

*King's Fork  
Middle School*



**Student Handbook  
2019-20**



**Seizing Opportunities, Pursuing Excellence!**  
*Home of the Jaguars*

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Dear Parents and Students:

I would like to welcome you to a new year at King's Fork Middle School. We take pride in helping all students achieve to their highest potential. We strive to make school a caring, nurturing, and safe place for learning. We are proud of our staff that works hard with our students and parents to achieve success.

As we embark on the challenges of this school year, we must realize that none of us can accomplish these goals alone, but if we work together as a team, i.e., students, parents, and school, there is no job that we cannot accomplish. Working together is a must and a most important need, as the children and students that we have are the future leaders of our city, state, and nation. None of us can afford to underestimate the tasks, or the importance of them.

This student handbook is one way in which we can keep parents informed and involved in the home-school partnership. Please read and discuss the handbook with your child. If you have any questions or are unsure of something after reading the handbook, please do not hesitate to contact the administration.

As principal of King's Fork Middle School, I once again consider it a great honor to be working with you. My goal is to see that all students receive the best education possible. I would like to thank all of you for making last school year a very successful one, and I encourage all of you to continue giving your support to assure that this continues. I also ask that you communicate your concerns and/or ideas with the school and that you provide your undivided support in making this a most successful year.

If I can assist you in any way, please feel free to contact me at (757) 923-5246.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer K. Presson*

Jennifer K. Presson  
Principal

## **I. GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the students, parents, staff and community of King's Fork Middle School is to provide an educational program that recognizes each student as a unique individual and fosters continuous improvement in academic, physical, emotional and social success while promoting pride within a safe and positive environment.

### **AS A KING'S FORK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT, IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY:**

- To attend school every day and to be on time to all classes.
- To come to school prepared with books, paper, pencil, and any other materials and/or assignments as directed by teachers.
- To obey the directions of all staff members.
- To respect myself and the rights and property of others.

### **THE STAFF OF KING'S FORK MIDDLE SCHOOL ACCEPTS THE RESPONSIBILITY:**

- To provide a quality instructional program for each student.
- To provide an orderly classroom and safe school environment.
- To develop programs and activities that will respond to the social, emotional, personal, and physical developmental needs of each student.
- To assist parents in helping their children develop self-discipline, self-respect, and self-confidence to participate as a responsible member in school.

### **AS THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF A KING'S FORK MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT, I WILL:**

- Send my child to school each day on time, prepared with all necessary materials, well rested, and properly dressed.
- Check my child's work and homework on a daily basis.
- Provide my child with suitable study conditions at home--desk or table, lights, books and supplies.

### **ABSENTEE NOTES/ADMIT SLIPS**

Students who have been absent from school or tardy to school must bring a signed note from their parent/guardian or a doctor's excuse giving the date(s) of the absence(s) and the reason for the absence(s). In the case of absence, notes must be brought to the office prior to the beginning of the first class period to obtain an admittance slip. In the case of tardiness, notes must be brought to the main office immediately upon the student's arrival to school and the Record of Student Tardies book signed to obtain an admittance slip. The student is to have the admittance slip signed by each of his/her teachers during the course of the day.

According to the present School Board Policy a student in grades K-8 who misses in excess of 20 unexcused days during the school year may be retained in the same grade for the next school year. Also, for the purpose of consistency, three instances of tardiness to school will be treated as one absence. If a student is absent/tardy to school for any reason, documentation (see above) for the absence/tardiness must be submitted to the school's office upon the student's return to school or within a period not to exceed five school days immediately thereafter. Any deviation from the criteria must be documented by a written explanation from the parent/guardian, doctor, court notice, etc.

### **ACCIDENT REPORTING**

Any time a student is injured or is involved in an accident anywhere on school property, the bus, the bus stop, or during a school-sponsored activity, the student should immediately notify his/her teacher, sponsor of the activity, or administrator. Accident forms may then be obtained from the nurse.

