



Myrtle Beach STEM Academy



Student Handbook

2026-2027



≡ Welcome to ≡
A COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS,
DREAMERS, AND DOERS.



THINK BIG.
Believe in yourself
and your potential.



WORK TOGETHER.
Support others and
build strong connections.



MAKE WAVES.
Lead with kindness
and leave a lasting impact.

➤ Explore. Innovate. Succeed. ⚡

INTRODUCTION 2026-2027 PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK

The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy's Parent Student Handbook is designed to provide students and their parents with information about instructional programs, support services, and expectations regarding student behavior. It also includes an abbreviated overview of certain rules, regulations, and practices that affect students. The Parent Student Handbook is also available in the main office.

This handbook is not intended to replace the actual policies, rules, regulations, and practices established by The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy, the sponsor, Board of Directors, the head principal, or school administrators. If a policy rule, regulation, or practice is abbreviated or in error, the contents of the school's official policy manual will always take precedence. Hard copies are available for review in the MBSA main office.

The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy's sponsor, Board of Directors, the head principal, and the school administrators, as appropriate, reserve the right to develop, revise, and eliminate policies, rules, regulations, and practices as they deem appropriate.

This Parent-Student Handbook, in its full form supersedes all previous handbooks, pamphlets, statements, or other representations (either written or oral) regarding the school's expectations of students in terms of conduct and behavior. Updates or addenda to the handbook made during the school year will be available in the main office

Nondiscrimination Policy of Myrtle Beach STEM Academy

The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy is committed to providing an inclusive environment. It does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, immigrant status, English proficiency, or any other characteristics protected by applicable federal or South Carolina law in its programs and activities.

The Head Principal has been appointed to address inquiries related to our nondiscrimination policies. You may reach out by email at jpowers@myrtlebeachstemacademy.com

PROFILE OF A SC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

THE STANDARDS BELOW ALONG WITH THE PROFILE OF A SC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE REFLECT THE EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES OF MBSA TEACHERS AND STAFF. BECAUSE MBSA IS AN ADVANCED STEM CERTIFIED SCHOOL, THE TEACHERS OF ALL CONTENT AREAS STRIVE TO IMPLEMENT ELEMENTS OF QUALITY STEM TEACHING AND LEARNING, WHICH INCLUDES INTEGRATED CURRICULUM, INQUIRY LEARNING, AND REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS.

DOMAIN: STEM COMMUNITY

STANDARD 1 - SCHOOL/PROGRAM PROVIDES EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN HIGH QUALITY STEM LEARNING.

STANDARD 2 - STEM EDUCATORS COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND IMPROVE HIGH QUALITY STEM LEARNING ACTIVITIES.

STANDARD 3 - SCHOOL/PROGRAM ENGAGES DIVERSE STEM COMMUNITY TO SUPPORT AND SUSTAIN STEM PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES.

STANDARD 4 - SCHOOL/PROGRAM HAS ESTABLISHED A SHARED VISION FOR STEM AND HAS LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES TO SUPPORT EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

DOMAIN: STEM LEARNING CULTURE

STANDARD 5 - LEADERS ENSURE THAT ALL STAKEHOLDERS HAVE ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND LEARN ABOUT STEM IMPLEMENTATION.

STANDARD 6 - EDUCATORS AND LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN AN ONGOING SYSTEM OF STEM-SPECIFIC PROFESSIONAL LEARNING.

STANDARD 7 - STUDENTS ENGAGE COLLABORATIVELY IN AUTHENTIC INQUIRY DURING ONGOING UNITS OF STUDY.

STANDARD 8 - STUDENTS ENGAGE IN SELF-DIRECTED STEM LEARNING GUIDED BY EDUCATORS WHO ARE EFFECTIVE FACILITATORS OF LEARNING.

DOMAIN: STEM EXPERIENCES

STANDARD 9 - SCHOOL/PROGRAM PROVIDES WITHIN-SCHOOL AND EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO EXTEND STEM LEARNING.

STANDARD 10 - STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE THEIR LEARNING THROUGH PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENTS AND HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP SELF-ASSESSMENT AND SELF-MONITORING SKILLS.

STANDARD 11 - STEM LEARNING EXPERIENCES INTEGRATE ALL STEM DISCIPLINES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON PROCESSES AND PRACTICES ASSOCIATED WITH STEM.

STANDARD 12 - SCHOOL/PROGRAM PROVIDES HIGH QUALITY STEM COURSES AND CURRICULUM ALIGNED TO RECOGNIZED STANDARDS THAT ARE ORGANIZED INTO INTERDISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORKS.

DOMAIN: STEM OUTCOMES

STANDARD 13 - STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE STEM CONTENT KNOWLEDGE REPRESENTATIVE OF STEM LITERACY OUTCOMES THAT PREPARE THEM FOR THE NEXT LEVEL OF LEARNING AND WORK.

STANDARD 14 - STUDENTS DEVELOP STEM SKILLS AND CROSS-CUTTING COMPETENCIES THAT SUPPORT WORKFORCE READINESS.

STANDARD 15 - SCHOOL/PROGRAM ENGAGES IN A CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PROCESS FOR STEM.

STANDARD 16 - SCHOOL/PROGRAM CONDUCTS EVALUATIVE ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STEM IMPLEMENTATION.



Mission and Values

Mission

At The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy, a 6th through 12th grade school, our mission is to ignite a passion for discovery and innovation in every student by providing a rigorous and dynamic STEM education. We are dedicated to fostering a collaborative and inclusive learning environment where students are empowered to explore, experiment, and excel in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Through hands-on experiences, interdisciplinary projects, and real-world applications, we aim to equip our students with the critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and creativity necessary to thrive as future leaders and innovators in a rapidly evolving world.



Our Goal is for every student to make academic gains every year. To make this possible, it is important that we all understand the expectations for learning. It is equally important that the school and the home work closely together to plan for and monitor progress. We hope that you will become involved and stay involved with your child's education, regardless of whether it's the first day of school or the year of graduation.



Vision

Empowering the innovators of tomorrow by providing a dynamic, interdisciplinary STEM education that fosters curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. We strive to cultivate a community where students are inspired to explore, challenge, and transform the world through cutting-edge science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, shaping a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy's family considers it a privilege to be a part of your child's academic growth and development. We passionately believe that lives are changed through education and that our efforts, both great and small, must be focused on preparing students to contribute to and participate in a democratic society.

Throughout the year, there will be multiple opportunities for you to monitor your child's progress. Our school will send four report cards each year to let you know how your child is performing. You'll have opportunities to meet with teachers through parents-teacher conferences. You can also contact your child's teachers during the year by telephone and e-mail. Be sure to jot down contact information during conferences or look for it on the school's website

Registering for School

Before registering for school, here are a few things you should know

Parental involvement is expected - The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy's philosophy requires parental and student involvement, and by enrolling in MBSA, you agree to be an active participant in your child's education.

Proof of residency - When registering for school, students and parents must provide documentation of their physical address. Acceptable documents include current utility bills, a current and signed rental agreement, proof of guardianship, or a valid receipt and a letter on property letterhead indicating the student is staying in a hotel or rental condo on a long-term basis. A driver's license and voter registration card may be used to verify address, but will not serve as sole evidence of residency. At the time of registration, parents may be asked to provide the vehicle license tag numbers of all vehicles that will be picking up or dropping off students regularly.

Enrolment Eligibility - The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy is open to any student in Horry County who is eligible to attend a regular Horry County public school in grades 6th grade - 12th grade. Students who have been expelled or have been recommended to the School Administration or the School Board for expulsion from Horry County Schools are not eligible to attend.

Fees - There are no registration fees for registering students for school. Parents may pay for breakfast and lunch online (on the school website). Prices and details are explained in the Food Services section of the handbook. Any fees or payments paid to MBSA are considered to be non-refundable and non-transferable.

Payments - MBSA is a cash-free center. The school utilizes an online payment system (on our website) to receive all payments. Details regarding how to use and sign up for the online payment system are provided to parents at the beginning of the school year and are also available from the front office. Fees are required to be paid for in advance for the majority of the school year, which includes field trips, meals etc. In the event that you have overpaid and would like a refund, you are required to complete a Request for Reimbursement Form, available in the front office. All requests for Reimbursement take 4-6 weeks of processing time and must be approved by the principal. Please note that refunds are NOT given for field trips after they are paid for, even if a student/chaperone cannot attend. You can also visit the front office if you need assistance with this system. Fees are due on the specified due date, no later than 8 am. There will be no exceptions or late fees accepted

Requirements for new students - Students who are registering at the school for the first time should present a legal birth certificate and a current certificate of immunization. All students must meet immunization requirements for attendance. A Social Security number is requested. If students have previously been enrolled in another school, the receiving school will send for educational records at the time of registration

Immunization requirements - New students must show proof of immunization. Immunization records MUST be on the SCDHEC-2740A or SCDHEC-4024 Form. We cannot accept out of state immunization records. Immunizations are available at your local health department. Proof of immunization is required at the time of registration. The Department of Health and Environmental Control has declared the following minimum immunizations requirements are necessary for a child to be admitted to any public school, grades five-years-old kindergarten through twelve (5K-12)

SOUTH CAROLINA IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL

The Following minimum immunization requirements are necessary for a child to be admitted to any public, private, or parochial school, grades 5k-12



**5K-12 IMMUNIZATION
INFO FOR PARENT**

South Carolina School Immunization Requirements 2024-2025

Students enrolled in grades 5K to 12 in both public and private schools must be up to date on the following shots based on their grade level:

- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- DTaP (tetanus, whooping cough)
- Polio
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Varicella (chickenpox)
- Tdap (whooping cough booster required before seventh grade)

Vaccines are important to protect students from diseases such as measles, chicken pox, and whooping cough, which can spread easily in schools.

Follow these steps to make sure your child is ready for school.

1. **Schedule** your child's well visit/physical early before school starts. Spring or summer break is a great time to get this done so you won't run into any delays once school begins.
2. **Ask** your child's healthcare provider what vaccines they recommend. Some vaccines are not required for school attendance but are highly recommended by physicians for all students.
When every student receives an annual flu vaccine it protects schools from flu outbreaks. Adolescents also need the HPV vaccine to protect against cancers. Vaccines are also needed to protect against meningitis.
3. **Obtain** a new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization every time your child has a shot.
4. **Give** a copy of the new South Carolina Certificate of Immunization to your child's school.

Changes for the 2024 – 2025 School Year:

9th grade: one (1) dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10th birthday.

10th grade: two (2) doses of varicella. A child with a positive history of the disease is considered immune and is exempt from this requirement.

12th grade: three (3) doses of oral and/or inactivated polio vaccine with at least one (1) dose received on or after the fourth birthday.

4th grade: two (2) doses of hepatitis A vaccine with both doses received on or after the first birthday and separated by at least 6 months.

