



**Sidney City Schools**  
**Middle School (5-8)**  
**Handbook**  
**2022-2023**

- Handbook adopted by the Board of Education – Summer 2022
- Code of Conduct (including Discipline Code) adopted by the Board of Education – Summer 2020
- Subject to change based on Governor's orders
- Additional Handbook policies can be found in District Bylaws and Policies found on [Board Docs](#) (can be accessed by visiting Board of Education under Quick Links on the District's website at [www.sidneycityschools.org](http://www.sidneycityschools.org))



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## ***STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK***

Sidney City Schools  
Sidney Middle School  
980 Fair Road  
Sidney, Ohio

Welcome to Sidney Middle School. Our staff is pleased to have you as a student and will do our best to help make your experience here as enjoyable and successful as you wish to make it. To help provide a safe and productive learning environment for students, staff, families, and visitors, the Board of Education annually publishes this updated Student/Parent Handbook to explain students' rights, responsibilities, and behavior consequences.

Families (parents/guardians) are encouraged to take a few minutes to review and discuss the information in this handbook with their school-age children.

Thank you for taking the time to become familiar with the important information in this handbook. If you have any questions, please contact the principal.

### **Sidney Middle School (Gr 5-8)**

**937- 497- 2225**

Principal	Gregg Johnson
Assistant Principal	Jesie Geuy
Assistant Principal	Christopher Lucius
Secretary	Sherry Guinther
Secretary	Diana Thobe
School Counselor	Melissa Scheinder
School Counselor	Rose Kuba

**Sidney City Schools Board of Education Office**  
937-497-2200

**Transportation Department**  
937-497-2206

**Food Services Department**  
937-497-2238

**Special Education Department**  
937-497-2210

## **FOREWORD**

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents/guardians may have during the school year and to provide specific information about certain Board policies and procedures. This handbook contains important information that you should know. Become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for frequent reference by you and your parents/guardians. If you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, you are encouraged to talk to your teachers or the building principal. This handbook replaces all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects. This handbook does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the Board's policies and the School's rules adopted by the Board of Education before the start of the current school year. If any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein is revised after the original date of adoption, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails. All Board Policies can be found on Board Docs at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/sidn/Board.nsf/Public>

## **MISSION OF SIDNEY CITY SCHOOLS**

*To inspire, empower, and prepare our students for their best future.*

*Our vision is to meet the needs of all students in a safe, respectful, and responsible learning community.*

## **EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

This District provides an equal educational opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that they have been discriminated against on the basis of their race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin while at school or a school activity should immediately contact the School District's Compliance Officer identified below.

Superintendent of Sidney City Schools  
750 S. Fourth Avenue  
Sidney, OH 45365  
937-497-2200

Complaints will be investigated in accordance with the procedure as described on page 27 of this handbook. Any student making a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity.

## **SIDNEY CITY SCHOOLS WEBSITE**

More Information regarding the district and individual school buildings can be found by visiting the District website at: [www.sidneycityschools.org](http://www.sidneycityschools.org).

All Board Policies can be found on Board Docs at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/sidn/Board.nsf/Public>

## ***SCHOOL DAY***

Sidney Middle School is open from 7:20AM-3:00PM when school is in session. Classes begin at 7:30am and end at 2:45pm. Students should be out of the building by 2:55pm. It is recommended that appointments with staff before or after hours with staff be made in advance. The teachers' work day begins at 7:00pm and ends at 3:00pm.

7:20AM — Students admitted into the building

7:28AM — Warning Bell

7:30AM — Tardy Bell rings—students must be in their seat; Pledge of Allegiance and morning announcements

**\*\*Breakfast is not served on days when school starts after a delay.\*\***

## ***GENERAL EXPECTATIONS***

### **Student Responsibilities**

The School's rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow staff members' directions and to obey all school rules.

Students must arrive at school on time, prepared to learn and participate. If, for some reason, this is not possible, the student should seek help from the classroom teacher and/or building principal.

In order to keep parents/guardians informed of their child's progress in school, parents/guardians will be provided information on a regular basis and whenever concerns arise. Many times it will be the responsibility of the student to deliver the information. The School

however, may use the mail or hand delivery to ensure contact. Parents/guardians are encouraged to build a two-way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish their educational goals.

### **Student Well Being**

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire, tornado, and safety drills and accident reporting procedures. If a student is aware of any dangerous situation or accident, they must notify a staff person immediately. A student or parent/guardian may anonymously use the school district's Safe School Helpline by calling 1-800-418-6423, ext 359.

State law requires that all students have an emergency medical authorization completed and signed by a parent or guardian on file in the School office. Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs along with physician documentation to the School office.

### **Student Injury and Illness**

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or the office. If the injuries are minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the School's emergency procedures and attempt to make contact with the student's parents/guardians.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An appropriate adult in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper guardian permission.

## **SECTION I – GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Advertising Outside Activities**

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the Superintendent or Principal.

### **Children and Youth in Foster Care**

Students who meet the Federal definition of "in foster care", including those who are awaiting foster care placement, will be provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the same manner as all other students of the District. For additional information see Policy 5111.03.

### **Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens**

The School District seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and take appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities. While the risks of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens may be low, students must assume that all body fluids are potentially infectious and must take precaution to follow universal procedures in order to reduce such risks and minimize and/or prevent the potential for accidental infection.

Students may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in situations, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Engaging in activities with other students in the school environment (e.g., physical education class) where physical injuries or other actions that can cause bleeding or exposure to saliva and other body fluids may occur.
2. Working with equipment in the school environment that can cause cuts or similar injuries that produce bleeding.
3. Participating in extracurricular activities (i.e., athletic activities) where physical injuries or other actions that can cause bleeding may occur.

Whenever a student has contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, they must immediately notify their teacher, who will contact the office.

### **Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases**

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The School's professional staff may remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly-transient pest, such as lice.

Specific communicable diseases include: diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps,

measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will be only for the contagious period as specified in the School's administrative guidelines.

### **Control of Non Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases**

The school District has an obligation to protect staff and students from non casual-contact, communicable diseases. When a non casual-contact communicable disease is suspected, the student's health will be reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the County Health Department. The School will protect the privacy of the person affected and those in contact with the affected person. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Non Casual-contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), ARC-AIDS Related Complex, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency), Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specified by the State Board of Health.

As required by Federal law, parents/guardians will be requested to have their child's blood checked for HIV and HBV when the child bleeds at school and students or staff members are exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

### **Custodial and Noncustodial Parents**

All students not living with their two biological parents are required to have a custody sheet on file in their permanent record. If there has been legal action, such as divorce or separation, a copy of that record showing custody must be provided to the school. Unless this legal record states otherwise the non-custodial parent does have the same legal right as the custodial parent. These would be to visit the school for information about how the student is doing, the right to a teacher conference, and the right to copies of student reports.

A non-custodial parent can request that material be mailed to them. In order for this to be done, the non-custodial parent will need to provide self addressed, stamped envelopes for the records to be mailed. This request will need to be made to the principal who will inform the teacher(s).

### **Early Dismissal**

No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without either (a) a written request signed by the parent or guardian or (b) the parent or guardian coming to the School office to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) or guardian without a written



permission signed by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

### Emergency Closing and Delays

If the School must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather or other conditions, the School will provide notice of such closing or delay.

- Information concerning school closings or delays can also be found on the district's web page at [www.sidneycityschools.org](http://www.sidneycityschools.org).
- Parents/guardians will be notified of school closings or delays via a pre-recorded telephone message delivered to the phone number on file.

Parents/guardians and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

There is also the possibility of a **two-hour delay** being called. Building principals will supply parents/guardians with the delay schedules for their building at the beginning of each school year.

### Emergency Medical Authorization

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the School in order for a student to participate in any activity off school grounds, including field trips, spectator trips, athletic and other extracurricular activities, and co-curricular activities. Parents/guardians should go to the school website, [www.sidneycityschools.org](http://www.sidneycityschools.org), and click on PowerSchool.

### Enrolling in School

In general, State law requires students to enroll in the school district in which their parent or legal guardian resides unless enrolling under the District's open enrollment policy. New students under the age of eighteen (18) must be enrolled by their parents or legal guardian. When enrolling, parents/guardians must provide copies of the following:

- A. copy of parent photo identification (driver's license)
- B. a birth certificate or similar document,
- C. court papers allocating parental right and responsibilities, or custody (if appropriate),
- D. proof of residency,
- E. proof of immunizations.

Parents/guardians should visit [www.sidneycityschools.org](http://www.sidneycityschools.org) to complete online registration in addition to providing copies of the documents listed above. All enrollment processes go through Central Registration at the Board of Education office located at 750 S Fourth Avenue, 937-497-2200.

Under certain circumstances, temporary enrollment may be permitted. In such cases, parents will be notified about documentation required to establish permanent enrollment.

Students enrolling from another school must have an official transcript from their previous school in order to have credits transferred. The office staff will assist in

obtaining the transcript, if not presented at the time of enrollment.

Homeless students who meet the Federal definition of homeless may enroll and will be under the District Liaison Homeless Children with regard to enrollment procedures.

In addition, if a new student resides in the District with a grandparent and is the subject of a: (1) power of attorney designating the grandparent as the attorney-in-fact; or (2) a caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the grandparent that provides the grandparent with authority over the care, physical custody, and control of the child, including the ability to enroll the child in school, consent in all school related matters, and discuss with the District the child's educational progress, the student's grandparent may enroll the child in school on a tuition-free basis. However, in addition to the above-referenced documents that are typically required for enrollment, the grandparent must provide the District with a duly executed and notarized copy of a power of attorney or caretaker authorization affidavit.

A student who has been suspended or expelled by another public school in Ohio may be temporarily denied admission to the District's school during the period of suspension or expulsion even if that student would otherwise be entitled to attend school in the District. Likewise, a student who has been expelled or otherwise removed for disciplinary purposes from a public school in another state and the period of expulsion or removal has not expired, may be temporarily denied admission to the District's schools during the period of expulsion or removal or until the expiration of the period of expulsion or removal which the student would have received in the District had the student committed the offense while enrolled in the District. Prior to denying admission, however, the Superintendent shall offer the student an opportunity for hearing the circumstances of the suspension or expulsion and any other factors the Superintendent determines to be relevant.

If a student has been recently discharged from the custody of the Department of Youth Services (DYS) and is seeking admittance or re-admittance into the District, the student will not be admitted until the following records, which are required to be released by DYS to the Superintendent, have been received:

- A. an updated copy of the student's transcript;
- B. a report of the student's behavior while in DYS custody;
- C. the student's current IEP, if one has been developed for the child; and
- D. a summary of the instructional record of the child's behavior.

Foreign students and foreign-exchange students (from recognized and approved student programs) are eligible for admission on the same basis as other non-resident students.

## **Family Information**

Parents/guardians should immediately notify the school office when there are any changes in a student's address, phone number, or any other information, which is included in the PowerSchool online registration at [www.sidneycityschools.org](http://www.sidneycityschools.org).

If the family status changes because of divorce or legal separation, or if the child lives with someone other than their natural mother and father, proof of custody or guardianship must be provided to the school office. Court documents titled ENTRY may not constitute a final decree document.

## **Fire, Tornado and Safety Drills**

The School complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law.

The School conducts tornado drills during the tornado season following procedures prescribed by the State. The alarm system for tornadoes consists of a manually operated electronic signal.

Teachers will provide specific instructions on how to proceed in the case of fire or tornado and will oversee the safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building in such cases.

Safety Drills will be conducted three times per school year. At least one drill will require teachers to provide specific instruction on the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building rather than evacuated. These situations can include a terrorist threat, a person in possession of a deadly weapon on school property, or other acts of violence.

## **Hall Passes**

A student wishing to leave a classroom or other supervised area to go to the restroom or elsewhere may request permission from the teacher/staff member in charge. If permission is granted, the student would have a designated hall pass with them.