### **ACTIVITY FEE**

A \$10.00 non-refundable activity fee is required and will be paid by each student for the use of a school lock, hall locker, and an agenda. The school lock and locker charge is \$5.00; the agenda charge is \$5.00.

### **ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE CHANGES**

Please notify the office immediately if there is any change in address, telephone number, guardian, emergency contacts, or other personal information.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE AVAILABILITY**

The administrators will be in the building from 7:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. daily. Any student or parent wishing to have a conference with any administrator is always welcome; however, it is recommended that the appointment be arranged ahead of time to ensure the availability of the appropriate administrator. Students may arrange appointments by signing in upon arriving to school or by securing a pass to the office. Parents may arrange appointments personally or by phone.

### **AGENDAS**

Success in all areas of life is not a matter of luck, but comes from setting goals and then organizing time to reach those goals. Students will be required to purchase an individual student agenda and to keep up with their assignments and important dates throughout the school year. Students will be taught strategies for using their planning agendas primarily to organize homework assignments, record their pages read in their Accelerated Reading logs, and keep a record of achievement/progress in individual classes. Agendas contain passports/passes that students must use to leave a class or to travel in the hallway.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements will be read daily over the public address system and written announcements will be distributed to all teachers during the week to keep students informed of activities and other pertinent information.

### **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

#### **Arrival**

School personnel cannot assume responsibility for students who are brought to school before 7:00 a.m. each morning. Students are not to arrive prior to that time. All students should arrive to school no later than 7:20 a.m. Instruction begins at 7:25 a.m. Excessive tardies to school may result in a disciplinary consequence.

#### **Early Dismissal**

For children's safety and well being, it is necessary to require the following procedures. Students needing an early dismissal from school are to present a written statement to the main office prior to the beginning of the first class period. This note must contain the following information: date; student's name; time of dismissal; reason for dismissal; who will be picking

up the student and their relationship to the student; signature of parent/guardian, and phone number where the parent may be reached. Students will not be given an early dismissal without verbal confirmation from the parent. An authorized adult must provide picture identification and sign the Record of Early Dismissal ledger in the main office before any student is dismissed from our care. In order to prevent interruptions to the instructional process for all students, parents are asked to please make every effort not to take their children from school early.

### **Dismissal**

Students will not be permitted to leave school with anyone other than the parent or guardian. If someone else is picking up your child, you must send written authorization to the office. An adult must sign the necessary release ledger in the front office. Please make every effort not to take your child from school during the important instructional blocks. Please do not pick up your child without signing him/her out in the office. It is most important for the school to know when a child has been picked up by a parent/guardian and the time he/she leaves our care. For regular, daily afternoon dismissal, all students will be dismissed by the bell at 2:00 p.m. Students being picked up by parents must come in to sign them out on a daily basis. Parents should use the designated Parent Parking spaces and refrain from parking in the fire lane.

### **ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS**

Assembly programs are planned to enrich the classroom experiences. Assemblies also provide an opportunity for students to learn the following formal audience behavior:

1. Enter the activity quietly and have a seat in assigned sections.
2. Pay strict attention to the person or people on the stage immediately.
3. Be courteous to one another and to the speaker or performer(s) throughout the program.
4. Applaud generously and courteously in keeping with the occasion. Under no circumstances is there to be any booing, screaming, whistling, chanting, or stomping.
5. Remain seated with until dismissed, departing in the same manner used to enter.

### **BOOK BAGS/BACKPACKS/PURSES/HEAVY COATS**

Book bags, backpacks and heavy coats are not permitted in the classroom. They must be stored in your hall locker at all times. Purses, no larger than a piece of notebook paper, are permitted in classrooms.

### **BUS PASSES**

Bus drivers are instructed not to pick up or take an additional student without permission from the principal. Any time a student needs to ride a different bus or get on/off their regularly scheduled bus at a different stop, they must have a bus pass approved by an administrator. To obtain a pass, students are to bring a parental note to the front office by 8:00 a.m. Complete notes include the following information: date, student's name, destination, bus number to ride, parent signature and phone number where parent may be contacted during the school day. Students will not be given a bus pass without verbal confirmation from the parent/guardian. Seating on the requested bus must be available in order for a bus pass to be approved.