**You can also get your child's vaccines at county health departments.
For an appointment, call 855-472-3432.**

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Please note

- Children enrolled in 5K through grade 12 must meet school requirements

Pursuant to Section 44-29-180, South Carolina Code of Laws, and South Carolina Regulation 61-8, "no superintendent of an institution of learning, no school board, or principal of a school...may..enroll or retain a child or person who cannot produce satisfactory evidence of having been vaccinated or immunized so often as directed by the department of Department of Health and Environmental Control...Records of vaccinations or immunizations must be maintained y the institution, school, or daycare facility to which the child or person has been admitted

If you have any questions about immunization your local medical provider or your local Health Department at 843-915-8800 (in Conway), 843-448-8407 (in Myrtle Beach), 843-399-5553 (in North Myrtle Beach), and 843-756-4027 (in Loris)

Charter Schools are

- Non-sectarian and non-religious
- Tuition free
- Requirement to meet certain state and federal laws
- Within a public-school district and accountable for results to its board
- Required to participate in SC standardized testing (SCREADY, SCPASS, etc)

Charter schools are different from traditional public schools in several important ways

- Governed by a board of school-elected parents and community members
- can solicit and accept donations and gifts as a non-profit corporation
- Have control over their class size, curriculum, discipline code, employment practices, and other areas of management
- Are accountable to meet the objectives set forth in their charter

The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy is governed by a Board of Directors predominantly elected by parents and community members and as such, all school issues not able to be resolved at the school level should be presented to the MBSA Board of Directors who makes the final ruling for all operations at MBSA

Attendance

Consistent school attendance is critical for student achievement. If students are not present, they cannot benefit from classroom instruction. State attendance laws require student attendance for course credit and grade-level promotion

- MBSA school day begins promptly at 8:00 am. Students may not be dropped off prior to 7:00 am for any reason. The school day ends, and dismissal is promptly at 3:30pm. Students not picked up from school by 5:00pm may be turned over to the appropriate authorities.
- Students that arrive after 8:25am must be walked into the front office by their parent to receive a tardy pass with a parent signature. Three tardies within a given quarter, with the exception of doctor's appointments and extenuating circumstances, may result in a inschool suspension and potential truancy issues. Families need to plan in advance for construction, traffic, and/or slow traffic due to an accident, as these are typically unexcused. School doors open at 7:00am and we encourage families to be early to avoid any potential tardy situations.
- Any students who need to be picked up early due to a doctors appointment or authorized reason must be done prior to 2:10pm. Requests for dismissal from the front foyer after 2:10pm will be denied and students will be required to sit through dismissal or may be picked up through the dismissal line. Early sign-outs will be tracked and could be cuase for truancy issues
- Parents are suppose to be in the dismissal line for pick up at 2:30. Dismissal ends when the parents that were on time for dismissal have gone through the pick-up line. Late pick-ups are required to park upfront and required to walk into the office to sign their student out as a late pick-up. After three late pick-ups in any given quarter, there maybe consequences
- To be promoted to the next grade or receive credit for high school courses, students may not be absent from school or class for more than 10 days for year-long courses or 5 days for a semester courses, unless the absences are excused by a medical doctor's written statements or principal's approval

TARDY POLICY

TARDINESS IS DEFINED AS NOT BEING INSIDE THE ASSIGNED CLASSROOM WHEN CLASS BEGINS. STUDENTS WHO ARE LATE TO SCHOOL SHOULD REPORT TO THE SECURITY CHECKPOINT AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL AND THEN PROCEED TO CLASS. STUDENTS IN THE SECURITY CHECKPOINT LINES AT 8:15 ARE CONSIDERED TARDY. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT LOITER IN THEIR CARS BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT RIDE A BUS AND WISH TO EAT BREAKFAST IN THE CAFETERIA SHOULD ARRIVE IN ENOUGH TIME TO DO SO AND GET TO CLASS BY 8:15 AM.

IF THE STUDENT HAS MULTIPLE TARDIES, HE/SHE WILL BE SEEN BY AN ADMINISTRATOR TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE AND ASSIGN DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES.

A TEACHER SHOULD NOT APPROVE A STUDENT TO BE LATE TO ANOTHER TEACHER’S CLASS. IF A STUDENT NEEDS TO REMAIN WITH THE TEACHER AFTER CLASS HAS ENDED, THAT TEACHER MUST CALL AND GET PERMISSION FROM THE TEACHER OF RECORD FOR THAT STUDENT TO REMAIN. TARDIES TO SCHOOL ARE TREATED SEPARATELY FROM TARDIES TO CLASS. TARDIES RESET AT THE END OF EACH SEMESTER.

Tardy to school:

- 1st-3rd tardy: Documented warning
- 4th tardy: Documented warning and parent contact
- 5th-6th tardy: After School Detention
- 7th tardy: 1 block of ISS and Revoked Driving Privileges (2 wks)
- 8th tardy: 2 block ISS and Revoked Driving Privileges (school yr)
- 9th tardy: Parent Intervention (meeting)
- 10th tardy: 1 day ISS
- 11th + tardy: 1 day OSS

Tardy to class:

- 1st-3rd tardy: Warning
- 4th-5th tardy: After school detention
- 6th-7th tardy: 1 block of ISS
- 8th tardy: 1 day of ISS
- 9th tardy: 1 day of OSS
2 days OSS or other Inter

AFTER-SCHOOL DETENTION, ISS AND OSS

DETENTIONS, IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS) OR OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS) MAY BE ASSIGNED BY A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR FOR INFRACTIONS OF SCHOOL POLICIES AND/OR PROCEDURES. AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION MAY BE ASSIGNED FOR MINOR OFFENSES, INCLUDING TARDIES. PERSONAL CELL PHONES MAY NOT BE USED DURING DETENTION. TRANSPORTATION HOME IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT.

ISS MAY BE ASSIGNED BY THE PERIOD OR FULL DAY. THE NUMBER OF DAYS SPENT IN ISS WILL VARY BASED ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE MISCONDUCT OF THE STUDENT AND THE STUDENT’S OVERALL DISCIPLINE RECORD. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO WORK ON CLASS WORK THAT IS SENT BY THEIR TEACHERS, WORK ON HOMEWORK, READ, OR THE ISS INSTRUCTOR WILL ASSIGN A PACKET FOR THE STUDENT TO COMPLETE. SLEEPING IN ISS IS NOT ALLOWED. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO REPORT TO ISS DURING THE ASSIGNED CLASS PERIOD AND ON TIME. FAILURE TO SERVE ISS WILL RESULT IN ADDITIONAL ISS TIME OR OSS. THE TIME SPENT IN ISS OR OSS WILL NOT COUNT AGAINST A STUDENT’S ATTENDANCE.

Visitors

VISITORS MUST PRESENT A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE ID UPON ARRIVAL. VISITORS MAY NOT ENTER CLASSROOMS OR SCHOOL FUNCTIONS WITHOUT ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL. PARENT CONFERENCES WITH TEACHERS MAY BE HELD VIRTUALLY OR FACE TO FACE, AND THESE SHOULD BE SCHEDULED WITH INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS IN ADVANCE.

Messages

ALL STUDENTS HAVE EMAIL ACCOUNTS THROUGH MBSA, AND MESSAGES CAN BE SENT VIA EMAIL DIRECTLY TO THE STUDENT FROM HIS/HER PARENT. THE SCHOOL STAFF WILL NOT INTERRUPT CLASSES TO DELIVER MESSAGES. IF THERE IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION MAY BE CONTACTED FOR ASSISTANCE. PLEASE MAKE TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS PRIOR TO COMING TO SCHOOL FOR THE DAY.

Food and Drink

STUDENTS ARRIVING FOR SCHOOL MUST CONSUME THEIR FOOD PRIOR TO ENTERING THE SECURITY STATIONS. STUDENTS MAY BRING A REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE TO SCHOOL. WATER BOTTLES MUST BE SEALED, SPILL-PROOF, AND MADE OF A SHATTER-RESISTANT MATERIAL (METAL, PLASTIC).

STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO CARRY FOOD OR DRINKS INTO COMPUTER LABS, THE THEATER, OR SCIENCE LABS.

CAFETERIA

STUDENTS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO AN ADVISORY CLASS, AND STUDENTS WILL ATTEND LUNCH WITH THEIR ADVISORY CLASS. MBSA STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO USE PROPER DECORUM AT ALL TIMES. THIS MEANS THAT FOOD AND PERSONAL TRASH SHOULD BE RECYCLED, COMPOSTED, OR DISPOSED OF IN THE PROPER AREA.

RESTROOMS

CLASSROOM TEACHERS WILL DETERMINE PROTOCOLS FOR RESTROOM VISITS DURING HIS/HER CLASS TIME. STUDENTS SHOULD SIGN OUT OF CLASS AND HAVE A PASS TO VISIT THE RESTROOM. ONLY 1 PERSON AT A TIME IS ALLOWED IN A RESTROOM STALL. DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES MAY RESULT FROM MULTIPLE INDIVIDUALS BEING IN A BATHROOM STALL TOGETHER. LOITERING IN THE RESTROOMS IS NOT ALLOWED.

STUDENT RELATIONSHIPS

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION ARE DISCOURAGED ON CAMPUS. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO KEEP ALL STUDENT RELATIONS APPROPRIATE AND ACCEPTABLE FOR SCHOOL. PARENTS WILL BE CALLED WHENEVER EFFORTS BY SCHOOL STAFF HAVE FAILED TO BRING ABOUT DESIRED RESULTS.

BOOKS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT

STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN DIGITAL ACCESS TO TEXTBOOKS, WHEN POSSIBLE, FOR THEIR COURSES. IF A STUDENT PREFERS A PRINTED TEXTBOOK, THEN THE STUDENT AND/OR PARENT SHOULD EMAIL THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL WITH THAT REQUEST.

TO EXPEDITE THE SECURITY PROCESS, STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO BRING ONLY ESSENTIAL ITEMS TO SCHOOL. CONSEQUENCES FOR NOT ADHERING TO THE BAG POLICY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1ST OFFENSE: WARNING AND BAG WILL BE CONFISCATED,
- 2ND OFFENSE: 1-2 DAYS OSS,
- 3RD OFFENSE: 3-5 DAYS OSS AND WARNING THAT NEXT OFFENSE WILL RESULT IN AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING,
- 4TH OFFENSE: EVIDENTIARY HEARING

FIGHTING POLICY

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE ALL ATTEMPTS TO AVOID CONFRONTATION OF ANY KIND. IF A SITUATION IN WHICH A VERBAL OR PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION MAY OCCUR, STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SEEK ADULT ASSISTANCE AND/OR NOTIFY THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATELY. STUDENTS WHO DO NOT FIGHT BACK WILL NOT RECEIVE DISCIPLINARY ACTION FOR FIGHTING.

FIRST OFFENSE FOR PHYSICAL ALTERCATIONS WARRANTS A MINIMUM OF 5 DAYS OSS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT NOTIFICATION FOR POSSIBLE CHARGES. DEPENDING UPON THE SEVERITY OF THE SITUATION, STUDENTS MAY BE RECOMMENDED FOR AN EXPULSION HEARING.

SECOND OFFENSE FOR PHYSICAL ALTERCATION IS SUSPENSION WITH A RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPULSION AND THE NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR CHARGES.

THREATS, HARASSMENT, AND BULLYING

STUDENTS ARE ADVISED THAT IF THEY ARE THREATENED, HARASSED, OR BULLIED BY ANY OTHER STUDENT OR GROUP OF STUDENTS, THEY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY REPORT THE MATTER TO A TEACHER AND/OR ADMINISTRATOR. USING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS OR TECHNOLOGY TO CYBERBULLY, SEXT, OR COMMIT OTHER INAPPROPRIATE ACTIONS THAT DELIBERATELY THREATEN, HARASS, OR INTIMIDATE ANOTHER STUDENT(S) WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY MBSA AND SHOULD BE REPORTED TO A TEACHER OR

ADMINISTRATOR IMMEDIATELY. THIS INCLUDES POSTS MADE OFF SCHOOL GROUNDS THAT ARE REFERENCED, SHOWN, OR DISCUSSED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS THAT DISRUPT THE ORDERLY OPERATIONS OF THE SCHOOL AND THE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT. STUDENTS SHOULD NOT RESPOND TO THREATS OR CONFRONTATIONAL COMMENTS, HARASSMENT, OR BULLYING. FIRST TIME OFFENSES MAY RESULT IN AN EXPULSION HEARING AND THE NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

MBSA DOES NOT CONDONE OR SUPPORT THE PRACTICE OF "HAZING/INITIATION." ANY STUDENT INVOLVED IN THE ACTS OF HAZING OR INITIATIONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY OR FUNCTIONS MAY BE SUSPENDED OR RECOMMENDED FOR EXPULSION. STUDENTS MAY USE SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING FOUND ON ALL SCHOOL ISSUED DEVICES OR LIVETIP TO REPORT INCIDENTS OF BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING, AND/OR HARASSMENT. THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR. 843-915-SROS (7767).