## **Homeless Students**

Homeless students will be provided with a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as other students served by the District. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. For additional information contact the liaison for Homeless Students at 937-497-2210.

## **Immunizations**

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, or have an authorized exemption from State immunization requirements. Kindergarten

students must be immunized against Hepatitis B and chickenpox. For the safety of all students, the school principal may remove a student from school or establish a deadline for meeting State requirements if a student does not have the necessary immunizations or authorized exemption. In the event of a chicken pox epidemic, the Superintendent may temporarily deny admission to a student otherwise exempted from the chicken pox immunization requirement. Any questions about immunizations or exemptions should be directed to the Sidney-Shelby County Health Department at 937-498-7249.

## **Individuals with Disabilities**

The American's with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but to all individuals who have access to the District's programs and facilities.

The laws define a person with a disability as anyone who:

- A. Has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- B. Has a record of such an impairment; or
- C. Is regarded as having such impairment.

The District has specific responsibilities under these two laws, which include identifying, reviewing and, if the child is determined to be eligible, affording access to appropriate educational accommodation.

Additionally, in accordance with State and Federal mandates, the District seeks out, assesses and appropriately services students with disabilities. Staff members use a comprehensive child study process to systematically screen, assess and, if appropriate, place students in special education and related services. Students are entitled to a free appropriate public education in the "least restrictive environment."

A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation procedures. Parent involvement in this procedure is important and required by Federal (IDEA) and State law. Contact Supervisor of Special Education Services at (937-497-2210) to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs.

## **Lockers**

All students are issued a locker. Students are expected to keep their books and personal belongings in their own lockers. Students should not give their locker combinations to other students for any reason. Anyone having trouble with their locker should report such to the office. Personal locks may not be used on school lockers.

All book bags, backpacks, and coats are to be left in the lockers during the school day and NOT carried or worn into the classrooms. Students are granted the privilege of locker use.

**Lockers, being the property of the school, will be subject to search by school or law enforcement officials at any time.**

### **Lost and Found**

The Lost & Found area is located in the office. Students who have lost items should inquire in the office and may retrieve their items if they give a proper description. Unclaimed items will be given to charity periodically during the school year. Students who find items should turn them into the office. Students are encouraged NOT to bring valuables to school.

### **Meal Service**

The School participates in the National School Lunch Program and makes lunches available to students for a fee of \$2.45 for students in 5th grade and \$2.70 for students in grades 6-8.

Students may also bring their own lunch to school to be eaten in the School's cafeteria.

Menus and other information regarding the District's Food Service Program are posted on the District's Website.

- Students are not permitted to bring carbonated beverages (soda/pop) to school for consumption in the auditoria at lunch.
- students are not permitted to charge a lunch.
- Parents/guardians are not permitted to bring outside food (restaurant food, cupcakes, cake, cookies, etc.) to the auditoria for students.
- No student may leave school premises during the lunch period without specific written request from the parent and written permission from the principal.

Applications for the School's Free and Reduced-Priced Meal program are distributed to all students who have not been directly certified to receive free school meals. If a student does not receive an application form and believes they is eligible, contact the principal. An application can also be submitted online at: [www.LunchApplication.com](http://www.LunchApplication.com).

Families may apply for free or reduced-price lunches at any time during the school year. Students enrolled in Sidney City Schools at the end of the previous school year will automatically have their previous year's eligibility status for Free or Reduced Priced Meals carried over for the start of the new school year. This carryover ends when an eligibility application for the new school year has been processed or after 30 days, whichever takes place first.

Breakfast is served in each building every day school is in session with the exception of days with a delayed start. Breakfast may be purchased for \$1.00 for students in 5th grade and \$1.50 first students in 6-8th grade each day. Children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches will receive breakfast at no charge.

Our schools use a Point of Sale (POS) System in which students are assigned a digital account number and pre-paying is encouraged. You can send cash or a check made payable to the school. Credit card payments can be made through [www.LunchPrepay.com](http://www.LunchPrepay.com). Using the secure site to make your payments and monitor your student's account gives you the assurance of knowing where your money is going. You will need your student's identification number. If you do not know your student's identification number you will need to call for this information.

### **Preparedness for Toxic & Asbestos Hazards**

The School is concerned for the safety of students and attempts to comply with all Federal and State Laws and Regulations to protect students from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction. A copy of the School District's Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard Policy and asbestos management plan will be made available for inspection at the Board offices upon request.

### **Student Fees and Fines**

Students will be provided necessary textbooks for courses of instruction without cost. In accordance with State law, Sidney City Schools charge specific fees for the following activities and materials used in the course of instruction. Sidney Middle School may charge fees for educational field trips or materials used in the course of instruction throughout the school year.

Fees may be waived in situations where there is financial hardship. Ohio Law dictates that school fees are waived for students who qualify for free lunch. You must complete the Meal Application to determine if you qualify for fee waiver. This change went into effect starting with the 2009-2010 school year.

Charges may also be imposed for loss, damage or destruction of school apparatus, equipment, musical instruments, library materials, textbooks and for damage to school buildings or property. Students, using school property and equipment can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment. Students can avoid fines for lost materials by promptly returning borrowed materials. The charge will be reasonable, seeking only to compensate the school for the expense or loss incurred.

The principal is charged with the final authority for the amount based on the true value of the item damaged or lost as opposed to replacement value. Students are discouraged from loaning books.

Failure to pay fines, fees, or charges may result in the withholding of a high school diploma.



## Student Fundraising

Students participating in school-sponsored groups and activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines. The following general rules apply to all fund-raisers.

- Crowdfunding activities are governed by Board Policy and Administrative Guidelines [6605](#).
- Students involved in the fund-raiser must not interfere with students participating in other activities when soliciting funds.
- Students may not participate in a fund-raising activity for a group in which they are not members without the approval of the students' counselor.
- Students may not participate in fund-raising activities off school property without proper supervision by approved staff or other adults.
- Students may not engage in house-to-house canvassing for any fund-raising activity.
- Students may not participate in a fund-raising activity conducted by a parent group, booster club, or community organization on school property without the approval of the Principal.

Students may not sell any item or service in school without the prior approval of the building principal. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action.

## Student Records – Protection & Privacy

The School District maintains many student records including both directory information and confidential information. More detailed information can be found in Board Policy [8330](#).

### (Directory Information as written in BOE Policy 8330)

Each year the Superintendent shall provide public notice to students and their parents/guardians of its intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "**directory information**." The Board designates as student "directory information": a student's name; address; telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; or awards received.

Directory information shall not be provided to any organization for profit-making purposes.

Parents and eligible students may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board within five (5) days after receipt of the Superintendent's annual public notice.

In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board shall release the names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to a recruiting officer for any branch of the United States Armed Forces or an institution of higher education who requests such information. A secondary school student or parent of the student may request in writing that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released without prior consent of the parent(s)/eligible student. The recruiting officer is to sign a form indicating that "any information received by the recruiting officer shall be used solely for the purpose of informing students about military service and shall not be released to any person other than individuals within the recruiting services of the Armed Forces". The Superintendent is authorized to charge mailing fees for providing this information to a recruiting officer.

Whenever consent of the parent(s)/eligible student is required for the inspection and/or release of a student's health or educational records or for the release of "directory information", either parent may provide such consent unless agreed to otherwise in writing by both parents/guardians or specifically stated by court order. If the student is under the guardianship of an institution, the Superintendent shall appoint a person who has no conflicting interest to provide such written consent.

The Board may disclose "directory information" on former students without student or parental consent.

The Board shall not permit the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose).

Any parent/guardian who does not want directory information distributed should notify the building principal in writing by October 1 and the request will be honored. Parents/guardians should be assured that school officials would remain discreet in their issuance of directory information and release only such data for purposes which are judged to be reasonable and legitimate.

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual, other than a for-profit organization, even without the written consent of a parent. Parents/guardians may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board. For further information about the items included within the category of directory information and instructions on how to prohibit its release you may wish to consult the Board's annual Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) notice which can be found at the Board of Education Office.

Other than directory information, access to all other student records is protected by (FERPA) and Ohio law. Except in limited circumstances as specifically defined in State and Federal law, the School District is prohibited from releasing confidential education records to any outside individual or organization without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian.

Confidential records include test scores, psychological reports, behavioral data, disciplinary records, and communications with family and outside service providers.

Students and parents/guardians have the right to review and receive copies of all educational records. Costs for copies of records may be charged to the parent. To review student records please provide a written notice identifying requested student records to the building principal. You will be given an appointment with the appropriate person to answer any questions and to review the requested student records.

Parents/guardians have the right to amend a student record when they believe that any of the information contained in the record is inaccurate, misleading or violates the student's privacy. A parent must request the amendment of a student record in writing and if the request is denied, the parent or adult student will be

informed of their right to a hearing on the matter. Individuals have a right to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if they believe that the District has violated FERPA.

Consistent with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), no student shall be required, as a part of the school program or the District's curriculum, without prior written consent of the student (if an adult, or an emancipated minor) or, if an unemancipated minor, their parents/guardians, to submit to or participate in any survey, analysis, or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or their parents/guardians;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or their family;
3. sex behavior or attitudes;
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or their parents/guardians; or
8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program.)

Consistent with the PPRA and Board policy, the Superintendent shall ensure that procedures are established whereby parents/guardians may inspect any materials used in conjunction with any such survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Further, parents/guardians have the right to inspect, upon request, a survey or evaluation created by a third party before the survey/evaluation is administered or distributed by the school to the student. The parent will have access to the survey/evaluation within a reasonable period of time after the request by the building principal.

The Superintendent will notify parents/guardians of students in the District, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when the following activities are scheduled or expected to be scheduled:

- A. Activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information for otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose); and
- B. The administration of any survey by a third party that contains one or more of the items described in A through H above.

The Family Policy Compliance Office in the U.S. Department of Education administers both FERPA and PPRA. Parents/guardians and/or eligible students who

believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW 20202-4605  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OM/fpco)

Informal inquiries may be sent to the Family Policy Compliance Office via the following email addresses:

[FERPA@ED.GOV](mailto:FERPA@ED.GOV) and [PPRA@ED.GOV](mailto:PPRA@ED.GOV).

### **Student Scheduling & Assignment**

Schedules are provided to each student at the beginning of the school year or upon enrollment. Schedules are based on the student's needs. Any changes in a student's schedule should be handled by the parent/guardian through the principal's office. Students may be denied course enrollment due to lack of available space or the need for the student to pass prerequisite courses. Students are expected to follow their schedules. Any variation should be approved with a printed schedule change.

### **Student Valuables**

Students should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, cell phones, electronic equipment, and the like, are tempting targets for theft and extortion. The School will not be liable for any loss or damage to personal valuables. Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property.

### **Use of Library**

A library is available to students throughout the school day. Most books may be checked out for a period of two weeks and can be renewed. Students with overdue books will not be allowed to check out materials until the books are returned/paid.

### **Use of Medications**

#### ***PRESCRIBED MEDICATIONS***

Students, who must take prescribed medication during the school day, must comply with the following guidelines:

- A. Parents/guardians should, with their physician's counsel, determine whether the medication schedule can be adjusted to avoid administering medication during school hours.
- B. The appropriate form must be filed with the respective building principal before the student will be allowed to begin taking any medication during school hours or to use an inhaler to self-administer asthma medication. Such forms must be filed annually and as necessary for any change in the medications.
- C. All medications must be registered with the Principal's Office and must be delivered to school in the containers in which they were dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist, labeled with the date, the student's name, and the exact dosage to be administered.

