Use AI to help brainstorm topics, questions, and collect information Personalized Learning: Use AI as a tutor for individualized support with specific topics Feedback: Submit your work (without personally identifiable information) for feedback, grammar checks, etc. Creative Projects: Create original music, images, and text using AI to represent your learning Accessibility: Students may use tools such as text-to-speech, translation, vision capabilities, etc.	Bullying and Harassment: Using AI to manipulate media to bully, harass, or conduct any other form of intimidation is strictly prohibited. Plagiarizing Using AI to rephrase content instead of using your own words Not asking permission Teachers must give permission for AI tools to be used on assignments Submitting work entirely generated by AI If your voice is not a part of the work and AI did all of the "thinking" Misinformation Not fact-checking the information provided by AI (these tools are not always accurate)

DCS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

Additional policies and procedures can be reviewed in the 2026-2027 DCS Student Handbook:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iS9w7snQ1tMs1f1rGg7Br3sVH_CrVDK-/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=105744257011613020780&rtpof=true&sd=true

2026-2027 Bell Schedules

Regular Schedule

1st Period	8:10 am - 9:40 am	
2nd Period	9:40 am - 11:00 am	
Innovation	11:00 am-11:35 am	Students stay with 2nd period teachers. Teacher check the spreadsheet at 10:55 am
3rd Period	11:35 am - 1:20 pm	1st Lunch - 11:35 am - 12:00 pm 2nd Lunch - 12:05 pm - 12:30 pm
4th period	1:20 pm - 2:40 pm	

Friday Schedule

1st Period	8:10 am - 9:35 am	
2nd Period	9:35 am - 10:50 am	
3rd Period	10:50 am - 12:30 pm	1st Lunch - 11:35 am - 12:00 pm 2nd Lunch - 12:05 pm - 12:30 pm (GO TO 4th Period)
4th Period	12:30 pm - 1:40 pm	
Event	1:45 pm - 2:40 pm	

1 Hour Delay Schedule

1st Period	9:10 am -10:27 am	
2nd Period	10:27 am-11:44 am	
3rd Period	11:44 am-1:25 pm	1st Lunch - 11:50 am - 12:15 pm 2nd Lunch - 12:20 pm - 12:45 pm
4th Period	1:25 pm - 2:40 pm	

No Innovation time on delay schedules.

2 Hour Delay Schedule

1st Period	10:10 am -11:10 am	
2nd Period	11:10 am-12:08 pm	
3rd Period	12:08 pm-1:33 pm	1st Lunch - 12:15 pm - 12:40 pm 2nd Lunch - 12:45 pm - 1:10 pm
4th Period	1:33 pm - 2:40 pm	

No Innovation time on delay schedules.

3 Hour Delay Schedule

1st Period	11:10 am -11:56 am	
2nd Period	11:56 am-1:08 pm	1st Lunch - 12:05 pm - 12:30 pm 2nd Lunch - 12:35 pm - 1:00 pm
3rd Period	1:08 pm-1:54 pm	
4th Period	1:54 pm - 2:40 pm	

No Innovation time on delay schedules.

**Inclement Weather
Early Release SCHEDULE
Students RELEASED AT 12:00
(Eat with 4th period)**

1st Period	8:10 am -9:00 am	
2nd Period	9:00 am-9:50 Am	
3rd Period	9:50 Am-10:40 Am	
4th Period	10:40 am-12:00 pm	1st Lunch 10:40 am 11:05 am 2nd Lunch 11:05 am -11:30 pm

Dismissal - 12:00 pm

No Innovation time on Early Release schedule.

(Flexible Schedule Based On Release time)



2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Davidson Early College High School & Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy

Board Approved 2/2/26

3 Holiday 27-30 Non-Instructional/Required 31 non-Instructional/Optional	JULY 2026 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		JANUARY 2027 <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							1 Holiday 4 Non-Instructional/Required 5 3rd Quarter Begins 5-8 DECHS/YVRCA Only, No DDCC 11 DDCC 2nd semester begins 14 Report Cards Issued 18 Holiday
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NO ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS: Holiday Optional Teacher Work Day Annual Vacation Leave Required Teacher Work Day 11 12 10 6	Note: Students must have a minimum of 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction. The school calendar may be amended by the Board of Education to provide additional instructional time on student days, Saturdays, at the end of the school year, or on any other current non-instructional day to meet NC General Statute 115C-84.2 requirements. One or more inclement weather days can be waived (excused) for students if the instructional hours requirement will be met or exceeded.	MAKE-UP DAYS These days may not be used in the order listed. 10/12 11/25 3/8 3/9 5/18 5/19 5/20 5/21																																																																																												
OTHER NOTES: Report Cards Issued	High School Graduation: Each school will establish the date and time per DCS Board Policy 2.7 (D). TOTAL IN-CLASS STUDENT DAYS = 176 1st= 49 + 2nd= 41 = 90 3rd= 43 + 4th= 43 = 86 Overall Calendar Days = 215																																																																																													

I have read and understand the Davidson County Schools and Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy Student Handbooks for the 2026-2027 school year. I pledge to follow the guidelines listed in this handbook.

An updated electronic copy will be online at: <http://ua.davidson.k12.nc.us>

If you would like a printed copy of the handbook, please stop by the Valley Academy office.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____