BULLYING IS DEFINED AS ANY ACTION THAT IS REPEATED, INTENTIONALLY MEANT TO HARM, AND OCCURS IN SITUATIONS WHERE THERE IS A POWER IMBALANCE.

SECTION 16-3-1040 OF THE CODE OF LAWS OF SC DEALS WITH THREATENING THE LIFE, PERSON, OR FAMILY OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY DELIVER OR CONVEY TO A PUBLIC OFFICIAL OR TO A TEACHER OR PRINCIPAL OF AN ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL ANY LETTER OR PAPER, WRITING, PRINT, MISSIVE, DOCUMENT, OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION OR ANY VERBAL OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION WHICH CONTAINS ANY THREAT TO TAKE THE LIFE OF OR TO INFLICT BODILY HARM UPON THE PUBLIC OFFICIAL, TEACHER, OR PRINCIPAL, OR MEMBERS OF THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILIES.

SUBSTITUTES

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS ARE TO BE AFFORDED THE SAME RESPECT AS REGULAR CLASSROOM TEACHERS. IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO TREAT A SUBSTITUTE WITH THE RESPECT AND COURTESY THAT IS DUE ALL PERSONS AT THE Myrtle Beach STEM Academy.

Anti-Bullying Rules for Students

1. We will treat others with respect.
2. We will not use bullying behavior on others.
3. We will help students who are bullied.
4. We will include students who are excluded from groups.
5. If we know that somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

CODE OF CONDUCT

SCHOOL RULES APPLY AT ANY SCHOOL EVENT REGARDLESS OF ITS TIME OR LOCATION

SC SAFE SCHOOLS ACT

THE SOUTH CAROLINA SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 1990 MAKES IT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO DISTRIBUTE A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE WHILE IN, ON, OR WITHIN A RADIUS OF ONE-HALF MILE OF THE GROUNDS OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL. THE PENALTY IS A \$10,000 FINE OR 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT OR BOTH. CARRYING A WEAPON ON SCHOOL PROPERTY IS A FELONY WHICH CARRIES UP TO A \$5,000 FINE AND A MAXIMUM PRISON TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

THE ACT ALSO PROVIDES THAT IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANYONE TO KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY DELIVER OR CONVEY TO A PUBLIC OFFICIAL, TEACHER, OR PRINCIPAL ANY LETTER, DOCUMENT, ETC., WHICH CONTAINS A THREAT OF DEATH OR BODILY HARM TO THE PERSON OR A MEMBER OF THE PERSON’S IMMEDIATE FAMILY.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE CONCERNING WEAPONS, ILLEGAL DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND VIOLENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

STUDENTS OR VISITORS WHO VIOLATE SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY/STATE BOARD POLICY/STATE LAW WITH REGARD TO WEAPONS, ILLEGAL DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND/OR VIOLENT

BEHAVIOR AT SCHOOL OR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES MAY FACE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

- EXPULSION: THE STUDENT WILL BE SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY AND RECOMMENDED FOR EXPULSION.
- ARREST AND PROSECUTION: THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE SCHOOL WILL BE CONTACTED.
- NOTIFICATION: THE SUPERINTENDENT AND DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS WILL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY.

THE STATE OF SC CLASSIFIES PEPPER SPRAY/MACE AS A WEAPON. THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING CONSEQUENCES APPLY WHEN MACE IS BROUGHT INTO A SCHOOL:

- DISCOVERED ON SCHOOL CAMPUS OR IN THE BUILDING - 1ST OFFENSE: 3 DAYS OSS, 2ND OFFENSE: 5 DAYS OSS, 3RD OFFENSE: EVIDENTIARY HEARING
- DISCHARGED ON SCHOOL CAMPUS OR IN THE BUILDING - EVIDENTIARY HEARING

POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS/ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE PRODUCT (INCLUDING VAPES, JUULS, PODS, CHARGERS, AND ALL RELATED EQUIPMENT OR DEVICES)

THE POSSESSION AND/OR USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS IS PROHIBITED ON THE PROPERTY OF ALL SCHOOLS IN THE Myrtle Beach STEM Academy .

ALL STUDENTS ARE PROHIBITED FROM USING TOBACCO/NICOTINE PRODUCTS WHILE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY, RIDING SCHOOL BUSES AND ACTIVITY VEHICLES, AND DURING PRACTICE OF OR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SANCTIONED BY MBSA. STUDENTS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 WILL BE REFERRED TO HCPD.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATION OF THIS POLICY WILL BE:

- FIRST OFFENSE: 2 TO 5 DAYS OSS
- SECOND OFFENSE: 3 TO 5 DAYS OSS AND TOBACCO PREVENTION OR CESSATION PROGRAM
- THIRD OFFENSE: EVIDENTIARY HEARING

ALCOHOL/DRUG POLICY

SALE, DISTRIBUTION, USE OR POSSESSION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, INHALANT CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, ILLEGAL DRUGS, MARIJUANA OR OTHER DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES ARE NOT PERMITTED BY STUDENTS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS, ON SCHOOL PROPERTY, OR AT SCHOOL FUNCTIONS. ALSO, THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION, OR ABUSIVE USE OF PRESCRIPTION, PATENT, OR IMITATION DRUGS IS NOT PERMITTED. THE DEFINITIONS OF TERMS DESCRIBED BELOW ARE TO BE USED THROUGHOUT THE DRUG/SUBSTANCE USE

REGULATIONS:

ILLEGAL OR DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES: ANY SUBSTANCE THAT WILL OR IS REPRESENTED AS ONE THAT WILL ALTER A PERSON'S ABILITY TO FUNCTION NORMALLY ON A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL TASK. THESE SUBSTANCES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, ALCOHOL, LOOK-A-LIKE OR IMITATION SUBSTANCES, MARIJUANA, INHALANTS OR MATERIALS EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL LAWS.

POSSESSION: POSSESSION OF AN IDENTIFIABLE QUANTITY OF ALCOHOL, NARCOTICS, HALLUCINOGENIC DRUGS, LOOK-ALIKE DRUGS, OR NON-CONTROLLED DRUGS REPRESENTED AS CONTROLLED DRUGS, OR ANY OTHER ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS, ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES, IN VEHICLES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, ON SCHOOL BUSES, OR AT ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITY ON OR OFF CAMPUS.

USE: CONSUMPTION IN ANY AMOUNT OF AN ILLEGAL OR DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE OR ANY PRESCRIPTION DRUG WITHOUT APPROPRIATE AUTHORIZATION.

LOOK-A-LIKE OR IMITATION SUBSTANCE: PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO A SPECIFIC CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, OR IF IN A TABLET OR CAPSULE DOSAGE FORM AS A FINISHED PRODUCT IS SIMILAR IN COLOR, SHAPE, AND SIZE TO ANY CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES DOSAGE FORM.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

STUDENT DRESS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO CLOTHING THAT IS REASONABLE, PRACTICAL AND IN GOOD TASTE FOR SCHOOL. SCHOOL ATTIRE SHOULD REFLECT PROPER DECORUM, CLEANLINESS, AND COMFORT. THE SCHOOL WILL MAKE JUDGMENTS AND DECISIONS AS NEEDED TO PRESERVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND PROPRIETY OF STUDENTS. PARENTS AND STUDENTS CAN REFERENCE THE MBSA DRESS CODE POLICY HERE. STUDENT COOPERATION IS EXPECTED IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS EVEN DURING SPIRIT WEEK AND OTHER SCHOOL-RELATED EVENTS:

HATS, HOODS, AND SUNGLASSES ARE PROHIBITED INSIDE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

- THE POSSESSION OF ALL GANG-RELATED BANDANAS AND BEADS IS PROHIBITED AT MSBA.
- CLOTHING SHOULD BE WORN SO UNDERWEAR IS NOT VISIBLE. PANTS & SHIRT MUST OVERLAP AT ALL TIMES.
- THE ENTIRE AREA FROM THE ARMPIT TO THE MID THIGH MUST BE COVERED IN THE FRONT AND THE BACK OF THE BODY.
- TOPS MUST HAVE STRAPS OF NO LESS THAN TWO INCHES IN WIDTH (3-FINGER WIDTH).
- SHOES ARE TO BE WORN AT ALL TIMES AT SCHOOL.
- BLANKETS, FULL BODY SUITS, PAJAMAS, AND BEDROOM SLIPPERS ARE NOT ALLOWED.
- CLOTHING PROMOTING ALCOHOL, DRUGS, WEAPONS, SEXUAL BEHAVIOR, CLOTHING WITH SEXUAL INNUENDOS, AND/OR ETHNIC DEROGATORIES IS NOT ALLOWED. ATTIRE (INCLUDES CLOTHING, FACE COVERINGS, HATS, SHOES, JEWELRY, EMBLEMS, BADGES, SYMBOLS, SIGNS) SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS, CAUSE DISRUPTION, OR DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY.
- ITEMS SUCH AS SPIKED JEWELRY, PADLOCKS, CHAINS, AND METAL HEEL PLATES ARE NOT ALLOWED.

CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING DRESS CODE MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- STUDENTS MAY CALL PARENTS TO BRING APPROPRIATE CLOTHING. IF NO ALTERNATIVE CLOTHING IS AVAILABLE, THE STUDENT WILL GO TO ISS.
- ABSENCE OR TARDY DUE TO DRESS CODE VIOLATION WILL BE UNEXCUSED.

- Any work missed during an excused absence **MUST** be completed within three days upon return to school. Any work assigned prior to an absence is due upon return to school. Students should be prepared to take test/quizzes on the day of return. Work missed during an unexcused absence may only be made up at teacher discretion.
- Students are considered truant after three consecutive or five cumulative days of absences, tardies, or early sign-outs, not excused by a medical doctor's written statement, proof of bereavement, or principal's approval.
- An attendance Intervention plan (AIP) will be developed by the school for truant students. The plan will help to establish goals for regular school attendance and will be monitored to ensure compliance. Failure to promptly comply with the plan may result in legal proceedings through the Family Court.
- Parents must notify the school in writing when their child is absent for any reason. Notification should be in the form of an email or a note sent to the child's teacher on the day of return. Phone calls and other methods will not count as notification.
- Field trip days are categorized as educational days in our instructional calendar and should be treated as such. Students are expected to adhere to the same rules and regulations they follow each day while off campus. All students are expected to participate in class field trips, as these are an extension of our curriculum and enhance student learning. In the event that your child will not be attending a field trip, they are required to come to school and complete work for a grade to receive credit for the instructional day. Only a doctor's note or a principal's approval will excuse these absences for a student. Students who have received an excused absence(s) are required to complete make-up work for the days missed
- All students are required to turn in a signed permission slip for every field trip, along with the field trip fee paid on the website, no later than 8 am on the specified due date. Students who have not turned in a signed permission form and/or have not paid the field trip fee may not be allowed to attend and will remain at MBSA to complete work for a grade. Fees for field trips are not reimbursed in the event that a child is unable to attend

Students need to have an Authorized Persons Pick-up form on file for each school year. If a person who is not listed on the form is going to pick up (example: a child leaving with another student's parents), the office requires written permission via a handwritten note or email for the specific dates.