D. Medication that is brought to the office will be properly secured. Except as noted below, medication must be delivered to the Principal's Office by the student's parent or guardian or by another responsible adult at the parent or guardian's request. Except as noted below, students may not bring medication to school. Students may carry emergency medications for allergies and/or reactions, or asthma inhalers during school hours provided the student has written permission from a parent or physician and has submitted the proper forms. In the case of epinephrine auto injectors ("epi pens"), in addition to written permission and submission of proper forms, the parent or student must provide a backup dose to the school nurse. Students are strictly prohibited from transferring emergency medication, epi pens, or inhalers to any other student for their use or possession:

- Medication must be conveyed to school directly by the parent.
- If, for supportable reasons, the principal wishes to discontinue the privilege of a student self-administering a medication, except for the possession and use of asthma inhalers, the parent/guardian(s) shall be notified of the decision in sufficient time for an alternative means of administration to be established.

E. Any unused medication unclaimed by the parent will be destroyed by school personnel when a prescription is no longer to be administered or at the end of the school year.

F. The parents/guardians shall have sole responsibility to instruct their child to take the medication at the scheduled time.

G. The building principal will maintain a log noting the personnel designated to administer medication, as well as the date, and the time of day that administration is required. This log will be maintained along with the physician's written request and the parent's written release.

#### **NON-PRESCRIBED**

#### **(OVER-THE-COUNTER) MEDICATIONS**

No staff member will dispense non-prescribed, over-the-counter (OTC) medication to any student without prior parent authorization. Parents/guardians may authorize administration of a non-prescribed medication on forms that are available from the Principal's Office. Physician authorization is not required in such cases.

A. By written notice, parents/guardians may also authorize that their child

1. may self-administer non-prescribed medication.
2. may keep non-prescribed medication in their possession.

If a student is found using or possessing a non-prescribed medication without parent authorization, the student will be brought to the School office while the student's parents/guardians are contacted for authorization. The medication will be confiscated until written authorization is received.

Any student who distributes medication of any kind or who is found in possession of a non-authorized medication is in violation of the School's Code of Conduct and will be disciplined in accordance with the drug-use provision of the Code.

A student may possess and use a metered dose inhaler or a dry powder inhaler to alleviate asthmatic symptoms or before exercise to prevent the onset of asthmatic symptoms, at school or at any activity, event, or program sponsored by or in which the student's school is a participant if the appropriate form is complete and on file in the Principal's Office.

A student who is authorized to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder inhaler may not transfer possession of any inhaler or other medication to any other student.

#### **Use of School Equipment and Facilities**

- Students must receive teacher permission before using any equipment or materials in the classroom.
- Students must seek permission from the Principal prior to use of any other school equipment or facility.
- Students are responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use.

#### **Use of School Telephones**

School phones are not to be used without permission from an adult. School telephones are not to be used for personal calls. Except in an emergency, students will not be called to the office to receive a telephone call. Students are not to use phones to call parents/guardians to receive permission to leave school. Office personnel will initiate all calls on behalf of a student seeking permission to leave school.

#### **Use of Wireless Communication Devices**

SCS BOE Policy Number [5136](#) - WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES states:

Students may possess wireless communication devices (WCDs) in school, on school property, during after school activities (e.g. extra-curricular activities) and at school-related functions, provided that during school hours the WCDs are powered completely off (i.e., not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and concealed and secured in hall lockers (but not locker room lockers) or vehicles, or stored out of sight.

A "wireless communication device" is a device that emits an audible signal, vibrates, displays a message, or otherwise summons or delivers a communication to the possessor. The following devices are examples of WCDs: cellular and wireless telephones, pagers/beepers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), BlackBerries/Smartphones, WiFi-enabled or broadband access devices, two-way radios or video broadcasting devices, and other devices that allow a person to record and/or transmit, on either a real time or delayed basis, sound, video or still images, text, or other information. Students may not use WCDs on school property or at a school-sponsored activity to access and/or view Internet web sites that are



otherwise blocked to students at school. "Students may use WCDs while riding to and from school on a school bus or other vehicle provided by the Board or on a school bus or Board-provided vehicle during school-sponsored activities, at the discretion of the bus driver, classroom teacher, and/or sponsor/advisor/coach. Distracting behavior that creates an unsafe environment will not be tolerated."

Also, during after school activities when directed by the administrator or sponsor, WCDs shall be powered completely off (not just placed into vibrate or silent mode) and stored out of sight.

Technology including, but not limited to, WCDs intended and actually used for instructional purposes (e.g., taking notes, recording classroom lectures, writing papers) will be permitted, as approved by the classroom teacher or the building principal. However, the use of a WCD to engage in non-education-related communications is expressly prohibited.

Students are prohibited from using WCDs to capture, record or transmit the words (i.e. audio) and/or images (i.e., pictures/video) of any student, staff member or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity, without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording or transmission of such words or images. Using a WCD to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without their consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted, unless authorized by the building principal.

The use of WCDs that contain built-in cameras (i.e. devices that take still or motion pictures, whether in a digital or other format) is prohibited in locker rooms, classrooms, bathrooms, and/or swimming pools.

No expectation of confidentiality will exist in the use of WCDs on school premises/property.

Students are prohibited from using a WCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated. See Board Policy [5517.01](#) – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior.

Students are also prohibited from using a WCD to capture and/or transmit test information or any other information in a manner constituting fraud, theft, cheating, or academic dishonesty. Likewise, students are prohibited from using their WCDs to receive such information.

Possession of a WCD by a student is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the WCD. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g. child pornography). Any search will be conducted in accordance with Board Policy [5771](#) – Search and Seizure. If multiple offenses occur, a student may lose their privilege to bring

a WCD to school for a designated length of time or on a permanent basis.

A person who discovers a student in possession of or using a WCD in violation of this policy is required to report the violation to the building principal.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the care and security of their WCDs. The Board assumes no responsibility for theft, loss, damage, or vandalism to WCDs brought onto its property, or the unauthorized use of such devices.

**Parents/Guardians are advised that the best way to get in touch with their child during the school day is by calling the school office with permission of the principal.**

Students may use school phones to contact parents/guardians during the school day.

"Sexting" is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the WCD.

### Visitors

Visitors, particularly parents/guardians, are welcome at the School.

- **All visitors must report to the office** upon entering the School to sign in
- All visitors will receive a visitor's pass to wear while they are in the building.
- Any visitor found in the building without signing in or without a pass shall be reported to the Principal/School Security Officer. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, they should call for an appointment prior to coming to the School in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time.
- Students may not bring visitors to school without prior written permission from the Principal.

### Volunteer Services

Parents/guardians or other community members who have time to donate are always welcome in our buildings. Volunteers can provide many services that will help our program. If you would be interested in volunteering any of your time, please contact the school.

### Withdrawal/Transfer from School

No student under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to withdraw from school without a written consent of their parent/guardian and in compliance with State law. A student who withdraws from school without parent consent shall be reported to the juvenile judge of

the county and to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles for suspension of their driver's license, if the student is under the age of eighteen (18).

Parents/guardians must notify the Principal about plans to transfer their child to another school. The student will be responsible for having teachers sign off on their withdrawal from and for returning all school property, including textbooks and library books. The withdrawal form will be prepared for the student's exit day so that it can be taken with the family to the enrolling school. School records, including disciplinary records of suspension and expulsion, will be transferred to the new school within fourteen (14) days of the parent/guardians' notice or request.



## SECTION II – ACADEMICS

### BASIC SCHEDULES

#### 5th Grade

- Math
- Reading Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- P.E.
- Tech
- Art
- STEM
- + students participating in Band or Chorus

#### 6th Grade

- Math 6
- Reading Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies
- P.E.
- Art
- Tech
- Music
- STEM
- + students participating in Band, Orchestra, or Chorus

#### 7th Grade

- Math 7 (General, Pre-Algebra)
- Reading Language Arts
- World History
- Science
- Tech,
- P.E.\*
- STEM
- Art
- Workforce Academy
- + students participating in Band, Orchestra, or Chorus

#### 8th Grade

- Math (Pre-Algebra, Algebra I\*)
- Reading Language Arts
- American History
- Science
- P.E.\*
- STEM
- Workforce Academy
- Construction
- Art
- + students participating in Band, Orchestra, or Chorus

\*All students enrolled in Algebra I will earn high school credit for the class. Algebra I will also appear on their Sidney High School transcripts, and the grade earned in Algebra I will count toward Sidney Middle School Honor Roll.

\*All students enrolled in 7th and 8th grade P.E. will earn high school credit for the class. P.E. will also appear on their Sidney High School transcripts, and the grade earned in P.E. will count toward Sidney Middle School Honor Roll.

### Computer Technology and Networks

#### Board Policy [7540.03](#) - Student Acceptable Use & Internet Safety for the Computer Network of the Sidney City School District.

Technology has fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. As a result, educators are continually adapting their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to incorporate the vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet. The Board provides Education Technology so that students can acquire the skills and knowledge to learn effectively and live productively in a digital world. The Board of Education provides students with access to the Internet for limited educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services to enhance the instruction delivered to its students. The District's Internet system does not serve as a public access service or a public forum, and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its limited educational purpose.

This policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct govern students' use of the District's personal communication devices (that is, according to Board Policy [5136](#), computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular/mobile telephones, smartphones, and any other web-enabled device),

network, and Internet connection and online educational services ("Education Technology" or "Ed-Tech").

This policy and its related administrative guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct also govern students' use of their personal communication devices (that is, according to Board Policy [5136](#), computers, laptops, tablets, e-readers, cellular/mobile telephones, smartphones, and any other web-enabled device), when connected to the District's network, the District's Internet connection, and online educational services ("Education Technology" or "Ed-Tech").

The due process rights of all users will be respected in the event there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of the Education Technology. Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using the Ed-Tech (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity while on the network and Internet).

First, and foremost, the Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its Education Technology, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the

opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, open classrooms and students to electronic information resources that may not have been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures, which protect against (e.g. filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act. At the discretion of the Board or the Superintendent, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of students to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using the Education Technology, if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the Children's Internet Protection Act. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to discipline.

The Superintendent or Technology Coordinator may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services containing appropriate material, if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures.

Parents/guardians are advised that a determined user may be able to gain access to services and/or resources on the Internet that the Board has not authorized for educational purposes. In fact, it is impossible to guarantee students will not gain access through the Internet to information and communications that they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their children should follow when using the Internet.

Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- A. safety and security while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications
- B. the dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g. "hacking", "harvesting", "digital piracy", etc. cyberbullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online, and

- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors

Staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above. Furthermore, staff members will monitor the online activities of students while at school.

Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions; or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

Building principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying guidelines. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of the Education Technology. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. All Internet users (and their parents/guardians if they are minors) are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students will be assigned a school email account that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to staff members and individuals and/or organizations outside the District with whom they are communicating for school-related projects and assignments. Further, as directed and authorized by their teachers, they shall use their school-assigned email account when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes.

Students and staff members are responsible for good behavior on the Board's computers/network and the Internet just as they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. General school rules for behavior and communication apply. The Board does not sanction any use of the Education Technology that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

Students shall not access social media for personal use from the District's network, but shall be permitted to access social media for educational use in accordance with their teacher's approved plan for such use.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users of Board's Education Technology are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of the Ed Tech not authorized by this Board policy and its accompanying guidelines.

The Board designates the Superintendent and Technology Coordinator as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy and its accompanying guidelines as they apply to students' use of the District's Education Technology.

P.L. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000; 47 U.S.C. 254(h), (1), Communications Act of 1934, as amended (2003); 20 U.S.C. 6801 et seq., Part F, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (2003); 18 U.S.C. 1460; 18 U.S.C. 2246; 18 U.S.C. 2256; 20 U.S.C. 6777, 9134 (2003); 47 CFR 54.500 - 54.523; Revised 12/18/06; Revised 4/23/12; Revised 12/15/14

### Field Trips

Field trips are academic activities that are held off school grounds. There are also other trips that are part of the school's co-curricular and extracurricular program. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without parental consent and a current emergency medical form on file in the office. Medications normally administered at school will be administered while on field trips. The Student Code of Conduct applies to all field trips.