## **BUS REGULATIONS**

School buses are provided for the convenience of the students. This privilege may be taken away from a student who endangers his/her safety or the safety of others. Please review the following regulations with your child:

- All riders shall remain seated when the bus is in motion.
- Keep hands, arms and head inside the bus. Gestures at cars or persons in the public are prohibited.
- Each rider shall remain in the seat assigned to him/her. Touching, fighting, and obscene language are forbidden.
- Bus riders must not litter the bus with food or other debris.
- The bus driver shall report any misconduct to the office.
- The bus driver is in complete charge at all times. Parents shall be notified if misconduct of a student continues.
- The rider or his/her parents will pay for damage to the bus, other than from regular usage.
- Students must be at the loading stop at the scheduled time, both in the morning and the afternoon.
- Students should inform the driver, if possible, when the rider will be absent from school.
- Students must cooperate with the driver at all times.
- Students shall be prohibited from bringing unnecessary items or dangerous objects on the school bus.

## **CAFETERIA**

The cafeteria offers a variety of breakfast and lunch choices daily. Lunch will cost \$2.10 or \$.40 at the reduced rate. Breakfast is optional and costs \$.85 or \$.30 at the reduced rate. Only students eating breakfast are to report to the cafeteria in the morning. Everyone is required to report to the cafeteria for lunch, which may be purchased or brought from home. Milk may be purchased separately. Free or reduced price lunch applications will be distributed to students the first day of school. Parents are encouraged to complete the application online. After that, these applications will be available in the school's main office. The food service supervisor (not the school) will notify applicants of approved or denied status. A menu is posted in each homeroom monthly. The following rules and procedures apply in the cafeteria:

- All students are to enter the cafeteria in a quiet and orderly manner. Students will not cut in line in front of others.
- Students will notify the cafeteria staff before ordering lunch if they do not have money. The staff will provide an alternate lunch.
- Students will remain seated at the table at all times unless otherwise instructed by the teachers on duty.
- Students will leave the tables, chairs, and floor clean. Students will carry trays and all trash to the dish room.
- Students will talk in conversational tones. No yelling is allowed.
- Students will use good manners.
- Students will only be allowed one trip to the snack line.
- Students will be assigned a computer number for their student account in the cafeteria. Meals may be paid for by the week or by the month in the cafeteria. Parents may choose to place any amount into the student's account.

### **CLINIC/SCHOOL NURSE**

A full time nurse is available in the clinic for students who become too ill to remain in class, require first aid, or have other health concerns. Students who are injured or ill are to report to the clinic with an escort or with a hall pass written by their teacher. The school nurse will determine if the parent/guardian is to be contacted and if the student should be sent home. Parental permission must be secured prior to releasing the student.

The school nurse will conduct vision, hearing, and dental screenings through the physical education classes during the school year.

### **Medication**

State law prohibits the school from dispensing any kind of medication to students unless the nurse has on file written permission from the child's doctor. The medication must be brought to school in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy or physician. All students taking medication (including inhalers) at school must have a doctor's note on file in the clinic at the beginning of each school year. NO medication (including Tylenol) will be given unless there is an order from the doctor on file in the clinic and medication is in its original prescription container. Failure to comply will be a violation of the School Board's policy on drugs.

### **CLUBS**

School club organizations are recognized as authorized school organizations if they: are organized with the approval of the school administration; are composed completely of current student body members; hold their meetings at school; have an approved plan for the selection of members; establish aims which are educational, are of school interest or community interest; and, meet all other conditions established by school officials for recognized, sponsored organizations. The following is a partial list of clubs available:

FBLA, SCA, FCCLA, Technology, Young Ladies of Distinction and Young Men of Pride

### **CONCERNS OR CONFLICTS**

If a student or parent has a concern about an individual or a school practice/policy, the following pathway of assistance is available and should be used in order to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

1. Notify the supervising teacher, bus driver, or other school staff of the problem.
2. Seek peer mediation as appropriate.
3. Make an appointment with the guidance counselor.
4. If the problem is still unresolved, contact an administrator.