Hall passes/sign-in and sign-out of classrooms

Students will sign in and out of their classrooms using the form provided by each classroom TEACHER. ALL STUDENTS MUST HAVE A PASS WHEN LEAVING THE CLASSROOM. LOITERING IS NOT PERMITTED. TEACHERS MAY STAGGER RESTROOM BREAKS FOR STUDENTS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.

Lost or damaged instructional materials - The South Carolina Department of Education provides free textbooks for students in grades 6-12. Students who are taking PACE classes through Horry Georgetown Technical College or Coastal Carolina University, they are responsible for buying and maintaining their own textbooks. Any damage or lost college textbook will be solely the students/parents responsibility. If a students losses a MBSA official textbook, a replacement fee will be determined by the South Carolina Board of Education with recommendations from the South Carolina Department of Education. If textbooks are damaged while issued to a student, damage fees will be assessed. The student, parent, or guardian will have the option of paying the damage fee or purchasing the damaged book. Failure to pay fees for lost or damaged textbooks may result in a student being denied further benefits of the Free Instructional Material Program. Textbooks not provided by the South Carolina Board of Education will be handled similarly under the direction of the MBSA Principal. Any senior who fails to pay their lost or damaged instructional material fee may be subject to having the school hold their diploma until such time the fee(s) are paid

Students in the news - Throughout the year, MBSA will feature many students in a variety of communication mediums, including the educational access channel as well as printed and online publications. Students are also interviewed and photographed by the general news media as they cover news and events about public schools. If you wish for your child not to be depicted in video, photographs, printed publications, or electronic media, please notify your school principal in writing. Requests not to be depicted are valid for one year and must be resubmitted at the beginning of each school year

Rules of conduct - A safe and orderly environment is necessary for students to learn. The school has rules of conduct that outline the consequences of disruptive and unsafe behaviors

Conduct violations and consequences are categorized in the following three levels

Level 1 - Disorderly Conduct is defined as activities that impedes orderly classroom procedures, instructional activities, operation of the school, or frequent and/or serious disturbances to the classroom or school. The provisions of this document apply not only to within-school activities, but also to student conduct on school bus transportation vehicles, and other school sponsored activities.

MBSA LEVEL 1 DISCIPLINE CODE OF CONDUCT

Offenses	Suggested Interventions	Consequences	Call SRO
Cutting Class Failure to attend or complete scheduled class	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Attendance Contract Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Dishonesty Failure to knowingly tell the truth to a faculty or staff member.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Disrupting Class Behavior that interferes with instruction, learning, and a safe and orderly environment which includes, but is not limited to, chronic talking, throwing objects, horseplay, teasing, refusal to remain in seat, rude noises.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Dress Code Violation Noncompliance with the Policy JF- Student Rights and Responsibilities	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Student given the opportunity to change into appropriate attire Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Failure to Complete Work The act of not completing assigned written, oral, or physical work.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Failure to Comply with Disciplinary Action The act of not completing a consequence or sanction assigned by a <i>teacher</i> as a result of an offense committed.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Use of Forged Notes or Excuses Purposely signing/altering another person's name without authority or right, with the intent to deceive or defraud by passing the copy or thing altered or imitated that which is original.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	

MBSA LEVEL 1 DISCIPLINE CODE OF CONDUCT

Other Offenses (minor) Student engages in any other minor behavior misconduct that does not fall within the other categories.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Profanity/ Inappropriate Language Abusive or vulgar language, swearing, cursing, foul speech or derogatory language that shows disrespect toward a <i>student</i> .	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Refusal to Obey Refusing to follow a request or a specific direction/instruction of an adult through disobedience, defiance, unruliness, or noncompliance.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Tardy Arriving to school or class after the time class/school has started. (This code should be used if a school needs to record a disciplinary action for a student who has an excessive number of tardies.)	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Tardy Intervention Plan Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No
Unauthorized Device Possessing an electronic communication device as defined by and in conflict with district policy.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS TO BE APPLIED IN CASES OF LEVEL I OFFENSES MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING

- Withdrawal of privileges/exclusion from extra-curricular activities
- Temporary removal from class
- Call to parent
- Conference with the parent
- Detention
- Home visit
- Verbal warning
- In-school suspension
- Letter to parents

THIS LIST IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE OF POSSIBLE OFFENSES, INTERVENTIONS, OR CONSEQUENCES.

Additional Suggested Interventions (Interventions should be assigned along with appropriate consequences, not in lieu of)

- **Administrative/Student Conference**- A conference held involving an administrator and student to explain how his/her behavior is affecting the classroom learning environment. The administrator may review the policies and procedures in the student handbook and answer questions about disciplinary procedures and possible administrative actions.
- **Attendance Contract**- A contract between the school, parent and student to assist the student with chronic absences in school. It may consist of student and parent responsibilities to help guide the behavior, which should assist in decreasing the number of days absent.
- **Behavior Contract**- The behavior contract is a positive-reinforcement intervention that is widely used by teachers when a student exhibits persistent behavior problems. The behavior contract should provide students with interventions, hold students accountable, provide structure, promote self-responsibility, increase motivation to improve grades and improve school/home communication.
- **Conflict Resolution**- The process that teaches individuals concepts and skills for preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts non-violently. It may include but is not limited to teaching life skills, such as "win-win" negotiation strategies, mediation skills, and violence prevention strategies.
- **Mentoring Group**- A group of students that meets together on a regular basis for an agreed upon length of time usually supervised by a faculty or staff member that involves the development of goals and building competence and character to reach those goals.
- **Referral to School Counselor**- A referral made to a student's school counselor to receive services within the scope which may include individual counseling to help students resolve school related issues, and small group counseling to help students enhance social skills, learn to empathize with others, and find social support through healthy peer relationships.
- **Social Skills Group**- Social skills groups are small groups led by an adult who teaches students how to interact appropriately with peers. learn conversational, friendship and problem-solving skills, as well as how to control their emotions and understand other people's perspectives.
- **Tardy Intervention Plan**- A plan to assist students with getting to school and class on time. It involves student, teacher and parent responsibilities to help decrease the number of tardies and assist in the development of time management skills.
- **Teach/Reteach Expectations**- Clearly define district and school-wide policies and procedures that pertain to the student. Ensure that the student is aware of why it is important to follow these expectations.

Suggested Consequences

- **Overnight Suspension (OVN)**- An administrative assigned suspension effective from the end of the school day on which the violation occurred, and reinstatement will be immediate following a conference between a parent/guardian and the school administrator.
- **In-School Suspension (ISS)**-Removal of a student from daily classroom activities, but not from the school premises. Within the designated classroom space, a student is allowed to continue to complete instructional coursework. OR Instances in which a child is temporarily removed from his/her regular classroom(s) for disciplinary purposes but remains under the direct supervision of school personnel. Direct supervision means school personnel are physically in the same location as students under their supervision.
- **Parent Shadow (in lieu of suspension)** Parents will be given the opportunity to shadow their student all day each day in lieu of student receiving an Out of School Suspension (guidelines will be provided).
- **Out of School Suspension (OSS)**- An administratively enforced absence from educational activities for a specific number of days.

Suspension prohibits a student from attending any day or night school functions (whether held on or off school grounds), from riding a school bus, or from entering the school or school grounds, except for a prearranged conference with an administrator.

- 4-5 Office Referrals (1-2 days OSS)
- 6 + Office Referrals (3-5 days OSS)

Discipline of Students with Disabilities - Students with disabilities are not exempt from school disciplinary processes, nor are they entitled to remain in a particular educational program when their conduct substantially impairs the education of other students in the program. However, federal and state laws and regulations require schools to meet the individual educational needs of such students to the extent possible. The process of disciplining a student who receives special education services involves both administrative authorities who are responsible for discipline and the special education department, including teachers and administrators who have been assigned specific responsibilities in the implementation of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

MBSA LEVEL 2 CODE OF CONDUCT

Level 2-Disruptive Conduct includes those activities in which students engage that are directed against persons or property and the consequences of which tend to endanger the health or safety of themselves or others in the school. Some instances of disruptive conduct may overlap certain criminal offenses, justifying both administrative sanctions and court proceedings.

Offenses	Suggested Interventions	Consequences	Call SRO
Electronic Device Violation	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	No
Communicating Suggestive or Explicit Materials	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Overnight Suspension In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Disrupting School Behavior that disrupts the learning environment for a significant number of students for an extended period of time or school sponsored events and requires the intervention of a number of staff members	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	No
Fighting/Inciting a Fight An incident involving two or more students with mutual physical contact, such as hitting, kicking, and/or punching where there is no major injury or disruption	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying Any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing action which negatively impacts another person's emotional or mental well-being which is due to race, disability, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other discriminatory factors of the victim. *Bullying is defined as a deliberate, repeated act with intention to hurt, insult, or threaten another person in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school events. Bullying consists of an imbalance of power.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	No
Obscene Gesture A movement or position of the hand, arm, body, head, or face that is expressive of an offensive idea, opinion, and emotion toward a teacher.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	No
Profanity/ Inappropriate Language Abusive or vulgar language, swearing, cursing, foul speech or derogatory language that shows disrespect towards an adult.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	No

MBSA LEVEL 2 CODE OF CONDUCT

Stealing/Theft (Stolen Property) Taking of goods unlawfully or possession of goods unlawfully taken from its rightful owner.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Overnight Suspension In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Restitution Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Threat A statement of an intention to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action on someone.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Trespassing The student enters or remains upon school property without authorization or a legitimate business purpose, or where the student enters or remains upon school grounds after being told by administrators not to be present.	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Overnight Suspension In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Vandalism (minor) Willfully or maliciously destroying, damaging, or defacing real or personal property	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Restitution Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Recording a fight or assault through electronic means	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Disseminating to others audio or visual recording of fight, assault, or other disruptive or criminal conduct	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Improper Sexual Conduct	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Possession of tobacco products (including vapes and electronic cigarettes) while under school jurisdiction, whether on campus or at school-sponsored activities	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Social Skills Group Written/Verbal Reflection Alternative Education Placement	In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Repeated Refusal to Obey Failure to comply with directives	Administrative/Student Conference Behavior Contract Referral to School Counselor Teach/Reteach Expectations Additional Suggested Interventions as available	Parent/Teacher Conference Detention Overnight Suspension In School Suspension *Out of School Suspension	No

MBSA LEVEL 2 CODE OF CONDUCT

THIS LIST IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE OF POSSIBLE OFFENSES, INTERVENTIONS, OR CONSEQUENCES.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTED INTERVENTIONS (INTERVENTIONS SHOULD BE ASSIGNED ALONG WITH APPROPRIATE CONSEQUENCES, NOT IN LIEU OF)