- Attendance rules apply to all field trips.
- While the district encourages the student's participation in field trips, alternative assignments will be provided for any student whose parent does not give permission to attend.
- Students who violate school rules may lose the privilege to go on field trips.

### Grading

The Sidney City School District has a standard grading procedure, as well as additional notations that indicate work in progress or incomplete work. Grades indicate the extent to which the student has acquired the necessary learning. In general, students are assigned grades based upon test results, homework, projects, and classroom participation. Each teacher may place a different emphasis on these areas when determining a grade and will inform the students at the beginning of the course. If a student is not sure how their grade will be determined, they should ask the teacher.

The School applies the following grading system:

**A - 100-90**

Excellent achievement

**B - 89-80**

Good achievement

**C - 79-70**

Satisfactory achievement

**D - 69-60**

Minimal Acceptable Achievement

**F - 59-0**

Failure

**I = Incomplete**

**P = Pass/acceptable achievement**

### Grade Point Average

Grade point average is used for honor roll and academic eligibility.

### Grading Periods

**Sidney Middle School** has PowerSchool for student grades and attendance. This program will allow parents to check the progress of their students at any time during the school year.

To gain access to the parent portion of PowerSchool you will need your student's username and password. These items can be gained by emailing: [power.school@sidneycityschools.org](mailto:power.school@sidneycityschools.org)

The student's progress may be discussed at parent-teacher conference time; Parents/guardians are also encouraged to connect with teachers to discuss student progress outside of parent-teacher conference times.

When a student appears to be at risk of failure, reasonable efforts will be made to notify the parents/guardians so they can talk with the teacher about what actions can be taken to improve poor grades.

### Homework

Homework will be assigned. Student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including outside assignments. Homework is also part of the student's preparation for assessments.

Parents/guardians can request homework for students when absent from school. Any request for the day of the absence needs to be called in by 8:30 a.m. and can be picked up in the office at 2:30. Homework requests after 8:30 a.m. can be picked up the following day in the office.

### Promotion, Acceleration, & Retention

Promotion to the next grade is based on the following criteria:

- Current level of achievement;
- Potential for success at the next level;
- Emotional, physical, and/or social maturity.

A student may be accelerated (either by whole-grade or by subject area) when their performance and measured ability significantly exceeds that of their grade level peers. Students can be nominated for acceleration by teachers, administrators, parents/guardians, and the student themselves. Decisions regarding acceleration are based on the following criteria:

- A. achievement of grade/ course objective and any applicable State-mandated requirements for the grade/course in which the student is currently and any grade(s)/course(s) in the student will skip
- B. achievement of instructional objectives for the present grade/course as well as the succeeding one(s)
- C. potential for success in the accelerated placement based on sufficient proficiency at current level

- D. social, emotional, and physical maturation necessary for success in an accelerated placement

A student may be retained at their current grade level based on the following criteria:

- A. failure to demonstrate proficiency in mathematics and reading
- B. failure to achieve the instructional objectives at the current grade level that are requisite for success at the next grade level
- C. scoring at the below **basic level** on any State-mandated assessment test

A student will be retained if they are truant (absent without excuse) for more than ten percent (10%) of the required attendance days of the current school year AND has failed or demonstrated unsatisfactory progress in two (2) or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade.

Even if they fall in the preceding category, a student may be promoted if the Principal and the teachers of the classes that the student failed agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted.

### Public School Options

Additionally, if a school within the District has been designated as “persistently dangerous” as defined by State law, students have the right to transfer to another “safe” school in the District. If there is not another “safe” school in the District providing instruction at the students’ grade level(s), the Superintendent shall contact neighboring districts and request that they permit students to transfer to a school in one of those districts. Further, if a student is a victim of a violent crime on school property, they also has the right to transfer to another school in the District. If there is not another school in the District providing instruction at the student’s grade level, the Superintendent shall contact neighboring districts and request that they permit that student to transfer to a school in one of those districts providing instruction at the student’s grade level.

### Recognition of Student Achievement

Students who display significant achievements during the course of the year are recognized for their accomplishments. Areas that may merit recognition include, but are not limited to, academics, athletics, performing arts, citizenship, and volunteerism. Recognition for such activities is initiated by the staff and coordinated by the principal at each of the buildings.

At Sidney Middle School, these programs may include:

- **Students of the Month**- Students of the month will be selected monthly from each grade level. Criteria for this recognition include academics, behavior, leadership, and citizenship within the building.
- **Pride Tickets** - Students “caught” by staff members doing random acts of kindness are given a pride ticket. The principal will pull names for prizes and special recognition.

- **Honor Roll** - Students who earn a 3.00-3.4 grade point average each grading period will be recognized on the Honor Roll. Students with 3.5-3.9 GPA will be recognized for High Honor Roll. Students with a 4.0 GPA will be recognized for 4.0 Honor Roll. The students receive a small gift and their names will appear in the Sidney Daily News each nine weeks.
- **Academic Awards Program** - The awards program is during school hours in late May. Parents will receive an invitation to attend. To be eligible, the student must earn Honor Roll status all three nine weeks.
- **Perfect Attendance Award** - Perfect attendance is awarded to any student who has NO reported excused or unexcused tardy. A student can qualify for perfect attendance as long as the student misses less than 100 minutes of school during the year and has a doctor’s note on file for all minutes missed. Each student with Perfect Attendance at the end of the year will receive a certificate, be honored at the academic awards program, and be entered into a drawing for \$50.00. There is one winner in 5th grade. There are three winners each in 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

### Student Assessment/ Achievement Testing

State Assessments and additional group tests are given to students in all grade levels to monitor progress and determine educational mastery levels. These assessments also help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests and alternative assessments are given to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess student achievement on specific objectives.

Students in grades 5 through 8 will take State Assessments in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Students in grade 5 and grade 8 will take Science. For more information, you can go to [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us).

## **SECTION III - STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **SCHOOL-SPONSORED CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

Sidney Middle School provides students the opportunity to broaden their learning through curricular-related activities. A curricular-related activity may be taken for credit, required for a particular course, and/or contain school subject matter.

The school authorizes many student groups sponsored by the staff. Authorized groups are listed below:

- Breakfast Club
- Workforce Academy
- School Dances
- Spelling Bee
- Student Council
- Washington D.C. Trip\*

All students are permitted to participate in the activities of their choosing, as long as they meet the eligibility requirements. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and students may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights in accordance with Board Policy 5610.05.

### **ATHLETICS**

Sidney Middle School provides a variety of athletic activities in which students may participate provided they meet eligibility requirements established by the district and by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OSHA). Interscholastic sports are only open to seventh and eighth grade students. Participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right, and students may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights in accordance with Board Policy 5610.05

Any student wishing to participate in the athletic programs offered at Sidney Middle School must pick up an athletic informational packet. This should be done at least one month before practices begin which allows time to complete and return the physical/insurance forms. All forms in the packet (except the participation fee) must be returned to the Sidney Middle School before the students will be permitted to participate in any practices. Physicals are good for one calendar year from the date signed by the doctor. Each student will be required to pay a participation fee.

Remember: NO STUDENT WILL BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE UNTIL THE PHYSICAL FORM AND THE PERMISSION TO TREAT FORM IS ON FILE WITH THE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AND THE ATHLETIC TRAINER.

**Athletes are transported to and from contests by a school bus. In the case of an emergency, parents may transport their son/daughter home from a contest only if they have a transportation form signed by both the parent and principal and given to the coach prior to the contest.**

Athletes may not miss more than 100 minutes of the school day in order to participate in that day's events. Athletes **MUST** have a doctor's note in hand if it goes over 100 minutes.

The following is a list of activities currently being offered.

#### **Fall Athletic Activities**

- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Football
- Volleyball

#### **Winter Athletic Activities**

- Cheerleading
- Basketball
- Wrestling

#### **Spring Athletic Activities**

- Track
- Fast Pitch
- Baseball

### **ATHLETIC ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

#### Grading Period

A student who receives an "F" in two or more subjects for a nine-week grading period will be ineligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities. This rule does carry over from one school year to the next (if a seventh or eighth grade student receives two F's the last nine weeks of this school year, they are ineligible for the first nine weeks of the next school year). All incoming seventh grade students are eligible to begin the school year.

#### Weekly Eligibility

Students will also be checked on a weekly basis during the sport season. If a student falls below minimum standards during a season; a letter of notification will be sent to the student's parents and coach. The student/athlete will be required to attend a team study table until grades are passing. Failure to attend the study table will result in dismissal from the team.

Athletes should reference and be familiar with the Athletic Code of Conduct.

### **STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**

The School does not encourage students to take jobs outside of school that could interfere with their success in school. If a student does become employed, they need to obtain a work permit from the Superintendent's office.

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL EVENTS**

The school encourages students to attend as many after school events as possible, without interfering with their school work and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build school spirit and encourage those students participating in the event.

It is strongly advised that students attending evening events be accompanied by a parent or adult chaperone. The Board/district is not responsible for supervising unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

### **Attendance Regulations**

To be eligible to participate in or attend any athletic event, performance, practice, school dance, or any other school activity or school-sponsored event, a student must be in attendance at school for 300 or more minutes the day of the activity (if school was in session), unless arrangements for the absence were made through the school office. Activity sponsors are responsible for enforcing this regulation.

## **SECTION IV – STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance is a significant student responsibility at all grade levels. Many studies correlate regular attendance with success in school. Regular attendance means that the academic learning process is not interrupted, less time is spent on make-up assignments, and students benefit from participation and interaction with others in class. Many important lessons are learned through active participation in classroom and other school activities that cannot be replaced by individual study.

When a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a student has failed to initiate a telephone call or other communication notifying the school or building administration of the student's excused or unexcused absence within 120 minutes after the beginning of the school day, the attendance officer or designee for each school building shall make at least one (1) attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or other person having care of any student who is recorded as absent without legitimate excuse within 120 minutes after the beginning of each school day by a method designated by the Superintendent in accordance with Ohio law.

Establishing a pattern of good attendance will benefit the student in school and in the workplace. Attendance is important in the development of a high quality work ethic, which will be a significant factor in a student's success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting a person is their dependability in coming to work every day on time. This is a habit the School wants to help students develop as early as possible.

#### **Truancy**

Unexcused absence from school (truancy) is not acceptable. Students who are truant will receive no credit for work that is missed. A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is absent without a legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, for forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) month, or for seventy-two (72) or more hours in one (1) school year.

If a student is habitually truant and the student's parent fails to cause the student's attendance, a complaint will be filed with the judge of the Juvenile Court in compliance with State law and/or take any other appropriate intervention actions as set forth in Board Policy 5200.

**NOTE: Students with excessive excused absences (10 or more days), poor attendance history, or truancy charges may receive a "Doctors Excuse Only" letter. Students then will only be excused with a written excuse from the doctor.**

If a student who is habitually truant violates the order of a Juvenile Court regarding the student's prior adjudication as an unruly child for being a habitual truant, s/he may further be adjudicated as a delinquent child.

#### **Notification of Absence**

The school must be notified when a student is absent.

**To report a student absence, call the school between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. at 497-2225.**

An attempt to contact parents will be made if school personnel do not receive a call. If prior contact is not possible, the parents should provide a written notice or doctor's note as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to check with the teacher concerning make up work. If the absence is unexcused, the work may not be accepted. When no excuse is provided, the absence will be unexcused and the student will be identified as truant for that school day.

A skipped class or a skipped part of the school day will be identified as an unexcused absence and the student will also be subject to disciplinary action.

Students with a health condition that causes repeated absences must provide the administration with an explanation of the condition from a registered physician.