### **COURSES OFFERED**

Students will be offered instruction in English, mathematics, science and social studies. In addition, students will be offered physical education and exploratory classes.

### **DELIVERIES**

Office personnel can not accept deliveries on behalf of students. This includes but not limited to balloons, flowers, and food.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE, POSTER DISPLAY, AND SALES**

Posters, leaflets, flyers, or the like may not be distributed or displayed without the principal's approval. All sales of goods must be approved by the administration. Failure to comply may lead to disciplinary action.

### **EMERGENCY DRILLS**

Teachers will direct students in the proper procedures to follow during regularly scheduled fire, weather, and emergency code drills.

### **ENGRAVING**

Students are encouraged to protect their investment in calculators by having them engraved and registered with identifying information by the media specialist between 7:00-7:20 a.m.

### **FOOD AND DRINKS AT SCHOOL**

Everyone must work together to keep the school clean and attractive. Gum is not permitted at school. Food and drink must remain in the cafeteria unless authorized by the administration. No open drink bottles/containers may be brought to school or carried around in the school. Water fountains are available throughout the building. Glass bottles are strictly prohibited.

### **GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT AND SERVICES**

Each student is assigned a counselor. Students who wish to make an appointment with their counselor should go to the guidance office for an appointment slip before school, after school, or with permission from their teacher during their lunch period. The guidance department offers academic, career and personal/social counseling which includes some of the following services: individual inventory, informational services, group guidance, individual counseling, peer mediation, testing, and assistance in planning schedule of courses for students, maintenance of student's permanent records, career counseling and summer job opportunities.

Parents who do not wish to have their child participate in the Personal/Social Counseling program should complete the Opt-Out form that is available in the student handbook.

### **HALL PASSES/RESTROOM PASSES**

Students are not permitted to be anywhere in the building other than their scheduled class/activity unless accompanied by an authorized staff member or issued a pass signed by an authorized staff member. Students are discouraged from using the restrooms during instructional time, but may do so with the teacher's permission if an emergency should arise. If a health condition exists, a physician's note is required by the nurse. Leaving class without permission to use the restroom is prohibited and will be treated with disciplinary consequences.

### **INSURANCE**

Dental and accident insurance may be purchased through the insurance companies approved by the School Board. The homeroom teachers will distribute insurance forms during the first week of school.

### **LOCKERS**

Hall lockers are assigned by homeroom teachers for general student use. Only those locks provided by the school may be used on hall lockers. Each grade level will be assigned times to visit their lockers during the school day. All lockers are school property and are to be kept free of trash and writings/markings at all times. Abuse or improper use of lockers may result in the

loss of this privilege or other disciplinary action. Lockers may be searched by school officials at any time. For security reasons, students are not to share lockers nor disclose their lock combination to another student. Lockers for physical education classes are assigned by P.E. teachers. Home purchased locks may be used on designated lockers for physical education classes only. Items must be removed at the end of the class. Lockers are not available at Turlington Woods School.

### **LOST AND FOUND**

Articles which are found by someone other than the owner should be taken to the office immediately. The school is not responsible for any losses of property by students. Lost and Found is located in the cafeteria. Students losing articles should check the Lost and Found. Items not claimed by the last week of each school year will be discarded.

### **METAL DETECTORS**

Students, lockers, classrooms, and buses will be selected at random for periodic checks with metal detectors.

### **PARENT CONFERENCES**

Parents who desire to have conferences with teachers should make arrangements in advance by contacting the teacher(s) directly, the guidance office, or the main office. To ensure continuation of instruction for students, teachers are available to meet with parents before school, during their designated planning period, and after school.

### **PARKING**

Parents and visitors are to park in the designated parking spaces. Please do not park or leave unattended cars in the front of the school building as this is a fire lane.

### **PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

King's Fork Middle School is fortunate and proud to have Partners-in-Education who support our instructional programs and have a significant impact upon student achievement.