- **ADMINISTRATIVE/STUDENT CONFERENCE**- A CONFERENCE HELD INVOLVING AN ADMINISTRATOR AND STUDENT TO EXPLAIN HOW HIS/HER BEHAVIOR IS AFFECTING THE CLASSROOM LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. THE ADMINISTRATOR MAY REVIEW THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES AND POSSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.
- **ATTENDANCE CONTRACT**- A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE SCHOOL, PARENT AND STUDENT TO ASSIST THE STUDENT WITH CHRONIC ABSENCES IN SCHOOL. IT MAY CONSIST OF STUDENT AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO HELP GUIDE THE BEHAVIOR, WHICH SHOULD ASSIST IN DECREASING THE NUMBER OF DAYS ABSENT.
- **BEHAVIOR CONTRACT**- THE BEHAVIOR CONTRACT IS A POSITIVE-REINFORCEMENT INTERVENTION THAT IS WIDELY USED BY TEACHERS WHEN A STUDENT EXHIBITS PERSISTENT BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS. THE BEHAVIOR CONTRACT SHOULD PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH INTERVENTIONS, HOLD STUDENTS ACCOUNTABLE, PROVIDE STRUCTURE, PROMOTE SELF-RESPONSIBILITY, INCREASE MOTIVATION TO IMPROVE GRADES AND IMPROVE SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATION.
- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**- THE PROCESS THAT TEACHES INDIVIDUALS CONCEPTS AND SKILLS FOR PREVENTING, MANAGING, AND RESOLVING CONFLICTS NON-VIOLENTLY. IT MAY INCLUDE BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO TEACHING LIFE SKILLS, SUCH AS "WIN-WIN" NEGOTIATION STRATEGIES, MEDIATION SKILLS, AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES.
- **MENTORING GROUP**- A GROUP OF STUDENTS THAT MEETS TOGETHER ON A REGULAR BASIS FOR AN AGREED UPON LENGTH OF TIME USUALLY SUPERVISED BY A FACULTY OR STAFF MEMBER THAT INVOLVES THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOALS AND BUILDING COMPETENCE AND CHARACTER TO REACH THOSE GOALS.
- **REFERRAL TO SCHOOL COUNSELOR**- A REFERRAL MADE TO A STUDENT'S SCHOOL COUNSELOR TO RECEIVE SERVICES WITHIN THE SCOPE WHICH MAY INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING TO HELP STUDENTS RESOLVE SCHOOL RELATED ISSUES, AND SMALL GROUP COUNSELING TO HELP STUDENTS ENHANCE SOCIAL SKILLS, LEARN TO EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS, AND FIND SOCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH HEALTHY PEER RELATIONSHIPS.
- **SOCIAL SKILLS GROUP**- SOCIAL SKILLS GROUPS ARE SMALL GROUPS LED BY AN ADULT WHO TEACHES STUDENTS HOW TO INTERACT APPROPRIATELY WITH OTHERS, LEARN CONVERSATIONAL, FRIENDSHIP AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS, AS WELL AS HOW TO CONTROL THEIR EMOTIONS AND UNDERSTAND OTHER PEOPLE'S PERSPECTIVES.
- **TARDY INTERVENTION PLAN**- A PLAN TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH GETTING TO SCHOOL AND CLASS ON TIME. IT INVOLVES STUDENT, TEACHER AND PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO HELP DECREASE THE NUMBER OF TARDIES AND ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS.
- **TEACH/RETEACH EXPECTATIONS**- CLEARLY DEFINE DISTRICT AND SCHOOL-WIDE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT PERTAIN TO THE STUDENT. ENSURE THAT THE STUDENT IS AWARE OF WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO FOLLOW THESE EXPECTATIONS.

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS TO BE APPLIED IN CASES OF LEVEL II OFFENSES MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING

- Temporary removal from class
- Referral to outside agency
- Withdrawal of privileges/exclusion from extra-curricular activities
- Detention
- In-school suspension
- Suspension until parent conference
- Out-of-school suspension
- Transfer
- Restitution of property and Damages
- Probation
- Alternative school assignment
- Interim alternative placement/home-based
- Expulsion
- Other sanctions provided in level I

Suggested Consequences

- **Overnight Suspension (OVN)**- An administrative assigned suspension effective from the end of the school day on which the violation occurred, and reinstatement will be immediate following a conference between a parent/guardian and the school administrator.
- **In-School Suspension (ISS)**-Removal of a student from daily classroom activities, but not from the school premises. Within the designated classroom space, a student is allowed to continue to complete instructional coursework. OR Instances in which a child is temporarily removed from his/her regular classroom(s) for disciplinary purposes but remains under the direct supervision of school personnel. Direct supervision means school personnel are physically in the same location as students under their supervision.
- **Parent Shadow (in lieu of suspension)** Parents will be given the opportunity to shadow their student all day each day in lieu of student receiving an Out of School Suspension (guidelines will be provided).
- **Out of School Suspension (OSS)**- An administratively enforced absence from educational activities for a specific number of days.

Suspension prohibits a student from attending any day or night school functions (whether held on or off school grounds), from riding a school bus, or from entering the school or school grounds, except for a prearranged conference with an administrator.

- 4-5 Office Referrals (1-2 days OSS)
- 6 + Office Referrals (3-5 days OSS)

Discipline of Students with Disabilities - Students with disabilities are not exempt from school disciplinary processes, nor are they entitled to remain in a particular educational program when their conduct substantially impairs the education of other students in the program. However, federal and state laws and regulations require schools to meet the individual educational needs of such students to the extent possible. The process of disciplining a student who receives special education services involves both administrative authorities who are responsible for discipline and the special education department, including teachers and administrators who have been assigned specific responsibilities in the implementation of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

MBSA LEVEL 3 CODE OF CONDUCT

LEVEL 3- CRIMINAL CONDUCT INCLUDES THOSE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH STUDENTS ENGAGE THAT RESULT IN VIOLENCE TO THEMSELVES OR TO ANOTHER'S PERSON OR PROPERTY OR WHICH POSE A DIRECT AND SERIOUS THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF THEMSELVES OR OTHERS IN THE SCHOOL. THESE ACTIVITIES USUALLY REQUIRE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS THAT RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF THE STUDENT FROM THE SCHOOL, THE INTERVENTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES, AND/OR ACTION BY THE BOARD. INTERVENTIONS MAY BE USED WHEN A STUDENT RETURNS TO SCHOOL AFTER A SUSPENSION OR ON STRICT PROBATION. LEVEL 1 AND 2 INTERVENTIONS MAY BE CONSIDERED ADDITIONALLY..

Offenses	Suggested Interventions	Consequences	Call SRO
Arson To intentionally damage or attempt to damage any real or personal property by fire	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) *Recommended Expulsion * Mandatory	Yes
Assault If the person unlawfully injures another person, or offers or attempts to injure another person with the present ability to do so.	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract RBHS	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Bomb Threat Indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus, or at any school activity.	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) *Recommended Expulsion * Mandatory	Yes
Bullying A deliberate, repeated act with intention to hurt, insult, or threaten another person in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school events. Bullying consists of an imbalance of power.	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract RBHS	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Computer Violation Unauthorized or inappropriate use of computers or use of computer resources without permission according to level 3 infractions as outlined	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Alcohol/Drug Usage Furnishing, possessing, selling, or using drugs, alcohol, or illegal substances.	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract RBHS Georgetown Alcohol and Drug Commission	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Extortion To unlawfully obtain money, property, or any other thing of value without that person's consent through the use or threat of force, misuse of authority, threat of destruction of reputation or social standing, or through	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes

MBSA LEVEL 3 CODE OF CONDUCT

other coercive means.			
Fire Alarm In the absence of an emergency, to activate or set off a fire signal indicating the presence of a fire emergency.	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Gang Activity Any group of individuals or organization, whether formal or informal, which advocate or promote activities threatening the safety or well-being of persons or property on school grounds or disrupt the school environment are harmful to the educational process. The existence of such group of individuals associated may be established by evidence of a common name or common identifying signs, symbols, language tattoos, graffiti, clothing or other distinguishing characteristics.	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract RBHS	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) *Recommended Expulsion *Mandatory	Yes
Gambling Betting on a game of chance or an activity where money is exchanged.	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract RBHS	In School Suspension (1-3 days) Out of School Suspension (1-3 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Intimidation Physical, verbal, written or electronic action which immediately creates fear of harm, without displaying a weapon and without subjecting the victim to actual physical attack. (This category only includes a verbal incident that causes fear. It does not include insubordination, lack of respect, defiance of authority, etc.)	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract RBHS	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Larceny/Theft The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another person. Petit Larceny: less than \$2,000; Grand Larceny: \$2,001 or more	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract RBHS	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Other Offenses (Serious) Criminal offenses that occur off school grounds.	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion	Yes
Physically abusing a member of the school staff	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) *Recommended Expulsion *Mandatory	Yes

MBSA LEVEL 3 CODE OF CONDUCT

Possession of or threatening with a weapon	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) *Recommended Expulsion *Mandatory	Yes
Threatening to take the life or inflict bodily harm upon school staff or other students	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) *Recommended Expulsion *Mandatory	Yes
Vandalism or destruction of property (Major) With a value of > \$2000	Alternative Education Placement Re-Entry Meeting Probation Contract	Out of School Suspension (5-10 days) Recommended Expulsion Restitution	Yes

THIS LIST IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE OF POSSIBLE OFFENSES, INTERVENTIONS, OR CONSEQUENCES.
Suggested Interventions

Alternative Education Program- Potential placement at SC High School for Accelerated Learning

Horry County Alcohol and Drug Commission/Shoreline Behavioral Health

Services - An agency that provides treatment and intervention services to students by using self-directed approaches to care that build on the strengths and resilience of individuals, family and communities to take responsibility for their sustained health, wellness, and recovery from alcohol and drug problems.

Re-Entry Meeting- A meeting that should take place when a student is returning to school after having been suspended, recommended for expulsion. This meeting should establish and define clear expectations of its participants (student, parent, administrator, school counselor) for positive behavior and to ensure a smooth transition back on school grounds.

RBHS - Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) are medical or remedial services provided to students by a RBHS counselor.

POSSIBLE SANCTIONS TO BE APPLIED IN CASES OF LEVEL III OFFENSES MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING

- Out of school suspension
- Withdrawal of privileges/exclusion from extra-curricular activities
- Assigned to alternative school
- Expulsion
- Restitution of property and damages
- Other sanctions provided in Level II

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students may not use cell phones, Ipods, cameras, handheld games, or other electronic devices that may interfere with instructional or school activities, or send/receive inappropriate messages, recordings, broadcasts, or images. **This policy also applies to any and all smart devices, including but not limited to Iwatches, Smartwatchs, tablets, Fitbits etc...** Devices of any kind that have the ability to send/receive messages, makes/receives calls, go online using outside data, play music, play games, take video and/or photos, etc. **are not permitted to be worn, used or turned-on** during classes, in between classes, in hallway, in bathrooms, on field trips, nor during dismissal for any reason, and are not permitted for use during the school day. **All of the above mentioned equipment must be turned off and placed in their locker (middle and high school) upon the student's arrival at school. The use of these devices are restricted to before and after school hours; devices are not permitted to be used or turned on in between classes, in hallways, in bathrooms, nor during dismissal for any reason, without express consent from the teacher for an educational purpose.** Students are not permitted to record any type of video on any handheld device or take any pictures without the consent of **ALL OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED AND SCHOOL STAFF**. The school administration may waive portions of the above restrictions as deemed necessary. However, devices are never to be used in any area in which an individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy. In the event of a violation, school personnel are authorized to take the device from the student but will return the device in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. The school assumes no responsibility for any damaged, lost, or stolen devices. In addition, the use of any school telephone without permission from school personnel is considered to be a direct violation of MBSAs' rules of conduct. Unauthorized use of these devices and violation of this policy may be considered a level 2 offense with major sanctions

ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY VIOLATIONS: DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

1ST OFFENSE - WARNING & DEVICE CONFISCATED
2ND OFFENSE - 1 DAY OF ISS & DEVICE CONFISCATED
3RD OFFENSE - 2 DAYS OF ISS & DEVICE CONFISCATED
4TH OFFENSE - 1 DAY OF OSS & DEVICE CONFISCATED
5TH OFFENSE - 3 DAYS OF OSS & DEVICE CONFISCATED
6TH OFFENSE - 5 DAYS OF OSS & DEVICE CONFISCATED
7TH OFFENSE - EVIDENTIARY HEARING & PHONE CONFISCATED

REFUSAL TO TURN OVER DEVICE: DISCIPLINARY CONSEQUENCES

1ST OFFENSE - 1 DAY OF OSS (REFUSAL TO OBEY)
2ND OFFENSE - 1-3 DAYS OF OSS (REFUSAL TO OBEY)
3RD OFFENSE - 3-5 DAYS OF OSS (REFUSAL TO OBEY)
4TH OFFENSE - EVIDENTIARY HEARING (REFUSAL TO OBEY)

See South Carolina Law Below



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents

FROM: C. Matthew Ferguson, Ed.D., Esq.
Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer
Division of College, Career, and Military Readiness

DATE: September 10, 2024

RE: Cell Phone Policy

The State Board of Education (SBE) adopted the [policy](#), as required by Proviso 1.103 in the South Carolina 2024-2025 budget. In doing so, the State has taken a practical step toward providing students and teachers the freedom to focus on learning. The Proviso states:

1.103. (SDE: Anti-Bullying/School Safety) To receive state funds allocated for State Aid to Classrooms, a school district shall implement a policy adopted by the State Board of Education that prohibits access to personal electronic communication devices by students during the school day. For purposes of this provision, a personal electronic communication device is considered to be a device not authorized for classroom use by a student, utilized to access the Internet, wi-fi, or cellular telephone signals.