#### **Excused Absences**

Students may be excused from school for one or more of the following reasons and will be provided an opportunity to make-up missed school work and/or tests. A request for absence from school may be approved for one (1) or more of the following reasons or conditions:

- **Personal Illness**  
The principal may require a doctor's confirmation if s/he deems it advisable.
- **Illness in the Family**  
The absence under this condition shall not apply to children under fourteen (14) years of age.
- **Quarantine of the Home**  
This is limited to the length of the quarantine as fixed by the proper health officials.
- **Death in the Family**
- **Necessary Work at Home Due to Absence or Incapacity of Parent(s)**  
Any absence arising because of this condition shall not extend for a period longer than that for which the parents were absent from the home or incapacitated, nor to any student younger than fourteen (14).
- **Observation or Celebration of a Bona Fide Religious Holiday**  
Any student shall be excused for the purpose of observing or celebrating a bona fide religious holiday consistent with his/her creed or belief.



- **Appointment**

Students who must leave school for a doctor's appointment or other legitimate reasons must obtain permission in advance from the office and submit a doctor's note upon return to school.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Any student who is absent from school for all or any part of the day without a legitimate excuse shall be considered truant and the student and his/her parents shall be subject to the truancy laws of the State.

### **Tardiness**

A student must be in class at 7:30 a.m. If a student is late to school, he/she must get a tardy slip from the office and have a note from a parent explaining the reason for the tardiness. Having a note does not guarantee that each tardy to school will be excused. Administration will determine the validity of each note. Unexcused tardiness to school or class may result in disciplinary action. Students entering or exiting the building after the start of the school day must report to the office and sign in or out.

Tardiness to school will be documented and recorded during each of the nine week grading periods. Tardiness to school is monitored during each grading period and restarts at the beginning of the next grading period.

### **Homebound Instruction**

The School may arrange for individual instruction at home for students who are unable to attend school because of an accident, illness, or disability. Such instruction may be arranged upon receipt of documentation of the student's condition from a physician. For more information, contact the Board of Education office at 497-2210.

### **Make-Up of Tests and Other School Work**

Students who are absent from school with an excuse shall be given the opportunity to make-up missed work. The student should contact each teacher at the start of the first returned day to obtain assignments and arrange for taking missed tests.

In most cases the number of days for completion of makeup work will be equivalent to the number of excused days of absence.

### **In-School Restriction**

Teachers will supply work for students to complete while in ISR. For activities that are unable to be completed in ISR (such as labs), it will be the teacher's discretion to either excuse the student from the work, supply an alternative assignment, or have students complete the work when they return to the classroom.

### **Out-of-School Suspension**

Absence from school due to suspension shall be considered an authorized absence, either excused or

unexcused. The student may receive credit for any assignments that occur during this suspension.

### **Vacation During the School Year**

It is recommended that parents not take their child out of school for vacations. When a family vacation must be scheduled during the school year, the parents should discuss the matter with the Principal to make necessary arrangements. It may be possible for the student to receive certain assignments that may be completed during the trip.

### **Early Dismissal**

No student will be allowed to leave school prior to dismissal time without a written request signed by a parent or guardian, or by the parent or guardian coming to the school office to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) or guardian without a written or verbal permission by the custodial parent(s) or guardian.

The student should bring a note from a parent that includes the date, time, and reason for leaving early. The office will issue a special excuse permit. This must be shown to the teacher whose class the student is leaving at the beginning of the class period and the student should be in the office at the designated time to leave.

When a student who has been absent receives an "excused" absence, he/she will have the opportunity and responsibility to make up any missed work.

**Parents are encouraged to schedule medical, dental, legal, and other necessary appointments other than during the school day. Since this is not always possible, when a student is to be absent for part of the day:**

1. The student shall have a statement to that effect from his/her parents;
2. The student shall bring a signed statement from the doctor, dentist, lawyer, counselor, etc. to the effect that s/he reported promptly for the appointment;
3. The student shall report back to school immediately after his/her appointment if school is still in session.



## CODE OF CONDUCT - K-12

A major component of the educational program in the Sidney City Schools is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards.

### Expected Behaviors

Each student shall be expected to:

- abide by Federal, State, and local laws as well as the rules of the School;
- respect the rights of others;
- act courteously to adults and fellow students;
- be prompt to school and attentive in class;
- work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, or ethnic background;
- complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
- help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive;
- act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in the School.

### Bullying Policy

#### Definition of Bullying

Any intentional, persistent and **repetitive** written, verbal, graphic, electronically transmitted, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another student and the behavior both: a) causes mental or physical harm to the other student; AND b) is sufficiently severe that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the victim.

#### Report Bullying

To report bullying please go to the following website:  
<https://www.publicschoolworks.com/SHL/bullyingReport.php?di=145>

It is important to report each and every instance of bullying using the link above.

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. The Board encourages the promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community.

See Board Policy [5517.01](#) – **Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior for the complete policy.** This policy has been developed in consultation with parents, District employees, volunteers, students, and community members as prescribed in R.C. 3313.666 and the State Board of Education's Model Policy.

### Classroom Environment

It is the responsibility of students, teachers, and administrators to maintain a classroom environment that allows:

- A. a teacher to communicate effectively with all student in the class; and
- B. all students in the class the opportunity to learn

### Dress and Grooming (Grades 5-8)

Students are expected to dress appropriately at all times. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that

disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted. Students should consider the following questions when dressing for school:

- Does my clothing expose too much? (No)
- Does my clothing advertise something that is prohibited to minors? (No)
- Are there obscene, profane, drug-related, gang-related, or inflammatory messages on my clothing? (No)
- Am I dressed appropriately for the weather? (Yes)

Students who are representing Sidney Middle School at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements. This may apply to athletic teams, cheerleaders, bands, contest participants, and other such groups.

School dances will be themed wherein the school dress code will apply.

**These guidelines will assist parents, students, staff, and administration in determining appropriate dress for school.**

Parents have the major responsibility for the dress and personal appearance of their children as established within the guidelines of this dress code.

Students who are inappropriately dressed will be required to contact their parent/guardian. The parent/guardian will be responsible for bringing the student school appropriate clothing. If the parent/guardian is not capable of supplying appropriate clothing, the students will be offered clean clothes that have been donated to the school.

1. **Accessories** shall not be dangerous, distracting (such as chains or beepers), embarrassing, or offensive in nature. Clothing, jewelry, patches, or buttons with inappropriate statements, including sexual innuendoes, the explicit avocation of violence, or the advertisement or implication of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or related

paraphernalia is prohibited. Profanity and profane gestures are also prohibited. As a matter of courtesy, hats and other headgear shall not be worn in the school building. Gloves of any kind are not to be worn during the school day. Any body piercing or jewelry may need to be removed or covered during athletic activities. Backpacks are not to be worn or carried throughout the day unless permission from the office.

**2. Hair, skin, and clothing** must be kept clean, neat, and well groomed in a manner appropriate to an educational setting. Students are not permitted to write on clothing or their body. A student may be removed from school for non-compliance with the expected hygiene standards.

**3. Pants** should not have any rips or holes above the knees. The waistband of a student's pants shall sit at the waist or hips. If a belt is worn, it must be of appropriate length without excess hanging below the belt loops. Pajama pants are not allowed.

**4. Shirts**. ALL shirts must have a sleeve and cover the chest. No bare chests, backs, or midriffs. When seated, the student's shirt must be long enough to not expose the midriff area. Shirts cannot be see-through.

**5. Shorts** MUST be mid-thigh or longer. Mid-thigh is defined when the leg is bent, half way between the bend and the knee. The shorts must be considered appropriate for an educational environment. Students may not wear shorts which in the judgment of the faculty are excessively revealing, due to being too loose-fitting, too tight-fitting (such as biker shorts, spandex tights, or cut-offs), too short, or too thin. When seated, the student's shorts must not be excessively revealing. When special occasions arise or when abuses of the policy occur, the building principal may prohibit any individual, group, or the student body from wearing shorts.

**6. Skirts** MUST follow the same length guidelines as shorts.

**7. Sleepwear** apparel, including slippers, is not permitted.

**8. Shoes** must be worn. It is recommended that both boys and girls wear socks for health reasons. However, socks are optional. Slippers or shoes that resemble slippers are inappropriate. No shoes are to be worn that contain wheels.

**9. Undergarments**: Boxer shorts, underwear, bras, or other undergarments shall not be visible.

The primary responsibility of adhering to this dress code falls on the students and their parents/guardians. However, the building principal, with the assistance of the faculty, shall have the responsibility of administering this dress code, and their decision shall be final. Individual buildings may make additions to this policy in

their student handbook to address situations specific to their building or age group.

## **Gangs**

Gangs that initiate, advocate or promote activities that threaten the safety or well-being of persons or that are disruptive to the school environment will not be tolerated.

Incidents involving initiations, hazing, intimidations or related activities that are likely to cause harm or personal degradation are prohibited.

Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures that symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities that are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined. Prohibited gang paraphernalia will be specifically identified by the principal.

## **Personal Property and School Property**

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. The School is not responsible for personal property. Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to school.

Students may ride their bicycle to school but are reminded to get off their bike and walk it while on school property. It is recommended that the student uses a lock to secure their bicycle to the bike rack as the school is not responsible if the bike is taken by someone during the school day. Skateboards and Scooters are not permitted as students come to and/or leave school.

Damage to or loss of school equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines the school program. Therefore, if a student damages or loses school property, the student or their parents/guardians will be required to pay for the replacement or repair. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will be subject to discipline according to the Student Discipline Code.

## **Teacher Authority**

The authority of each teacher, and each school employee, extends to all students, at all times, at all places in the school building, school buses, school grounds, all school activities away from the school area, or away from the building where the students violate the rights of the school employee.

## STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE (Grades K-12)

The Student Discipline Code includes the types of misconduct that will subject a student to disciplinary action and is included in the Code of Conduct. Each of the behaviors described below may subject the student to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, detention, in-school discipline, suspension and/or expulsion from school. Furthermore, any criminal acts committed at or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined at school. Certain criminal acts may result in permanent exclusion from school.

### **Alcohol – Use, possession, sale, distribution or under the influence of**

The School prohibits the possession, use, distribution, and/or being under the influence of alcohol products in school, on school grounds, on school buses, and at any interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or other school-sponsored event

If a building principal has a reasonable suspicion of individualized alcohol use, they may request the student in question to submit to any appropriate testing, including but not limited to, a breathalyzer test or urinalysis.

The student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property for such testing with at least one other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test. If a student refuses to take the test, they will be advised that such denial leaves the observed evidence of alcohol use unrefuted thus leading to possible disciplinary action. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

### **Arson/Improper use of fire**

Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony. This also includes unauthorized igniting of matches, lighters and other devices that produce flames.

### **Assault - Physical**

Acting with intent to cause fear in another person of immediate bodily harm or death, or intentionally bullying, inflicting or attempting to inflict bodily harm upon another person. Physical assault of a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District, regardless of whether it causes injury, will not be tolerated. Any intentional, harmful or potentially harmful physical contact or bullying initiated by a student against a staff member will be considered to be assault. Assault of any other may result in criminal charges and may subject the student to expulsion.

### **Assault – Verbal Threat**

Any oral or written statement or otherwise expressed action that a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District reasonably feels to be a threat will be considered a verbal assault. Profanity directed toward a staff member in a threatening tone may also be considered a verbal assault. Confrontation with a student or staff member that bullies, intimidates, or causes fear of bodily harm or death is also prohibited.

### **Attendance – Violation of Policy**

Attendance laws require students to be in school all day or to have a legitimate excuse for their absence. Students who violate the attendance policy by being persistently absent, tardy, cutting and leaving class/school without permission shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Penalties for unexcused absences can range from detention to a referral to court and/or revocation of the student's driver's license.