### **PEER MEDIATION**

Conflict is a normal life experience. Peer mediation is a highly successful program designed to deal with conflicts in a positive manner as they occur, thereby avoiding the consequences of aggressive behavior which still leaves the conflict unresolved. The students involved in the conflict are then able to identify the issues, brainstorm possible solutions, and commit to an agreed upon plan of action.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES**

Physical education is part of the required curriculum in middle school. The following rules and regulations apply to P.E. classes:

1. All students will dress for physical education class in appropriate attire. Students will change only in respective locker rooms not in the bathrooms, unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. The same clothes worn to school can not be worn for gym class. Students are to wear:
  - **PE suits are the appropriate attire for physical education class.** They are available for \$16.00. The PE suit includes a T-shirt and a pair of shorts.

- **White socks**
  - **Tennis shoes or sneakers with shoelaces** must be worn and tied properly. No platform sneakers, slip-on athletic shoes, hiking boots or sneakers that convert to roller skates will be allowed.
  - **Optional Attire** - Navy blue or black shorts or sweat pants, plain white T-shirt with sleeves. Shorts must be no higher than two inches above the knee. All shorts and sweats are to be worn at the waistline. Shirts are to be worn properly.
  - **Not Optional** - Denim, biker shorts, cut-offs shorts, colored shirts or logos on shirts, sports jerseys, such as basketball, football, or “muscle shirts” are not optional attire for PE.
  - **Not Allowed** – Stockings or panty hose worn under PE clothes are not allowed. Pant legs and shorts rolled up are not allowed. No portion of the chest, midriff or back will be allowed to be exposed.
2. **Gym bags may be used.** Please use a small tote bag due to space constraints. Book bags can not be used for gym clothes. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who bring book bags to the gym or locker rooms will be sent back to their lockers and then receive a tardy.
  3. **Students must bring a personal lock** to secure their belongings in the gym locker. Locks are to be used only during class and must be removed at the end of each class period. Locks remaining after class will be cut off. The school is not responsible for items lost or stolen.
  4. Valuables and personal items, including money, should not be brought to class. The school is not responsible for items lost or stolen.
  5. No headbands, head scarves, or any other headgear will be allowed in the gym.
  6. Students who are not participating in class will be escorted to an assigned area.
  7. For safety reasons, no students are allowed under the bleachers. Any item that drops under the bleachers must be reported to a physical education teacher.
  8. Students will have six minutes to dress and will be escorted to their squads.
  9. Consequences for failure to dress out will include points deducted from students’ grades and parental contact.
  10. If a student has a doctor's excuse or a parental note not to participate in P.E., they are to report to the clinic between 7:00-7:20 a.m. for screening. The nurse will make a determination as to the physical limitations for the day's activities. Students will not be excused during class to have the nurse sign a note. Doctor’s notes must be obtained after two days of not dressing out or participating. Parental notes will not be honored after two days per nine weeks. Only doctor's notes will be honored in this case.
  11. There will be no eating, chewing gum, or drinking in the gym or locker rooms.

## **Grading Summary**

60% - Physical Education

40% - Health (14% class work, 12% tests, 12% quizzes, 2% homework)

Physical Education: 60% of the 9 weeks grade (one grade per PE day required)

100% = Proper uniform and full participation

85% = Improper uniform (incorrect shirt or shorts) and full participation

70% = Proper uniform and no participation

70% = Improper uniform (incorrect shirt and shorts) and full participation

40% = Improper uniform and no participation

40% = No participation due to no tennis shoes

## **SUPPLIES**

Teachers and grade levels require specific supplies. Supply lists are available in the main office prior to the start of school.

## **TELEPHONE USE**

Students are beginning to take on more responsibility, including remembering to bring all necessary items to school. Students are not permitted to use telephones for personal business, except in situations deemed urgent by school officials. Emergency messages from parents will be delivered to students. Student will not be called from class for a phone call.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Free textbooks are issued to students for their use during the school year. Textbooks are not rented and are not the property of the students, therefore, students must assume the responsibility for their care and pay for any books that are lost, damaged, or destroyed. Textbooks are to be kept clean, free of any writing or markings (including highlighting), and handled carefully. Regular checks for lost/damaged books will be made by teachers and charges collected. Students will not be issued another book until replacement costs are paid.