As outlined in our [memo on June 27, 2024](#), local districts must now adopt a local policy that must be fully implemented in every school no later than the beginning of the January 2025 semester. Districts should notify the SCDE of their policy implementation by completing [this form](#).

The policy adopted by the SBE includes several key definitions that must be followed to ensure full compliance with the Proviso:

1. **Personal electronic device**, referred to as “device,” means any device utilized to access the internet, wi-fi, cellular telephone signals, or to capture images or video. This includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, smart watches, tablets, and gaming devices.

ELLEN E. WEAVER · STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION · 428 WHOLESALE LANE · WEST COLUMBIA, SC 29172
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2. **Personal Electronic Device accessories**, referred to as “device accessories,” include any wired or wireless accessory or wearable technology that connects to a device and any other accessory commonly used in conjunction with a personal electronic device.
3. **School day** is defined as the period of time that a student is present on the school campus from their arrival (i.e., tardy bell) until afternoon dismissal at the end of the instructional day. This policy may also apply to school buses, field trips, and athletic events, at the district’s discretion. The applicability of this regulation to these activities will be determined by the school district.¹
4. **Access** is defined as viewing, holding, wearing, or otherwise using a device for the purpose of communication, internet access, gaming, recording, or any other function commonly associated with devices. During the school day, devices should be powered off and stored as directed by the school district. Exceptions granted for medical necessity, authorized for classroom use, or other authorized reasons should be in writing and are not considered violations of this definition.

Please reference the full policy as adopted by the SBE for additional details regarding the process for locally approved educational usage of devices, implementation, and enforcement. As noted in the model policy, there are multiple opportunities for school districts to pass local policies with requirements beyond the minimum outlined in the SBE policy.

As school districts work to implement this policy, the SCDE has created a webpage that explains the positive impact of phone-free policies and how the policy can be implemented and communicated effectively. We have featured schools across South Carolina that have already implemented policies allowing students to focus on academics, social skills, and friendships. Our communications initiative is called Free to Focus SC, and you can find out more information at ed.sc.gov/freetofocus.

The SCDE recently hosted all district Public Information Officers to share strategies regarding effective communication and stands ready to help administrators and educators with any questions you may have. The SCDE will continue to update the Free to Focus SC page with FAQs, implementation guides, and other tools to help educate and inform all audiences of the necessity and benefits this policy provides.

A special focus will be placed on emphasizing best practices regarding parent communication and reunification plans in the event of a school emergency. The Department would urge districts to avoid framing this policy as a “ban,” which is an inaccurate description of what the policy requires. Phones *are not* required to be “banned” from school campuses but *are* required to be “off and away” for the entirety of the school day.

If you have any questions regarding the implementation of this policy, please reach out to Robert Cathcart, Policy & Legal Advisor, at rdcathcart@ed.sc.gov or at 803-734-2230.

¹ The definition of “School Day” includes recess, lunch time, and all times between classes.

Possession and use of tobacco products

The South Carolina Youth Access to Tobacco Prevention Act of 2006 says that a minor under the age of 18 must not possess a tobacco product. While it has been against school rules for students to have or use tobacco products for years, this new act means that the offense is now a violation of the law. Students will be subject to consequences for their behavior by the school and may have to appear for a hearing before a municipal or magistrate's court. "e" devices are not allowed on school property and may be treated as a tobacco product since verification of the "substance makeup" is not possible at school

Student's Rights

Expulsion is the removal of a student from The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy for the remainder of the school year or until readmitted by the Head Principal. Authority to expel a student rests solely with the Head Principal. Offenses that would warrant expulsion are clearly defined in the student code of conduct and provided to parents and students in the Student/Parent Handbook annually

The following procedures will apply to the expulsion of students. The head principal will notify the parents of the student of the time and place of a hearing. At the hearing, the parent will have the right to legal counsel and to all other regular legal rights. The hearing will take place within 10 days of written notification at the time and place designated by the Head Principal and a decision will be rendered within 10 days of the hearing. The student will be suspended from the campus of The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy and all Myrtle Beach STEM Academy activities during the time of the expulsion procedures, except for scheduled conferences.

The expulsion decision may only be appealed to the Board of Directors if the parent believes the student was denied due process of law. A parent wishing to appeal an expulsion must provide the Board of Directors with a written request for a hearing within 5 days of notification of the expulsion. The Board will consider the appeal within 10 days of request for appeal. A written record of any hearing by the Board of Directors will be mandated. In the event of expulsion, the Head Principal will notify Horry County School District and the parents at the address of record for the student, within 10 days of the final decision

Parent Notification

The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy will notify parents and students regarding student conduct, rights, and responsibilities by giving parents and students a copy of the policies in the Student/Parent Handbook distributed to all students and parents at the beginning of the school year. Parents and students are required to sign a Code of Conduct Contractual Agreement at the beginning of each school year. A copy of the Student/Parent Handbook will also be posted on the Myrtle Beach STEM Academy website.

Student Conduct, Rights, and Responsibilities

In the Myrtle Beach STEM Academy, the appeal process for student attendance records involves a written letter to the Dean of Student Affairs within five workdays of a principal's decision, followed by an informal hearing. The Hearing Officer (or their designee) reviews the case and renders a written decision within ten workdays of the hearing, which concludes the appeals process for attendance matters.

1. Initial Decision: If a parent disagrees with a principal's decision regarding a student's attendance record, they must first discuss the matter with the principal.
2. Written Appeal: Within five workdays of the principal's decision, the parent must write a letter to the Dean of Student Affairs explaining why they believe the decision should be overturned.
3. Informal Hearing: The Dean (or their designee) will hold an informal hearing within ten workdays of receiving the appeal request. The hearing will be attended by the principal (or their designee), the parent, and the student. The student may be dismissed during portions of the hearing if the Dean and parent agree.
4. The parent can formally appeal to the Board of Directors within 10 days of the informal hearing if they disagree with the decision. The Board of Directors will make a decision within ten workdays of the hearing. The decision will be written and sent to both the parent and the school.
5. Final Decision: The Board Member's decision is the final step in the appeals process for attendance matters.

Dress Code

Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that their individual student dress in an appropriate manner at all times while on campus or when involved in school activities. The administrators will determine the appropriateness of student dress and be able to follow through with appropriate action. The School’s administrative ruling regarding inappropriate dress and corrective action is final.

Personal appearance by each student should promote health and safety, contribute to a climate conducive to teaching and learning, a project a positive image of the district to the community. Generally, student dress is considered appropriate as long as it does not or foreseeably could not, interfere with the educational process, cause disruption, or damage school property. In addition to clothing, hats, and shoes, attire includes any jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign, comment, or other item worn or displayed by an individual.

The Head Principal will determine the attire that students must wear in order to participate in high school graduation ceremony as long as an eligible student’s failure to participate does not preclude her/his receiving a diploma after the ceremony. In addition, attire worn in physical education classes maybe regulated by the Head Principal for health and safety reasons, but a student may have the prerogative on religious grounds of wearing more modest clothing.

- Attire must comply with requirements for health and safety
- Attire must not be immodest, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, indecent, or offensive. Shorts, skirts, and dresses should be of adequate length (three inches above the knee) to ensure modesty when the student is seated or engaged in school activities. Appropriate undergarments should be worn and should be covered by outer clothing at all times. Uniforms for extracurricular activities that are worn during class other than physical education must be modified to conformed to the Student Dress Code Guidelines
- Attire must not evidence membership or affiliation with a “gang” in any negative sense of the term
- Attire must not display any information about, representation of, or advertisements for alcoholic beverage(s), tobacco, controlled drugs, or illegal drugs paraphernalia associated with the forgoing
- All students are required to wear appropriate footwear for school (no slippers).
- All shirts and tops must cover the midriff at all times. The following are examples of clothing that is unacceptable: tank tops with straps thinner than 2 inches, strapless, spaghetti straps, off-the-shoulder, cut-out designs, low-cut shirts, bare-back, fishnet stockings, sheer or mesh clothing that does not have an appropriate blouse or shirt underneath, etc.
- All pants and shorts must fit at the waist. No sagging or low riding pants or shorts will be permitted. Clothing must cover undergarments when sitting, standing, or bending.
- Hemlines and slits on dresses, skirts, and shorts (including bike shorts) above mid-thigh are not acceptable. Length cannot be shorter than the tip of the fingers when arms are placed straight at the sides of the body.
- Pants may not have holes that are visible above the tip of the fingers when arms are placed straight at the sides of the body. Leggings or form-fitting pants must be worn with a shirt that covers the student’s hips.
- Headwear (including scarves, bandanas, or other head dressings) may not be brought on to campus unless approved by the principal.
- Hoods from sweatshirts or jackets may not be worn in the building for any reason,
- Clothing or jewelry that depicts any “gang style” writing; illegal activity; sexually related or obscene gestures and material; tobacco; drugs; alcohol; or words, pictures, or phrases that depict violence or intimidation may not be worn.

Dress Code

- Any body piercing that presents a safety issue or major distraction will not be allowed.
- Any clothing or styles of dress that may be construed to provoke fear, violence, or intimidation, including gang-related attire, is not acceptable.
- Consequences Every Offense: If a student chooses not to follow the dress code requirements, he/she will be asked to call home for a change of clothes. The student will not be allowed to return to class until the situation has been corrected. The student will remain in ISS until a change of clothes has arrived.

1st Offense	2nd Offense	3rd Offense	4th Offense	5th Offense	6th Offense
Administrative Warning and parent notification	1 day of ISS and parent notification by administrator	1 day of OSS and parent notification by administrator	2 Days of OSS and parent notification by administrator	3 Days of OSS and parent notification by administrator	Recommendation for an Evidentiary Hearing and parent notification by administrator
Students will be required to change clothes.	Students will be required to change clothes.				

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The safety and security of students, staff, and schools is our top priority. In an effort to ensure a safe learning environment for students, the school has made the following provisions

Crisis Management Plan

The school has crisis management plans that outline response procedures in the event of an emergency.