### **Bomb Threats, and other false alarms and reports**

Making a bomb threat (i.e., intentionally giving a false alarm of a bomb) against a school building or any premises at which a school activity is being held at the time the threat is made may result in expulsion for a period of up to one (1) school year. Additionally, intentionally giving a false alarm of a fire, or tampering or interfering with any fire alarm is prohibited. It should be remembered that false emergency alarms or reports endanger the safety forces that are responding to the alarm/report, the citizens of the community, and the persons in the building. What may seem like a prank, is a dangerous stunt that is against the law and will subject the student to disciplinary action.

### **Burglary**

Entering a building or a specific area of a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime, or entering a building without consent and committing a crime.

### **Bus rules – Violation of**

Please refer to Section V on transportation for bus rules.

### **Cheating, Plagiarizing, Falsification or forgery**

Forgery of hall/bus passes, signatures and excuses as well as use of false I.D.'s are forms of lying and are not acceptable. Students found engaging in such practices may be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Discipline Code.

Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and may subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action.

### **Damaging property/Vandalism**

Vandalism and disregard for property that belongs to the school, district, other students, employees, or others will not be tolerated. Students engaged in such activity may be subject to disciplinary action

### **Displays of affection/sexual activities**

Affection between students is personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in

nature. Sexual activity of any nature is prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

#### **Disruption of the educational process**

Any actions or manner of dress that materially and substantially disrupts or interferes with social activities or the educational process or which threaten to do so are unacceptable. Such disruptions include, but are not limited to, delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic and performing arts events.

#### **Dress Code – Violation of**

Students are expected to dress appropriately at all times. Refer to the section on Dress Code in the student handbook.

#### **Drugs – Use, possession, sale, distribution or under the influence of**

The School prohibits the possession, use, distribution, and/or being under the influence of any controlled substance in school, on school grounds, on school buses, and at any interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or other school-sponsored event.

A controlled substance may include but is not limited to, narcotics, mood altering drugs, counterfeit controlled substances, look-alikes, over the counter stimulants or depressants, anabolic steroids or drug related paraphernalia. Aerosol cans are not permitted on school property.

If a building principal has a reasonable individualized suspicion of drug use, they may request the student in question to submit to any appropriate testing, including but not limited to, a breathalyzer test or urinalysis.

The student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on school property for such testing with at least one other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test.

If a student refuses to take the test, they will be advised that such denial leaves the observed evidence of drug use unrefuted thus leading to possible disciplinary action. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

#### **Electronic Equipment – Unauthorized use or possession of**

The School will supply any electronic equipment necessary for participation in the educational program. Students may not bring radios, "boom-boxes", portable TV's, electronic toys, pagers, cellular telephones, beepers or other paging devices, and the like to school without the permission of the principal. Unauthorized electronic equipment will be confiscated from the student and disciplinary action will be taken.

Cell phones may be brought to school but may not be used in the classroom. Cell phones while in student possession should remain turned off. Any disruption of class by a ringing cell phone or by talking on a cell phone will result in disciplinary action.

Any use of a device to take pictures of a test, text message information, or transmit unapproved

academic help will result in disciplinary action for cheating.

#### **Explosives – Use or possession of**

Explosives, fireworks, and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, small firecrackers, and poppers are forbidden and dangerous. Use or possession of explosives may subject a student to disciplinary action.

#### **Extortion**

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force, or deception to take, or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law and is prohibited by the Student Discipline Code.

#### **False alarms and false reports**

A false emergency alarm or report endangers the safety forces that are responding to the alarm/report, the citizens of the community, and the persons in the building. What may seem like a prank is a dangerous stunt that is against the law and may subject the student to disciplinary action.

Making a bomb threat against a school building or any premises at which a school activity is being held at the time the threat is made may result in expulsion for a period of up to one (1) school year.

#### **Falsification, Forgery, Cheating and/or Plagiarizing**

Forgery of hall/bus passes, signatures and excuses as well as use of false I.D.'s are forms of lying and are not acceptable. Students found engaging in such practices may be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Discipline Code.

Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and may subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action.

#### **Fighting or Aggressive Behavior**

Students involved in a fight or exhibiting aggressive behavior toward another will be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **Firearms – Use or possession of**

Bringing a firearm (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) onto school property or to any school-sponsored activity, competition, program, or event, regardless of where it occurs, will result in a mandatory one (1) year expulsion under Ohio law.

This expulsion may be reduced on a case-by-case basis by the Superintendent using the guideline set forth in Board Policy [5610](#) - Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, And Permanent Exclusion Of Students

- Firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or any destructive device (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994). Firearms include any

unloaded firearm and any firearm which is inoperable but which can be readily operated.

- Students are prohibited from knowingly possessing an object on school premises, in a school or a school building, at a school activity or on a school bus that is indistinguishable from a firearm, whether or not the object is capable of being fired, and indicating they are in possession of such an object and that it is a firearm or knowingly displaying or brandishing the object and indicating it is a firearm.

### **Gambling**

Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering and is prohibited by the Student Discipline Code. Students who bet on any school activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that school activity.

### **Gang Activity**

Students involved in gang activities, including, but not limited to graffiti, signs, signals, tattoos and gestures, and the wearing, carrying or displaying of gang-affiliated clothing/articles and/or participating in activities which are designed to intimidate another student will be disciplined.

### **Harassment and/or Aggressive Behavior (including bullying/Cyberbullying)**

The promotion of positive interpersonal relations between members of the school community is encouraged. Harassment and/or aggressive behavior (including bullying/cyber bullying) toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. This prohibition includes physical, verbal, and psychological abuse, and any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, or offensive learning environment. Any gestures, comments, threats, or actions which cause or threaten to cause bodily harm or personal degradation will not be tolerated. Individuals engaging in such conduct will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Prohibited Behavior**

Conduct constituting sexual harassment may take different forms, including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. **Verbal:** The making of offensive written or oral sexual innuendoes, suggestive comments, jokes of a sexual nature, sexual propositions, threats, or propositions toward or by a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the District, or third parties.
- b. **Nonverbal:** Causing the placement of offensive sexually suggestive objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or the making of offensive sexually suggestive or insulting gestures, sounds, leering, whistling, and the like to or by a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the District, or third parties.
- c. **Physical Contact:** Threatening or causing unwanted touching, contact, or attempts at

same, including patting, pinching, brushing the body, or coerced sexual activity with or by a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the District, or third parties.

Conduct constituting harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or disability may take different forms, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. **Verbal:** The making of offensive written or oral innuendoes, comments, jokes, insults, threats, or disparaging remarks concerning a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.
2. **Nonverbal:** Placing offensive objects, pictures, or graphic commentaries in the school environment or making insulting or threatening gestures based upon a person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.
3. **Physical:** Any intimidating or disparaging action such as hitting, pushing, shoving, hissing, or spitting on or by a fellow staff member, student, or other person associated with the District, or third parties, based upon the person's race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, or disability.

Any student who believes that they are the victim of any of the above actions or has observed such actions by another student, staff member, or other person associated with the District, or by third parties should contact the District's Complaint Coordinator(s):

**Superintendent of Sidney City Schools**  
**750 S. Fourth Avenue**  
**Sidney, OH 45365**  
**937-497-2200**

The Complaint Coordinator is available during regular school hours to discuss a student's concerns related to harassment, to assist a student who seeks support or advice when informing another individual about "unwelcome" conduct, or to intercede informally on behalf of the student.

The student may report their concerns to the Complaint Coordinator either by a written report or by telephone or personal visit. In reporting their concerns, the student should provide the name of the person(s) whom they believe to be responsible for the harassment and the nature of the harassing incident(s). The Complaint Coordinator will promptly compile a written summary of each such report which will be forwarded to the Principal.

Each report will be investigated in a timely manner and as confidentially as possible. While a charge is under investigation, no information will be released to anyone who is not involved with the investigation, except as may be required by law or in the context of a legal or administrative proceeding. All individuals involved in an investigation as a witness, victim or alleged harasser will be instructed not to discuss the subject outside of the investigation.



If an investigation reveals that a harassment complaint is valid, appropriate remedial and/or disciplinary action will be taken promptly to prevent the continuance of the harassment or its recurrence.

Given the nature of harassing behavior, the School recognizes that false accusations can have serious effects on innocent individuals. Therefore, all students are expected to act responsibly, honestly, and with the utmost candor whenever they present harassment allegations or charges.

Some forms of sexual harassment of a student may reasonably be considered child abuse which must be reported to the proper authorities.

Under no circumstances will the School tolerate threats or retaliation against anyone who makes a harassment complaint or participates in an investigation. Individuals who engage in threats or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **Hazing**

Hazing by any individual, school group, club, or team is not permitted. This includes any form of initiation that causes or creates a risk of causing mental or physical harm, no matter how willing the participant may be. Hazing activities are prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property but connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on school property.

All incidents of hazing must be reported immediately to any of the following individuals: the building principal or other administrator, teacher, coach, student club advisor/supervisor and/or Superintendent. Students who engage in hazing may also be liable for civil and criminal penalties.

### **Inappropriate/Profane Language**

Students are prohibited from using inappropriate or profane language in either oral or written form.

### **Insubordination – Failure to accept or complete school discipline**

Students failing to comply with disciplinary penalties may face enhanced penalties for such action.

### **Insubordination – Failure to comply with a reasonable directive**

Students are expected to comply with the reasonable directions of staff. Failure to comply with directions or acting in defiance of staff members will result in disciplinary action.

### **Knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence**

Because the Board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the Principal. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

### **Lighting Incendiary Devices**

Possession of or unauthorized igniting of matches, lighters and other devices that produce flames.

### **Local, State, or Federal Code – Violation of**

Infractions that violate the law will be reviewed. Charges may be filed with the proper authorities along with any school discipline

### **Misconduct - against a school official or employee or the property of such a person, regardless of where it occurs.**

The Board prohibits misconduct committed by a student against a school official or employee including but not limited to harassment (of any type), assault (verbal and/or physical), vandalism and/or destruction of property.

Misconduct is defined as any violation of the Student Discipline Code.

### **Misconduct - Off school grounds**

Students may be subject to discipline for student misconduct even when such misconduct occurs off school property when the misconduct is connected to activities or incidents that occurred on property owned or controlled by the District.

Misconduct is defined as any violation of the Student Discipline Code.

### **Parking Lot/Driving on School Grounds – Violation of Policy**

Students who drive to school are subject to following designated speed limits and other safety regulations while on school property. Students assume the risk of parking in the designated areas for students and must comply with all guidelines as posted or written in the student handbook.

### **Personal Communication Devices**

Students MUST have all personal communication devices (PCDs) completely OFF and stored in hallway lockers (not locker room lockers) during school hours from 7:30 to 2:45.

During school hours, students are prohibited from using PCDs to capture, record, or transmit the words and/or images of any student, staff member, or other person in the school or while attending a school-related activity, without express prior notice and explicit consent for the capture, recording, or transmission of such words or images. Using a PCD to take or transmit audio and/or pictures/video of an individual without his/her consent is considered an invasion of privacy and is not permitted, unless authorized by the building principal.

The use of PCDs that contain built-in cameras (i.e. devices that take still or motion pictures, whether in a digital or other format) is prohibited in locker rooms, classrooms, and bathrooms.

Students are prohibited from using a PCD in any way that might reasonably create in the mind of another person an impression of being threatened, humiliated, harassed, embarrassed or intimidated.

Possession of a PCD by a student is a privilege that may be forfeited by any student who fails to abide by the terms of this policy, or otherwise engages in misuse of this privilege. No expectation of confidentiality will exist in the use of PCDs on school premises/property.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or confiscation of the PCD. The building principal may also refer the matter to law enforcement if the violation involves an illegal activity.

"Sexting" is prohibited at any time on school property or at school functions. Sexting is the electronic transmission of sexual messages or pictures, usually through cell phone text messaging. Such conduct not only is potentially dangerous for the involved students, but can lead to unwanted exposure of the messages and images to others, and could result in criminal violations related to the transmission or possession of child pornography. Such conduct will be subject to discipline and possible confiscation of the PCD.