- A student shall pay full price for a textbook which is lost or damaged beyond repair. Damage to textbooks may include pages missing or torn, markings, and weathering.
- A student shall pay half price for a textbook which damaged but usable.
- A student shall pay full price for the lost textbook before he/she is issued a replacement.
- If the lost textbook is found, the student will receive a refund.

Failure to pay for lost or damaged books at the end of the year will prohibit the student from receiving free textbooks the following year, until all charges are paid in full.

## **VISITORS**

Parents are welcome at King's Fork Middle School. All parents, however, must first report to the office and obtain permission from the administration before visiting any area of the school. A visitor's badge will be issued to visit a specific area or provisions will be made for a guided tour of the building. Picture identification will be required prior to a guided tour. All visitors will be escorted by a member of the King's Fork Middle School faculty/staff both to and from

their destination. Children or student visitors are not allowed. Cooperation in this matter is very important for the safety and welfare of all students. If guests are seen in the building without a visitor's badge and/or unescorted, they will be questioned by the staff and escorted to the office.

### **WELLNESS POLICY**

Special celebrations may not take the place of school lunch. Any special celebrations must be coordinated with Food & Nutrition Services or be conducted after the last lunch period. All special celebrations must first be approved by the building principal. Only pre-packaged snacks which meet the nutritional requirements will be allowed when snacks are solicited.

## **II. STANDARDS OF STUDENT CONDUCT**

### **AFFIRMATION**

An important part of a middle school student's education is the right to make decisions and the responsibility to accept the results of those choices. Each student at King's Fork Middle School is encouraged to abide by the following affirmations in order to make wise decisions resulting in positive outcomes for personal growth.

**I believe in my ability to achieve.**

**I will attend school daily and strive for academic excellence.**

**I will be truthful in my words and actions.**

**I will speak and behave courteously toward everyone.**

**I will respect the rights, beliefs, and property of others.**

**I will be caring toward our environment.**

### **BASIC SCHOOL RULES**

All students are expected to follow these six, simple rules all day every day. Doing so will prevent the need for school officials to take any form of disciplinary action.

1. Follow directions of any school staff immediately, without objecting comments, the first time they are given.
2. Keep hands, feet and objects to oneself.
3. Walk to the right hand side of the hallways. For everyone's safety, no running is permitted in the building or classrooms, and no "horseplay" is permitted anywhere.
4. Speak and behave courteously to everyone, demonstrating respect for their rights, beliefs, feelings, and property.
5. Dress appropriately for school.
6. Obey state laws and School Board policies. Please refer to the Suffolk Public Schools Student Handbook for the complete Code of Student Conduct.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

Making choices that are in violation of the rules will result in disciplinary action. Please be aware that this handbook is a guideline and does not describe all behaviors and consequences.

nor does it describe many of the positive activities used to help students change their behavior. Administrators will use judgment in selecting consequences depending on the severity or frequency of the offense(s). Consequences are not listed in any particular order.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Counseling                             | Mediation                                    |
| Warning/reprimand                      | Loss of privileges                           |
| Conference with team                   | Parental contact/conference                  |
| Restrictions assigned by the principal | Detention before school/lunch/after school   |
| Suspension from school activities      | In-school suspension (ISS)                   |
| Out-of-school suspension (OSS)         | Referral to an alternative education program |
| Notification of legal authorities      | Recommendation for administrative hearing    |
| Recommendation for expulsion           | Pursuit of legal action when appropriate     |

**Mandatory expulsion for no less than one year (180 days) for firearms possession or use.**

## **SELECTED DISCIPLINARY TOPICS**

### **Bullying**

Bullying among children is commonly defined as intentional, repeated harmful acts, words or other behavior such as name calling, threatening and/or shunning committed by one or more children against another. These negative acts are not intentionally provoked by the victims, and for such acts to be defined as bullying, an imbalance in real or perceived power must exist between the bully and the victim. Bullying may be physical, verbal, emotional or sexual in nature. Bullying will result in disciplinary action.