Canine searches for drugs and weapons

A drug and weapons team may conduct unannounced inspections at the school. The team consists of a highly trained handler and canines capable of detecting firearms and small amounts of illegal drugs. Hallways, classrooms, locker, parking lots, and other areas of school grounds are subject to searched under the supervision of the school administration. If drugs and/or weapons are found, the school will follow with appropriate disciplinary action and law enforcement will be notified. The presence of drugs and weapons on school property or at a school event is illegal and may result in criminal charges

Food services

Good nutrition goes hand in hand with education and is essential to cognitive and physical development. Our school has a breakfast and lunch program that offers nutritional and tasty options for students every day of the school year. Menus are available at the school, in addition to posted each month on the school website. Menus are subject to change due to the availability of food items or special events at the school. If you child has unique nutritional needs or food allergies, please discuss these with the administration, classroom teachers, and cafeteria staff

Paying for meals

Parents are required to purchase students' meals.

How much do meals cost?

MBSA will do everything we can to provide the most cost-efficient way to provide lunch. We will be providing a menu with a list of prices as they become available

Student health services

MBSA will have a school nurse who will provide medical assistance your child would need during the school day. Please call or visit the school nurse if your child has any medical conditions that require emergency medications or monitoring. No student should carry any medication on their person at any time without proper paperwork.

Prescription and non-prescription medication forms are required by the school to administer any medications. The medication forms and the medication policy can be obtained from the MBSA1 website or from the school nurse. The parent and child's health care practitioner request and consent must contain the following information: The medication should be brought to school by the parent, guardian, or a responsible adult. The medication will be brought to school in a container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy, health care provider, or in the original container

- 1.name of medication
- 2.dose to be given
- 3.time to be given
- 4.number of days to be administered
- 5.any special instructions

All medication will be stored in a locked cabinet in the health room. Self-managed medications will be evaluated on an individual basis by the school nurse. A written physician's order is required, as well as written parental consent.

The school nurse will call the parent if your child presents with the following condition(s):
Fever greater than 101 degrees, more than 1 episode of vomiting witnessed, more than 1 episode of diarrhea, head injury, injury with pain/swelling/deformity, live lice, or other serious conditions that warrant immediate parent notification.

Medications

All prescription and over-the-counter medications must be registered by the parent with the main office. Medication may not be brought to school by a student. Prescription medicine **MUST** be presented in its original prescription bottle AND requires a doctors a signature on a specific MBSA form that is available in the front office. Non-prescription medication also requires a specific form, but only has to be signed by parents. Please do not show up the morning that medication needs to be given, as it may not allow time for the form to be completed for administering that day

EpiPen and Inhaler

These are typically kept in the front office, except in very extreme cases. You must make an appointment with administration for approval for a student to keep their EpiPen inhaler on their person

Immunization Requirement

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control regulates school immunization requirements

School exclusion list

To protect well-children from unnecessary exposure to contagious or infectious diseases, parents must notify the school within 24 hours after their child has developed a known or suspected communicable disease. Students may return to school as soon as their symptoms are resolved, unless stated otherwise by their doctor or the school and childcare exclusion list, located at www.scdhec.gov/healthdisease/exclusion.htm. Students with lice will be sent home and may not be readmitted until they are lice and nit-free

Calls home

School officials will make the decision if a call needs to be placed for child pickup. Typically, outside of a fever or bodily fluid, students will be expected to stay at school. We will not call home in the event that a child comes to the front office and asks us to

Parent-teacher conferences

During the year, parents should expect to be invited to their child’s class to participate in a conference with teachers and can always request a conference if the parent feels it is necessary and the teacher has not initiated a conference. This gives parents, teachers, and students an opportunity to talk with each other about what the expectations are for learning. Teachers may share samples of student work, provide information on how the student performs on tests, and gives feedback as to how well the student is making progress toward grade level standards. Conferences can be scheduled with a teacher via telephone, email, or in person. To ensure that your child’s teacher is available, please schedule a conference when necessary to speak with them. Full and proper use of instructional time is of utmost importance to our school and teachers. The instructional day begins promptly at 8am therefore parents will NOT be permitted to remain in the classroom after 8am and will be asked to leave if necessary

Curriculum standards

MBSA uses the English/language, arts, math, science, and social studies curriculum standards developed by the South Carolina Department of Education minimum standards. These standards define what students will be taught and what they should know, understand, and be able to do when they complete a grade or a course. Curriculum standards help to make sure that everyone knows the expectations for students learning. State standardized tests are based on state standards. MBSA coursework and grade level expectations may vary from other traditional public schools.

School volunteers

We love for parent volunteers to be a tutor, reading friend, lunch buddy, classroom or office helper, or spearhead a school project or event. School volunteers provide unlimited support to individual students, teachers, classrooms, and office personnel. If you have time you are willing to share with your child’s school, contact the main office. Volunteers must sign a volunteer agreement. Volunteers violating rules, regulations, requests, being negative, and/or not contributing to an overall productive school environment may not be allowed to volunteer again. All volunteers MUST be approved to volunteer to chaperone.

Business/organization partnerships

If you are an employee of a business or a member of an organization that would like to to partner with our school to provide support for student learning, you may contact the principal. Partnerships involve direct and indirect support to students, teachers and schools through shared resources, common goals, and interests and most importantly, time.

Student report cards

Report cards include grades, attendance information, and could contain comments from teachers (6-8). In some cases, report cards may indicate a request for a parent conference. Report cards are sent to the home through the student. Make a note of the dates report cards are issued and ask your child to talk with you about his/her performance. If there is anything you don’t understand, or anything you are concerned about, please contact your child’s teacher.

The following is a series of dates for the release of interim reports and quarterly reports of your child’s school performance:

Report Card and Interim Report Dates for 2026-2027

- Q1 Interim Reports Issued for grades 6-12
- End of 1st Quarter (45 days)
- Q1 Report Cards Issued
- Q2 interim Reports Issued for grades 6-12
- End of 2nd Quarter (90 days)
- Q2 Report Cards Issued
- Q3 Interim Report Issued for Grades 6-12
- End 3rd Quarter (135 days)
- Q3 Report Cards Issued
- Q4 Interim Reports Issued for grades 6-12
- End of 4th Quarter (180 days)
- Q4 Report Cards Issued

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale (grades 6-12)

The uniform method of grading applies to students in grades 6th through 12. Students performance is often reported with letter and/or numerical grades. Numerical grades are necessary to allow guidance counselors to rank and to make adjustments due to the level of course difficulty. At a glance, letter grades are numerical grades equate like this:

A = 90-100 percent B=80-89 percent C=70-79 percent D=60-69 percent F=59-0 percent

Earning high school credit and determining your grade point average

Students begin accumulating points toward their grade-point-average as soon as they take classes that earn high school credits. Some students take classes for credit while still in middle school. Grades earned in those classes count toward their GPA which will be computed their senior year. At MBSA, these classes typically occur during 7th and 8th grade and can cover Algebra I, Geometry, English I, Law Education, Technology, Science and Aerospace, and/or Biology. It is imperative that you and your child understand how these classes will affect your child’s high school GPA before beginning the class. Please see administration immediately if you have any questions.

If a student receives an unsatisfactory grade after taking the course in middle school, she/he can take the class again during the 9th grade, as long as they have not completed the next course in the sequence. The grade earned in the 9th grade is the only one that will appear on the student’s transcript and will be the only one used to compute GPA, regardless if the grade was higher or lower than the grade earned in middle school. Parents are highly encouraged to discuss this with administration before the start of 7th grade.

Student testing

Dates for SCREADY assessments are _____ . Dates for the EOCEP/final exams are the last 15 days of the school year. Students will participate in a variety of state, county, and schools testing. Dates for state and county assessments will be published online by those departments. Dates for school wide testing, not supplied by the state or county, will be communicated to parents at least 2 weeks prior to testing beginning via one of the following ways: email, teacher communication, hard copy sent home, and/or text message system, district or state publications

Student use of technology for learning

MBSA provides students with many opportunities to use technology through the availability of computers, the internet, and the school’s network. Access to technology is a privilege, not a right. If students are irresponsible when using the resources available to them, they may lose the privilege of their use and could be subject to disciplinary action

Even the best safeguards are not foolproof. Both students and their parents must understand there is a limitation to the control the school has over the content students could view on the internet. MBSA does not condone and cannot be held responsible in inappropriate or offensive material and how it is used

Basic rules for acceptable use...

- School web pages will be about curriculum, instruction, and school-authorized activities. Students may not publish personal pages as part of school websites
- Students who vandalize equipment or programs will lose use privileges. Vandalism includes willful attempts to harm or destroy data, networks, or the internet. Vandalism also includes creating or transmitting computer viruses, deletion, or alteration of files/applications of other users, removing protection from restricted areas, or blocking access to information, applications, or areas of the network
- Do not use school equipment for commercial advertising, fundraising, or unethical/illegal solicitation.
- Do not use copyrighted material without verifiable permission
- Do not send or knowingly receive messages/information that violates the school's behavior code, including inappropriate, offensive, and/or disruptive messages or information
- Do not access, attempt to access, and/or alter information in restricted areas of any network
- Do not download or load any software or applications without permission from the administrator

Use good manners when using technology

- Be polite. No abusive, obscene, inflammatory, or threatening messages. No profanities, vulgarities, or bad language
- Be aware and considerate when others are waiting to use shared resources
- Do not send annoying and/or unnecessary messages to large numbers of people

Online safety is everyone's job

- Do not share passwords. Do not send messages or information with someone else's name on it
- Do not share your Social Security number or any other personal information (home address, phone numbers, etc)
- No identifying student pictures, video, or audio clips may be published by students or parents without written permission from the school
- Email is not guaranteed to be private. System administrators have the ability to view all e-mail. Messages referring illegal or inappropriate activities will be reported to the police and the school principal

Students are asked to report any of the following to their supervising teacher

- Messages, files, websites, or user activities that contain inappropriate materials or requests for personal information
- Known or suspected attempts to damage resources or violate network security
- Illegal activity or violation of school policy and
- Error messages or problems that suggest the system is not working properly
- Please refer to the virtual learning handbook for more specifics on technology use in the virtual setting

Student Support Services

Section 504 plans

Under section 504, any person who has an impairment that substantially limits a major life activity is considered a person with a disability. A 504 Plan is designed to help student with special physical, medical, and psychological needs to feel comfortable with the regular learning environment by providing reasonable accommodations. Typically, children covered under section 504 either have less severe disabilities or disabilities that do not fit within the eligibility categories of IDEA

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Students, ages 3 through 21 years old, may receive services under the IDEA if the students needs special education and related services. A team decides if a student qualifies for services under the IDEA. The team includes the student’s parents or legal guardian, teachers, and other school staff who work together to develop an individualized education program (IEP) if the student meets federal and state requirements. The IEP outlines a plan for helping the student receive a free, appropriate public education and meet goals set by the team

Multiple Language Learners (ESOL/MLL)

Students whose first language is not English face challenges in school as they work to learn grade-level content and a new language at the same time. ESOL provides equal opportunities to English language learners who have a primary or home language other than English. ESOL students may be provided additional opportunities to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing proficiency necessary to achieve academic success in the mainstream classroom

Programs for Gifted and Talented Students

Students may be identified for gifted and talented services in grades 6-12 if the demonstrate, or show the potential for high academic or artistic performance. Please read the section below to understand how students are identified for gifted programs and what programs are available at all school levels

Selection criteria for academic and intellectual gifted

Identification of students for gifted and talented programs is determined by state regulations. The eligibility criteria included three dimensions: Aptitude, Achievement, and Performance. Students may be eligible for services based upon the following:

- Score at least 96th national percentile or above on the total of a state-approved aptitude test OR
- Satisfy two out of three of the following criteria in two of the three dimensions. The criteria include:
 - 1.Aptitude - 93rd or above age percentile
 - 2.Achievement - 94th or above percentile in reading and/or math; or meet the scores determined annually by the South Carolina Department of Education on the reading or math PASS for grades 6-8
 - 3.Performance - Performance Task Test for rising 3rd -6th grades (not applicable to MBSA); GPA of 4.0 or above for 7th grade and above