#### **Pornography – Possession of**

Students may not possess sexually explicit material while at school or at school activities.

#### **School or Classroom Rules - Aiding or abetting violation**

Students assisting other students in the violation of any school rule will be disciplined. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

#### **School or Classroom rules – Violation of**

Each learning environment has different rules for students. Individual rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules within each learning environment, all of which will be consistent with the policy of the School.

#### **Technology – Violation of AUP**

Before any student may take advantage of the School's computer network and the internet, they and their parents/guardians must sign an agreement which defines the conditions under which the student may participate. Failure to abide by all of the terms of the agreement may lead to termination of the student's computer account and possible disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct or referral to law enforcement authorities.

#### **Theft**

Students caught stealing (unauthorized taking of property of another person or receiving or possessing such property) will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students are encouraged not to bring anything of value to school without prior authorization from the principal. The School is not responsible for personal property.

Knowingly accepting stolen property or picking up an item left behind by another and not immediately turning it over to school officials shall be considered as a violation of this policy.

#### **Tobacco – Use, possession, sale or distribution of**

The School prohibits the possession, consumption, distribution, purchase or attempt to purchase, and/or use of tobacco products or electronic cigarettes or similar devices in school, on school grounds, on school buses, in Board-owned vehicles, within any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by the Board, and at any interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or other school-sponsored event. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff or any other matter or substance that contains tobacco. The term "tobacco" includes any product that contains tobacco, is derived from tobacco, contains nicotine, or e-cigarettes and other electronic smoking devices (including but not limited to "JUULs"), but does not include any cessation product approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for use as a medical treatment to reduce or eliminate nicotine or tobacco dependence. Smoking of electronic, "vapor", other substitute forms of cigarettes, or clove cigarettes is also prohibited.

#### **Threat and/or Terroristic Threat**

Threatening, directly or indirectly, to commit a crime of violence with the purpose to terrorize another or with reckless disregard of the risk of causing terror in another.

#### **Trespassing**

Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the District to restrict access to school property. Being present in any Board-owned facility or portion of a Board-owned facility when it is closed to the public or when the student does not have the authorization to be there, or unauthorized presence in a Board-owned vehicle; or unauthorized access or activity in a Board-owned computer, into district, school or staff computer files, into a school or district file server, or into the Network. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, the student must not be present on school property without authorization of the Principal.

#### **Unauthorized Area and Times**

Students may not be in the building between designated hours of supervision without being under the direct supervision of a district employee. During the school day, students must not go outside the designated boundaries of supervision.

#### **Unauthorized use of school or private property**

Students must obtain permission to use any school property or any private property located on school premises. Any unauthorized use of school property shall be subject to disciplinary action.

#### **Video Cameras**

Sidney Middle School has cameras located throughout the building. The principals are the only personnel who have access to the videotapes. Due to confidentiality, parents are not permitted to view any tape that displays students other than their own.

### **Violent Conduct**

Students may face expulsion for up to one school year for committing an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program, or directing an act at a Board official or employee, regardless of where or when that act may occur, or their property that would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult and results in serious physical harm to person(s).

### **Weapon – Use or possession of**

A weapon is any device which may be used for offensive or defensive purposes, including but not limited to conventional objects such as guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.

A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of a sharp blade fastened to a handle, a razor blade or any similar device that is used for, or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.

### **Weapon – Using an object as a weapon**

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, and jewelry.

### **Weapons or Threats of Violence, Knowledge of**

Because the Board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the Principal.

Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

## **DISCIPLINE**

It is important to remember that the School's rules apply going to and from school, at school, on school property, at school-sponsored events, on school transportation, and on property not owned or controlled by the Board but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board. Furthermore, students may be disciplined for conduct that, regardless of where or when it occurs, is directed at a Board official or employee, or the property of such official or employee. In some cases, a student can be suspended from school transportation for infractions of school bus rules.

The school will comply with its obligation to promptly provide reasonable discipline consistent with the severity of the incident. Teachers will initiate a minor consequence for unacceptable behavior. If the behavior is repeated or judged to be more offensive, the teacher may issue a more significant consequence. Serious

and/or repeated violations may be handled by the principal.

Two (2) types of discipline are possible, informal and formal.

### **INFORMAL DISCIPLINE**

Informal discipline takes place within the School. It can include:

#### **Teacher Lunch Detentions**

A student may serve a teacher lunch detention while eating lunch in the teacher's classroom.

#### **Lunch Detentions (Issued by the office)**

A student may serve a lunchtime detention in a supervised designated room while eating their lunch.

#### **Teacher Detentions**

A student may be detained after school or asked to come to school early by a teacher, after giving the student and his/her parents one day's notice. The students are responsible for informing the parent of a detention notice. The student or his/her parents are responsible for transportation.

#### **After School Detentions (Issued by the office)**

After school detentions are from 2:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Students who are assigned detentions are responsible for making the necessary transportation arrangements.

1. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of his/her own detentions.
2. If a student fails to serve an assigned detention, the result will be a T- School.

### **T-School**

T-School will be in session on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Assigned students will attend a continuous 1 1/2 hour period. Each student shall arrive with sufficient educational materials to be busy during this period. Transportation to and from T-School shall be the responsibility of the student/parent. A student missing any portion of his/her assigned time in T-School may be given an additional penalty. Failure to timely serve T-School assignment(s) may lead to suspension from school for a period not to exceed 10 days. Any such suspension shall be in accordance with district guidelines on suspension and expulsion.

### **The following rules shall apply to both Detention and T-School:**

1. Students are required to have class assignments with them.
2. Students are not to communicate with each other unless given special permission to do so.
3. Students are to remain in their designated seats at all times unless permission is granted to do otherwise.
4. Students shall not be allowed to put their heads down or sleep.



5. No radios, cards, magazines, or other recreational articles shall be allowed in the room.
6. No food or beverages shall be consumed

Any disturbance reported by the supervisor will mean the student will be removed from detention without credit.

### **In-School Restriction (ISR)**

In-School Restriction is used as an alternative to Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). Students will be assigned an In-School Restriction at the discretion of the administration.

### **FORMAL DISCIPLINE**

Formal discipline removes the student from school. It includes emergency removal for up to seventy-two (72) hours, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, expulsion for up to eighty (80) school days, and permanent exclusion. Expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Any student who is expelled from school for more than twenty (20) days into the following semester or school year will be provided with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitude and behavior that contributed to the incident that gave rise to the student's expulsion. The Superintendent at their discretion may require/allow a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of an expulsion. The Superintendent may impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the expulsion to the following school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension, expulsion, and permanent exclusion may be appealed.

Students being considered for suspension or expulsion are entitled to an informal hearing with the building administrator prior to removal at which time the student will be notified of the charges and given the opportunity to respond.

If a student commits a crime while under the School's jurisdiction, they may be subject to school disciplinary action as well as to action through local law enforcement.

### **Due Process Rights**

Before a student is suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed.

As long as the in-school restriction is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting, or be subject to appeal.

### **Emergency Removal**

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either in a classroom or elsewhere on the school premises, the

Superintendent or principal may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity or from the school premises. A teacher may remove the student from any curricular or extracurricular activity under the teacher's supervision, but not from the premises.

If a teacher makes an emergency removal, the teacher will notify a building principal of the circumstances surrounding the removal in writing within one (1) school day. No prior notice or hearing is required for any removal under this procedure. In all cases of normal disciplinary procedures where a student is removed from curricular or extracurricular activity for less than one school day and is not subject to further suspension for expulsion, the following due process requirements do not apply.

If the emergency removal exceeds one (1) school day, then a hearing will be held within three (3) school days after the removal is ordered. Written notice of the hearing and the reasons for removal and any intended disciplinary action will be provided to the student, as soon as practical prior to the hearing. If the student is subject to an out of school suspension, the student will have the opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the principal, assistant principal, Superintendent or a designee, and may challenge the reasons for the removal or otherwise explain their actions.

Within one (1) school day of the decision to suspend, written notification will be given to the parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) of the student. This notice will include the reasons for the suspension, the right of the student or their parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal to the Board or its designee, and the student's right to be represented in all appeal proceedings. If it is likely that the student may be subject to expulsion, the hearing will take place within three (3) school days and will be held in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Student Expulsion Policy. The person who ordered or requested the removal will be present at the hearing. In an emergency removal, a student may be kept from class until the matter of the alleged misconduct is resolved either by reinstatement, suspension or expulsion.

### **Suspension from School**

When a student is being considered for a suspension, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the basis for the proposed suspension. The student will be given an opportunity to explain their view of the underlying facts. After that informal hearing, the Principal will determine whether or not to suspend the student. If the decision is made to suspend the student, they and their parents/guardians will be given written notification of the suspension within one (1) day setting forth the reason for the suspension, the length of the suspension, and the process for appeal. The suspension may be appealed. The request for appeal must be in writing and filed with the superintendent within five (5) calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend.

During the appeal process, the student shall not be allowed to remain in school.

If the appeal is heard by the Superintendent or the Board designee, the appeal shall be conducted in a private meeting. If the appeal is heard by the Board of Education, the appeal shall be conducted in executive session unless the student or their representative requests otherwise. A verbatim transcript will be made and witnesses will be sworn in prior to giving testimony. If the appeal decision is to uphold the suspension, the next step in the appeal process is to the Court of Common Pleas.

### **Expulsion from School**

When a student is being considered for expulsion, the student and parent will be provided with a formal notice of the proposed expulsion. This written notice will include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the opportunity to appear in person before the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to challenge the reasons for the expulsion and/or explain the student's action, and notification of the time and place to appear. Students being considered for expulsion may or may not be removed immediately. A formal hearing will be scheduled no earlier than three (3), nor no later than five (5) school days after the notice is given. Parents/guardians may request an extension of time for the formal hearing. The student may be represented by their parents/guardians, legal counsel, and/or by a person of their choice at the hearing.

In accordance with Board Policy [5610](#), the Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion will be imposed for the same duration that it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

If a student is expelled, the student and the student's parents/guardians will be provided with written notice within one (1) school day of the imposed expulsion. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion, the right of the student, or the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) or custodian(s) to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings, the right to be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee and the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session.

Within ten (10) days after the Superintendent notifies the parents/guardians of the expulsion, the expulsion may be appealed, the writing, to the Board of Education or its designee. A hearing on the requested appeal will be formal with an opportunity for sworn testimony. If the expulsion is upheld on appeal, a student's parents/guardians may pursue further appeal to the court of Common Pleas.

Students serving expulsions will not be awarded grades or credit during the period of expulsion. Expulsion for certain violations including use or possession of alcohol or drugs, may result in revocation of student's driver's license. When a student is expelled, the Superintendent will notify any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under the Postsecondary Enrollment Option at the time the expulsion is imposed.

### **Permanent Exclusion**

State law provides for the permanent exclusion of a student, 16 years of age or older who engages in certain criminal activity. Permanently excluded students may never be permitted to return to school anywhere in the State of Ohio. A permanent exclusion may be considered if the student is convicted or adjudicated delinquent for committing one or more of the following crimes while on the property of any Ohio school:

- A. conveying deadly weapons onto school property or to a school function;
- B. possessing deadly weapons onto school property or at a school function;
- C. carrying a concealed weapon onto school property or at a school function;
- D. trafficking in drugs onto school property or at a school function;
- E. murder, aggravated murder on school property or at a school function;
- F. voluntary or involuntary manslaughter on school grounds or at a school function;
- G. assault or aggravated assault on school property or at a school function;
- H. rape, gross sexual imposition or felonious sexual penetration on school grounds, or at a school function, when the victim is a school employee;
- I. complicity in any of the above offenses, regardless of the location.

This process is formal and may follow an expulsion with the proper notification to the parents/guardians.