### **Buses**

School buses are provided for the convenience of the students and parents. This is a privilege that can be taken away from a student temporarily or permanently. Misbehavior on the bus, even talking loudly, nearly always endangers the safety of everyone in the vehicle because of the distraction it creates for the driver. Students are to ride assigned buses at all times and enter/exit at their assigned stop. Always follow the directions of the driver. Remain in the seat and keep hands, feet and other objects to oneself at all times and inside the bus. No food, drinks, littering, obscene gestures, or use of profanity is allowed. Be respectful to everyone on the bus. Misbehavior on the school bus, bus stop, or walking to and from the bus stop is subject to disciplinary action.

### **Conduct Outside of School Hours**

Students going to school or returning from school are subject to punishment for acts committed before the student arrives safely to school or before they arrive safely home after school. Also in accordance with Virginia Code, students may be subject to punishment for acts committed away from school property and outside of school hours which are detrimental to the interest of the school or which adversely affect school discipline.

### **Corporal Punishment**

Corporal punishment may not be used as a means of discipline. However, this does not prevent teachers and principals from using “reasonable and necessary force” to maintain order and control; remove a student from a disturbance which threatens physical injury to persons or

property damage; prevent self infliction of harm; defend one's self; or obtain possession of weapons, controlled substances, or paraphernalia.

### **Discipline Files**

In accordance with Virginia Code, student disciplinary files are considered as part of the student's scholastic record and must be forwarded to any other school division to which the student transfers.

### **Disorderly Behavior**

Fighting and other forms of disorderly conduct will not be tolerated. A student should avoid fighting by walking away and reporting the incident to the nearest staff member. Anyone who is involved in fighting, attempting to fight or boosting a fight will be subjected to disciplinary action.

### **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

ISS is a program in which students who are suspended attend school but do not report to their regular classes. Instead, they spend the entire day in the ISS room where they will complete assignments under the direction and guidance of the ISS coordinator. In order to be readmitted to regular classes, a student must satisfactorily complete all requirements assigned by the coordinator, which includes behavior-related work packets, certain class assignments, and following the regulations of the program. Tardiness or failure to meet the requirements of the ISS program could result in an extension of the length of the suspension. Refusal to attend ISS or to complete all requirements will result in Out-of-School Suspension (OSS).

### **Personal Property**

Students, not the school, are responsible for personal property. Personal property such as cameras, "Game boys", CD players/CDs, trading cards, cell phones, sunglasses, yo-yos, skateboards, excessive amounts of money, roller blades, etc. will not be allowed at school. Unless they are part of a class assignment or project, radios, electronic games, MP3/IPODs and other personal property shall not be brought to school. Loss of such items is the sole responsibility of the student. Further, these items are subject to confiscation by staff members and will be returned only to a parent or guardian with proper identification. Students are strongly urged to leave all money at home except money for lunch. It is virtually impossible to recover money when it is either lost or stolen. If students are found to be in possession of large sums of money, the money will be confiscated and the parent notified.

In addition, items such as clothing, writings, expressions or other items that contain gang-like material, tobacco, drugs, or alcohol will be corrected or confiscated and may result in suspension from school.

### **Portable Communication Devices**

To avoid disruption of the instructional process, students in the middle school may not, at any time, possess or use portable electronic communication devices on school property which includes the bus or bus stop as well as any school sponsored activity. A "portable communication device" is defined to include portable two-way telecommunication, including, but not limited to, cell phones, beepers, walkie-talkies, smart watches and other hand-held communication devices. School officials may take possession of the portable device if such item is displayed, heard or brought to school. If such devices are confiscated, only the legal

parent/guardian may make arrangements with the school's administration to retrieve such items. Confiscated items that are not picked up by a parent/guardian by July 1 will be discarded.