Students who meet gifted criteria receive accommodations that provide advanced academic rigor and challenge. Students are taught by teachers who are endorsed or are in the process of being endorsed in gifted and talented education, meaning they have completed or are completing graduate-level coursework in the needs of advanced learners and are familiar with best practices for teaching high-performing students. If you would like your child tested for gifted education, you must make the request in writing to the school administrator within the first 30 days of the school year

Middle school gifted program

In addition to our weekly gifted and talented program, most middle school students take honors level classes. Honors classes provide advanced students with the kind of learning opportunities that complement their abilities

Selection criteria for artistically gifted and talented students

Beginning in middle school, artistically gifted and talented students are eligible to be identified for having demonstrated advanced ability or potential in artistic areas. The selection process seeks to measure the aptitudes, attributes, and behaviors of identified students in ways they can show or demonstrate their talents. All students interested, should submit a written request for identification and state on what grounds. Further identification procedures will determine if the student is eligible

MAKEUP WORK

IF A STUDENT MISSES SCHOOL FOR ANY REASON, HE/SHE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE UP HIS/HER WORK IN A TIMELY MANNER. IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE POSSIBLE TO RECEIVE ONE ON ONE ASSISTANCE FOR MISSED WORK DURING THE SET CLASS TIME; THEREFORE, IT IS THE STUDENT’S RESPONSIBILITY TO SCHEDULE A TIME WITH THE TEACHER TO MAKE UP WORK. ASSIGNMENTS FOR THE WEEK ARE POSTED ON TEACHERS’ DIGITAL CLASSROOMS AND/OR TEACHER WEBSITES. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO SUBMIT PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS WHEN THEY ARE DUE IF THEY WERE ASSIGNED IN ADVANCE. SUBMITTING WORK BY EMAIL OR POSTING ON THE TEACHER’S WEBSITE IS EXPECTED (IF POSSIBLE).

ABSENCES DUE TO FIELD TRIPS

THERE WILL BE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FIELD TRIPS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR. STUDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT IN ORDER TO GO ON AN APPROVED FIELD TRIP:

- STUDENTS MUST HAVE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THEIR PARENT OR GUARDIAN.
- STUDENTS MUST HAVE PERMISSION FROM EACH TEACHER WHOSE CLASS THEY ARE TO MISS. ANY ONE TEACHER MAY DENY PERMISSION.
- STUDENTS MAY NOT MISS A CLASS THEY ARE CURRENTLY FAILING.
- STUDENTS CAN NOT ATTEND A FIELD TRIP IF THEY ARE ASSIGNED ISS OR OSS ON THE DAY OF THE TRIP.

STUDENT PARKING

MBSA STUDENTS WHO ARE GIVEN THE PRIVILEGE OF DRIVING AN AUTOMOBILE TO/FROM SCHOOL ARE REQUIRED TO ADHERE TO ALL MBSA AND SOUTH CAROLINA DRIVER REGULATIONS/LAWS. ALL STUDENT PARKING IS ASSIGNED BETWEEN 7:30 AM AND 2:45 PM. SINCE DRIVING AN AUTOMOBILE TO SCHOOL IS A PRIVILEGE, CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE ATTACHED TO THAT PRIVILEGE. STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO UPHOLD THESE CONDITIONS WILL BE SUBJECT TO MONETARY FINES AND/OR LOSS OF PARKING PRIVILEGES. THE CONDITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

STUDENT DRIVERS WITH A VALID S.C. DRIVER’S LICENSE WILL BE GIVEN PERMISSION TO DRIVE ON THE MBSA CAMPUS. NO PARKING PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED UNTIL ALL OUTSTANDING DEBTS ARE PAID FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

● STUDENTS WILL PURCHASE A SCHOOL PARKING PERMIT WHICH WILL BE PLACED ON THE VEHICLE’S FRONT WINDSHIELD IN THE BOTTOM DRIVER’S SIDE CORNER – NO EXCEPTIONS. CARS WITHOUT PERMITS WILL BE FINED.

● THE PARKING PERMIT FEE FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IS \$30.00.

● ONLY ONE PASS WILL BE AWARDED PER JUNIOR OR SENIOR STUDENT. TEMPORARY ONE-DAY PARKING PASSES MUST BE REQUESTED THROUGH THE FRONT OFFICE STAFF (I.E. ACCIDENT, CAR MAINTENANCE). REPLACEMENT PASSES MUST BE REQUESTED THROUGH ADMINISTRATION.

● STUDENTS MAY ONLY PARK IN THEIR ASSIGNED PARKING SPACE FOR THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR. STUDENTS WHO PARK IN A FACULTY, VISITOR, OR ANOTHER STUDENT’S ASSIGNED PARKING SPACE WILL BE ISSUED A PARKING TICKET AND VIOLATION COULD RESULT IN LOSS OF PARKING PRIVILEGES. NO STUDENTS ARE TO PARK THEIR CARS IN THE BUS PARKING LOT, BEHIND THE BUILDING, OR IN THE RIDER DROP-OFF AREA. THREE PARKING TICKETS WILL RESULT IN LOSS OF PARKING PRIVILEGES.

● STUDENTS ARE TO OBEY ALL TRAFFIC LAWS, SIGNS, AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS WHILE ON CAMPUS. TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED FOR VIOLATIONS. STUDENTS MAY LOSE DRIVING PRIVILEGES FOR VIOLATION OF SAFETY PROCEDURES AND FOR REPEAT OFFENCES. SPEEDING AND RECKLESS DRIVING WILL RESULT IN FINES AND/OR LOSS OF DRIVING PRIVILEGES WITH NO REFUND FOR THE PURCHASED PERMIT.

● STUDENTS ARE NOT TO LOITER, LITTER, OR PLAY LOUD MUSIC IN THE PARKING LOT. STUDENTS SHOULD ENTER THE BUILDING UPON ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL.

● STUDENTS MAY NOT ENTER, TAKE, OR PLACE ANYTHING IN OR ON ANOTHER STUDENT’S CAR OR MOVE THEIR CAR.

● WHEN TICKETS ARE ISSUED, STUDENTS WILL HAVE FIVE (5) SCHOOL DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE TICKET TO PAY THE \$5 FINE. DRIVING PRIVILEGES CAN BE REVOKED UNTIL THE FINE IS PAID.

● STUDENTS MAY NOT RIDE ON TOP OF OR IN THE BACK OF A TRUCK BED OR IN THE OPEN TRUNKS OF CARS.

GENERAL PARKING LOT RULES

- ONCE STUDENTS ENTER SCHOOL GROUNDS THEY ARE OFFICIALLY AT SCHOOL AND MAY NOT LEAVE CAMPUS WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR.
- STUDENTS ARE TO EXIT THEIR CARS AND REPORT TO THE ENTRANCE AREA WITHOUT DELAY.
- STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR CARS AFTER 8:15 AM.
 - ALL VEHICLES ON THE CAMPUS ARE SUBJECT TO ON-REQUEST INSPECTION BY THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION.
 - STUDENTS MAY NOT BRING ONTO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS ANY GUN, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVE, KNIFE, MACE, BOX CUTTER, OR OTHER WEAPON.
 - STUDENTS MAY NOT BRING ON TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS ANY ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUGS, OR ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES.
 - STUDENTS SHOULD KEEP THEIR CARS LOCKED.
 - ANY WRECKS OR DAMAGE TO A CAR ON SCHOOL GROUNDS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO REPORT SUCH INCIDENTS MAY RESULT IN LEGAL AND/OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

DRIVERS DEPARTING FOR AND RETURNING FROM INTERNSHIPS AND SHADOWING

INTERNSHIPS ARE PART OF THE MAJOR EXPERIENCE AT AAST. ALL MBSA INTERNSHIPS MUST BE ADMINISTRATOR-APPROVED AND TEACHER CONFIRMED PRIOR TO THE INTERNSHIP START DATE. STUDENTS RETURNING TO CAMPUS MUST USE THE MAIN ENTRANCE AND GO THROUGH THE SECURITY STATION AT THE FRONT OF THE SCHOOL.



Honor Code

The purpose of this honor code is to encourage the students to achieve at the highest level of their abilities while demonstrating academic honesty and personal integrity. This code represents an effort to establish among students, parents, and MBSA faculty a common understanding of what is considered cheating

Homework - including assignments done online or in a virtual setting

- Copying or paraphrase all or any part of another student's homework
- Allowing another person to copy or paraphrase your homework
- Giving or receiving help (i.e. collaborating, using artificial intelligence on assignments that have been identified as work to be done solely by you)

Test/Quizzes - including assessments done online or in a virtual setting

- Giving or receiving help during a test or quiz
- Giving test questions to students who have not yet taken the test or receiving test questions from students who have already taken the test
- Copying someone else's answers or allowing someone to copy your answers
- Possessing or using cheat sheets
- Attempting to gain an unfair advantage before or during a test, such as looking at another person's work, leaving books or notes open, or signing an answer
- Choosing deliberately to miss class on test day to avoid taking a test or handing in an assignment
- Using, accessing, or being in possession of personal cell phones or other devices during a test or quiz is prohibited and will be considered cheating
- Using or accessing any website or online program during a test or quiz that is not approved by the instructor will be considered cheating

Project - including assignments done online or in a virtual setting

- Turning in individual work or projects that have not been done solely by you
 - Failing to do your part in group projects (for class and/or extracurricular) and taking credit for work that others did
 - Choosing deliberately to miss class on the day projects are due in an attempt to gain an extra time advantage
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Research papers and essays - including assignments done online or in a virtual setting

- Copying phrases, sentence, or paragraphs without using quotations marks and giving proper MLA/APA documentation of your source
- Paraphrasing or summarizing ideas without giving proper documentations of your sources
- Submitting another person's research paper in part or in whole as your own
- Downloading from the internet as a research paper in part or whole and submitting as your own work
- Asking or paying someone to write a research paper for you
- Using artificial intelligence to write a research paper and submitting it as your own work
- Giving or selling someone a research paper to submit as her/his own work
- Presenting any words or ideas that are not your own without proper citations and documentation falsifying information in research assignment

Calculator use - including assignments done or in a virtual setting

- Using any calculator in class without the permission of the instructor
- Using programs in programmable calculators without the knowledge and consent of the instructor
- Using programmable calculators as "electronic cheat sheets"
- Storing or sharing information in a calculator about a test or quiz
- Failing to clear all information as directed when a calculator is shared with another student during a test or quiz

Penalties for any violation of the honor code may include, but are not limited to, the following:

No credit for the work (zero grade); notification of parent/guardian and principal; loss of membership in honor societies and/or Beta Club; in or out of school suspension



The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy parent/student handbook acknowledgement of receipt and agreement to comply form.
Students should initial each statement below to indicate their understanding of the information in the MBSA handbook
2026-2027 School Year

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Each student has the right to learn in a safe and secure environment. Inappropriate behavior which adversely affects the learning environment will not be tolerated, and it is essential that the home and school work together to ensure that all students meet the high expectations for behavior established in *The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy Parent, Guardian/Student Handbook*

The Myrtle Beach STEM Academy requires that all students and parents/guardians receive a copy of the parent/student handbook acknowledgement of receipt and agreement to comply form.

Please read and discuss with your child the rules and regulations set forth in the parent/student handbook document. When you have done so, sign this form and return it to your school. **Your signature and that of your child acknowledges receipt of this handbook and that you have read, understood, and consent to the responsibilities outlined in it**

_____ I have read and will abide by the MBSA Honor Code.

_____ I have read and will abide by the MBSA Bullying Intervention Plan.

_____ I have read and will abide by the MBSA Student Handbook.

Student Name - printed

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date