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (I.D.E.A.), and, where applicable, the Americans with Disabilities act (A.D.A.), and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

### **Suspension of Bus Riding/ Transportation Privileges**

When a student is being considered for suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges, the administrator in charge will notify the student of the reason. The student will be given an opportunity to address the basis for the proposed suspension at an informal hearing. After that informal hearing, the Principal will decide whether or not to suspend their bus riding/transportation privileges for all or part of the school year.

If a student's bus riding/transportation privileges are suspended, they and their parents/guardians will be

notified, in writing one (1) day, of the reason for and the length of the suspension.

### **Search and Seizure**

School authorities are authorized to search a student or their property (including vehicles, purses, knapsacks, gym bags, etc.) with or without the student's consent, whenever the School authorities reasonably suspect that a search will lead to the discovery of evidence of a violation of law or of school rules. The extent of the search will be governed by the seriousness of the alleged infraction and the student's age. General housekeeping inspection of school property may be conducted with reasonable notice.

Student lockers are the property of the District and students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their contents or in the contents of any other district property including desks or other containers. School Officials may conduct random searches of the lockers and their contents at any time without announcement. Unannounced and random canine searches may also be conducted.

Additionally, students have NO reasonable expectation of privacy in their actions in public areas including but not limited to, common areas, hallways, cafeterias, classrooms and gymnasiums. The District may use video cameras in such areas and on all school vehicles transporting students to and from regular and extracurricular activities.

Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be used as evidence of a violation of school rules or the law and may be taken, held or turned over to the police. The School reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated.

### **Interrogation of Students**

The School is committed to protecting students from harm that may be connected with the school environment and also recognizes its responsibility to cooperate with law enforcement and public child welfare agencies. While the School believes these agencies should conduct their investigations off school property if possible, investigations can take place at school in emergency situations or if the violation being investigated occurred on school property.

Before students are questioned as witnesses or suspects in an alleged criminal violation, the building administrator will attempt to contact a parent prior to

questioning and shall remain in the room during questioning.

If the agency investigating the alleged child abuse or neglect suspects the parent is the perpetrator, neither parent will be contacted prior to questioning, but the building administrator (or a designated guidance counselor) will remain in the room during questioning.

If law enforcement or Children's Services Agency removes a student from school, the building administrator will notify a parent.

### **Students Rights of Expression**

The School recognizes the right of students to express themselves. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do so appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non-sponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet school guidelines.

#### **A. Material cannot be displayed if it:**

- is obscene to minors, libelous, is pervasively indecent or vulgar,
- advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
- intends to be insulting or harassing,
- intends to incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting school or a school event,
- presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or manner of distribution or display, it causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of school or school activities, a violation of school regulations, or the commission of an unlawful act.

#### **B. Material may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.**

Students who are unsure whether or not materials they wish to display meet school guidelines may present them to the principal twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

## **SECTION IV – TRANSPORTATION**

### **Bus Transportation to School**

The School provides transportation for all eligible students. The transportation schedule and routes are available by contacting the transportation department at 937-497-2206.

Students may only ride assigned buses and must board and depart from the bus at assigned bus stops. Students will not be permitted to ride unassigned buses for any reason other than an emergency, except as approved by the Principal.

The building principal may approve a change in a student's regular assigned bus stop to address a special need, upon the principal's approval of a note from a parent stating the reason for the request and the duration of the requested change.

### **Bus Conduct**

Students who are riding to and from school on transportation provided by the School are required to follow all basic safety rules. This applies to school-owned buses as well as any contracted transportation. The driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety.

Ohio Administrative Code - [3301-83-08](#) Pupil transportation management policies: Pupil transportation management policies should be developed cooperatively by administrators and transportation personnel. Policies should be designed to ensure the safety and welfare of all school bus passengers and shall include:

- A. The school bus driver's authority and/ or responsibility to maintain control of the pupils.
- B. The pupil's right to "due process" as provided for by the policies and procedures of the educating agency.
- C. Pupil management and safety instruction policies shall include the following:
  1. Pupils shall arrive at the bus stop 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive.
  2. Pupils must wait in a location clear of traffic and away from the bus stops.
  3. Behavior at the school bus stop must not threaten life, limb or property of any individual.
  4. Pupils must go directly to an assigned seat so the bus may safely resume motion.
  5. Pupils must remain seated keeping aisles and exits clear.
  6. Pupils must observe classroom conduct and obey the driver promptly and respectfully.
  7. Pupils must not use profane language.
  8. Pupils must refrain from eating and drinking on the bus except as required for medical reasons.
  9. Pupils must not use tobacco on the bus.

10. Pupils must not have alcohol or drugs in their possession on the bus except for prescription medication required for a student.
  11. Pupils must not throw or pass objects on, from or into the bus.
  12. Pupils may carry on the bus only objects that can be held on their laps.
  13. Pupils must leave or board the bus at locations to which they have been assigned unless they have parental and administrative authorization to do otherwise.
  14. Pupils must not put their head or arms out of the windows.
  15. Guidelines will be formulated for the use and storage of equipment and other means of assistance required by preschool and special needs children.
  16. Drivers and bus aides must have access to appropriate information about the child to the degree that such information might affect safe transportation and medical well-being. This information must be available in the vehicle or readily accessible in the transportation office. All such information is strictly confidential.
- D. Suspension, expulsion or immediate removal from bus
1. The superintendent or superintendent designees or principals are authorized to suspend or remove pupils from school bus riding privileges.
  2. Immediate removal of a pupil from transportation is authorized. A pupil immediately removed from transportation must be given notice as soon as practicable of hearing which must be held within seventy-two hours of the removal. The notice shall also include the reason for removal. Immediate removal is authorized when the pupil's presence poses a danger to persons or property or a threat to the safe operation of the school bus. Length of time removed from ridership shall be in accordance with policies of the school bus owner.
  3. School bus drivers shall report in writing to the appropriate administrator all rule violations or conduct that justifies immediate removal, suspension or expulsion.
  4. Suspension or immediate removal of preschool and special needs children may require a modification of the above procedures and shall be accomplished in accordance with the law.

### **Video Recordings on School Buses**

The Board of Education has installed video cameras on school buses to monitor student behavior. If a student misbehaves on a bus and their actions are recorded, the recording will be submitted to the principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

## **Penalties for Infractions Bus Discipline Rubric**

For the safety of our students, all bus rules need to be followed. In the event students do not follow rules, the following actions will be taken:

- **1st Infraction:** Bus driver warning, Bus driver call home, Letter warning of bus removal sent home
- **2nd Infraction:** Bus removal two (2) days
- **3rd Infraction:** Bus removal five (5) days
- **4th Infraction:** Bus removal for the remainder of the year

Students who are removed from the bus are still expected to attend school and all attendance policies will apply.

All infractions will be documented in the district's system. Certain infractions may result in additional consequences from building administration, which may include fighting, possession of tobacco, drugs, weapons, and threats toward staff members and other students.

## **Transportation of Students by Private Vehicle for School Activities**

When transportation by District vehicle is either not available or feasible, there may be a need to provide

transportation to students by private vehicle. However, no students will be permitted to ride in a private vehicle unless written consent is provided by each student's parent using [Form 8660 F2](#) – Parental Consent for Transportation by Private Vehicle. Upon request, parents/guardians of participating students will be given the name of the driver, the owner of the vehicle, and the description of the vehicle.

## **Self Transportation to School**

Students who are provided the opportunity to ride school transportation are encouraged to do so. Students and their parents assume full responsibility for any transportation to and from school not officially provided by the school. Parking lot speed limit is 15 mph.

## **Bicycles, Skateboards, Rollerblades, Scooters, and Hoverboards**

Bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, and hoverboards are not to be ridden on the sidewalks of school property or in the building. Bicycles are to be left at the racks located on the east and west sides of Sidney Middle School. Students should lock their bicycles.

## **Mopeds**

Mopeds are to be parked along the last row of the school parking lot. All road safety procedures are to be followed. Failure to comply will result in discipline.



# SMS: 5-8 PBIS Building Expectations

RESPECTFUL	RESPONSIBLE	SAFE
<b>CLASSROOM</b>		
PAX voice as directed	Follow teacher's directions	Report safety concerns
Show kindness	Stay on task	Keep hands/feet/objects to yourself
Use school appropriate language	Be prepared (materials & mind)	Be aware of your surroundings
Listen to others (adult & peers)	Clean up area (floor, desk, seat)	Use technology appropriately
<b>HALLWAY</b>		
3 inch PAX voice	Walk directly to your destination	Avoid running/horseplay
Show kindness	Use time wisely/arrive on time	Keep hands/feet/objects to yourself
Use school appropriate language	Maintain clean locker area	Follow traffic patterns
<b>RESTROOM</b>		
3 inch PAX voice	Clean up after self	Wash your hands
Give privacy to others	Return to class promptly	Keep the floor clear
Use facilities properly	Use time wisely	Inform adult of any problems
<b>CAFETERIA</b>		
3 foot PAX voice	Clean up after self (tray, trash, belonging)	Avoid running/horseplay
Listen to others (adults & peers)	Use time wisely	Inform adults of any problems
Use school appropriate language	Listen for & follow adult directions	Maintain personal space
<b>ARRIVAL &amp; DISMISSAL</b>		
3 inch PAX voice	Show self-control	Stay in appropriate areas
Show kindness	Wait patiently	Be aware of others
Use school appropriate language	Follow adult directions	Inform adults of any problems
<b>RECESS</b>		
Show kindness	Show self control	Be aware of boundaries
Listen for & follow adult directions	Return equipment	Keep hands/feet/objects to yourself
Use school appropriate language	Line up promptly at signal	Inform adult of any problems

# SIDNEY CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT CALENDAR 2022-2023 School Year

## OPEN HOUSE

### August 30, 2022

**Whitter ECC**

**Preschool**

4:00-6:00pm

**Sidney Middle School**

**Grades 5/7**

4:00-6:00pm

### August 31, 2022

**Northwood Intermediate**

**Grades 3 + 4**

4:00-6:00pm

**Sidney Middle School**

**Grade 6/8**

4:00-6:00pm

### September 1, 2022

**Emerson/Longfellow Primary**

**Grades K-2**

4:00-6:00pm

**Sidney High School**

**Grade 9 - 5:00-6:00pm**

**Grades 10-12**

6:00-7:30PM

6-Sep	First Day of School Grades 5-12	16-Jan	NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
6-Sep	Staggered Start - GROUP A Grades PK-4	20-Jan	<b>END OF QUARTER 2</b>
7-Sep	Staggered Start - GROUP B Grades PK-4	6-Feb	2-Hour Late Start Remote Learning K-12 Only
8-Sep	Staggered Start - GROUP C Grades PK-4	20-Feb	NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day
9-Sep	All K-4 Start	7-Mar	**2-Hour Early Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences
3-Oct	NO SCHOOL - Teacher Data Day All Grades	9-Mar	**2-Hour Early Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences
18-Oct	**2-Hour Early Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences	10-Mar	Remote Learning Day K-12 Only
20-Oct	**2-Hour Early Dismissal Parent Teacher Conferences	24-Mar	<b>END OF QUARTER 3</b>
21-Oct	Remote Learning Day K-12 Only	27-31-Mar	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
4-Nov	<b>END OF QUARTER 1</b>	3-Apr	2-Hour Late Start Remote Learning K-12 Only
7-Nov	2-Hour Late Start Remote Learning K-12 Only	7-Apr	NO SCHOOL
21-Nov	Remote Learning Day All Grades	1-May	2-Hour Late Start Remote Learning K-12 Only
22-25-Nov	NO SCHOOL - Fall Break	20-May	SHS Graduation
5-Dec	2-Hour Late Start Remote Learning K-12 Only	24-May	Last Day of School All Grades
19-Dec-2-Jan	NO SCHOOL - Winter Break		

**\*\* On Parent Teacher Conference days, afternoon (PM) preschool will only dismiss 30 minutes early at 3:15PM.**

*Calendar Updated 6/10/22*