### **Search and Seizure**

To maintain order and discipline in the school and to protect the safety and welfare of students and school personnel, school authorities may search a student, their belongings, and student lockers and desks under the circumstances outlined below. They may also seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials discovered in the search. Student lockers and desks are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school district; however, students are to assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers and their desks. Students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in school property because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic random searches of students; their belongings; lockers and/or desks may be conducted by school authorities for any reason, at any time without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

A student's failure to permit searches and seizures as provided in this policy will be considered grounds for disciplinary action. A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, book bag, athletic bag, etc.) may be searched whenever a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe that the student is in possession of illegal or unauthorized materials. If a properly conducted search yields illegal or contraband materials, such findings shall be turned over to proper legal authorities for ultimate disposition.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is prohibited by Board of Education policy and carries specific penalties for violation. The policy prohibits sexual harassment by school district employees, Board members, and students directed toward other employees or students. Anyone who needs further information regarding the Board of Education Policy should contact an administrator.

Overview Of Sexual Harassment – Sexual harassment is unwanted and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature, which interferes with a student's right to learn, study, work, achieve, or participate in school activities in a comfortable and supportive atmosphere. Sexual harassment is illegal and prohibited in school settings.

Sexual harassment related to students can occur in many forms and can be school employee to student, student to student, or student to employee. It can also be male to female, female to male, male to male, or female to female. The following types of behavior could be considered sexual harassment:

- Visual – ogling, leering, posters, magazines, gestures
- Verbal – personal questions, lewd comments, dirty-sexual jokes, whistling, request for dates
- Written – love poems, love letters, obscene letters
- Touching – violating space, patting, rubbing, pinching, caressing, kissing
- Power – retaliation, using position to request dates or sexual favors
- Threats – demands, quid pro quo – demand for sexual favors in exchange for a grade, privilege, etc.
- Force – rape, assault

### **Tardies**

Students are expected to arrive to classes on time. A student will be given a warning for their first unexcused tardy to any given class and may be assigned ISS for any further unexcused

tardiness. (See ABSENTEE NOTES). Any student who is more than five minutes late to class without permission is considered to be cutting class.

## **Dress Code**

**Section 9-11.8 Statement of School Board Policy.** — Student attire impacts the teaching and learning environment. It can either promote a more effective educational environment or it can disrupt the educational climate and process. In order to ensure that our students' education is conducted in an environment where safety risks, disruptions, and distractions are minimized, all students enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools shall adhere to dress regulation promulgated by the School Superintendent.

## **Student Dress Regulations**

- A. The School Board and Suffolk Public Schools Staff rely heavily on parents and students to support the division's policies. One of the fundamental purposes of school is to provide an appropriate environment for learning. A student will maintain personal attire and grooming standards that promote safety, health, and avoid unnecessary disruptions.
- B. Suffolk Public Schools has established the following guidelines for student dress while in the classroom or participating in school-sponsored activities:
  1. Shirts and blouses must include at least 3" width on shoulders, garments (which includes skirts, dresses, and shorts) must not reveal any exposed skin 2" above the knee while standing. Leggings, jeggings, and workout clothes must be covered with a long shirt, skirt, or dress that covers the buttocks.
  2. Clothing must not reveal undergarments such as underwear, bras, and white undershirts. This includes any article of clothing that does not cover the midriff, back, reveals cleavage, sags below the beltline, or is sheer.
  3. Clothing and accessories may not advertise alcohol or illegal substances, depict lewd graphics, display offensive or obscene language, promote violence, or is gang related. Slogans and graphics are prohibited across the buttocks.
  4. Sunglasses may not be worn within the building. Wallet chains are not permitted.
  5. Unless worn for religious or medical reasons, head coverings are not permitted. This includes hats, hoods, bandanas, combs, and picks.
  6. All shoes worn should not pose a safety concern. Slides, flip flops, and slippers are not permitted. Sandals with a back strap are permitted. High heels must be an appropriate height for school activities.
  7. Sleepwear may be worn only during designated school functions.
  8. Clothing worn by a student must not cause a disruption and/or distract others from the educational process or pose a health or safety concern.