

Student Code of Conduct Handbook

Grades 5-12

Stow-Munroe Falls High School
Kimpton Middle School
Lakeview Intermediate School



The items in this Code are applicable to all students when properly under the authority of school personnel during a school activity, function, or event, whether on property owned, rented, or maintained by the Stow-Munroe Falls Board of Education or property owned, rented, or maintained by another party. Additionally, the provisions of this Code shall apply to students if the prohibited act(s) takes place while on properties immediately adjacent to school property, within the line of sight of school property, on school transportation, or if the act affects the operation of the schools. The Code also applies to any student misconduct, regardless of where it occurs, directed at a district official or employee or on the private property of that official or employee.

Students and parents will annually receive at the opening of the school year, or upon entering during the year, written information on the rules and regulations to which students are subject while in school or participating in any school-sponsored activity or event. The information will include the types of conduct that will make students liable to suspension or expulsion from school or other forms of disciplinary action. Parents will receive a copy of the student code with the written mandate that compliance is required for all students. Parents will also be informed of the conduct expected of students.

Violation by a student of any one or more of the following rules of conduct may result in disciplinary action(s), which may include detention, deprivation of privileges, parental contact, referral to legal authorities, suspension of driving privileges, emergency removal, disciplinary removal, suspension, expulsion and/or permanent exclusion. A student may be suspended pending the outcome of expulsion proceedings.

A. Academic Dishonesty

A student shall not engage in any act of cheating, plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, including but not limited to the removal and/or change of any school records.

B. Bomb Threat / False Alarm / Causing Panic

Any threat (For example: verbal, written or electronic) by a person to bomb or use other substances or devices for the purpose of exploding, burning, causing damage to a school building or school property, or to harm students or staff is prohibited. Any attempt to create any kind of false alarm (For example: setting off a fire alarm), or any attempt to cancel a school day or school events, or any action that may cause fear or panic is prohibited. This is a mandatory police referral.

C. Bullying / Cyber-bullying / Hazing / Degrading Behavior

A student shall not harass, haze, bully, intimidate, degrade, disgrace, disparage, incite, urge, provoke, threaten, discriminate or cause mental or physical harm by any communication by telephone, mail, broadcast, computer network or by any other electronic device against any other student or school employee or otherwise disrupt the school environment (See Board Policy 5517, 5517.01). For this purpose, harassment, bullying or intimidation includes, but is not limited to, slurs, displaying or sending inappropriate images or text on electronic devices; profanity; written information; stalking; relational aggression; Cyber-bullying; denigrating remarks or actions; obscene gestures. Cyber-bullying is a form of telecommunication harassment and is a chargeable offense.

D. Class Cutting, Punctuality, and Tardiness

All students are expected to be on time for school and for each class, unless illness or a delayed school bus prevents timely attendance at school. Students shall not be absent from all or any portion of the regularly scheduled classes or other mandatory activities without school authorization. A student is considered tardy to first period if he/she is not in his/her assigned seat when the late bell rings.

E. Complicity

A student shall not actively or passively aid, abet, act as an accomplice of and/or otherwise encourage others to violate the rules contained in the Code of Conduct. Violations can be and are not limited to: actions that encourage students to break rules.

F. Computer / Technology Tampering or Inappropriate Use of School Property

A student shall not alter or attempt to alter another individual's data by using their login information, individual computer or computer network system software, place unauthorized information, computer viruses or harmful programs on the system, and disrupt the operation of the individual computer/network in any way (for example: chat-rooms, hate mail, harassment, profanity, vulgar statement, discriminatory remarks, proxy servers, inappropriate sites). Students shall not violate the acceptable use policy of the district. Students found in violation of this article will lose the privilege to use school computers and face school discipline including suspension.

G. Damage to Property

A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property or private property, through improper use or otherwise, on school premises or during school activities conducted on or off school grounds. Restitution will be made by the student(s).

H. Disrespect/Disobedience

Students shall not act so as to intimidate, demean, or otherwise abuse, orally or in writing, any member of the school staff or student body.

I. Disruption of School / Disorderly Conduct

A student shall not cause any disruption of any classroom activity or the operation of the school or the educational process and shall not engage in any act that is potentially harmful to the health, welfare and safety of the student himself/herself, other students, or staff. Actions may include but are not limited to taking a video of an altercation and posting it online that causes a disruption to the educational process.

J. Distribution or Sale of Unauthorized Materials

A student shall not distribute or sell unauthorized materials on school property (For example: students engaged in the trading/selling of personal property, unapproved fundraising, etc.)

K. Dress or Appearance

A student shall not wear clothing that disrupts the educational environment. This includes clothing that overexpose undergarments of any type. Low riding pants and mid-drifts (defined as the belly-button and above), clothing with obscene or suggestive statements or symbols as is any apparel that advertises or promotes sex, drugs, alcohol or tobacco are prohibited. Shoes must be worn at all times. Hats can be worn at building administrator discretion.x

L. Excessive Displays of Affection

Students shall not engage in excessive displays of affection on school property.

M. Failure to Serve School Discipline

Refusing to serve an in-school suspension, misbehavior while serving school discipline, failure to report for assigned detention and/or walking out of the principal or assistant principal's office while discussing or receiving discipline will not be tolerated. The student may be required to serve the original consequence in addition to further disciplinary action.

N. Failure to Accept Discipline or Punishment

Students shall not refuse to accept discipline or punishment assigned from teachers, student teachers, substitute teachers, educational aides, bus drivers, principals, or other appropriate school personnel.

O. Failure to Provide Evidence / Providing False Information

Students are expected to be honest concerning violations of the code of conduct and to assist school officials to establish the truth about a possible violation of the Student Code of Conduct. In establishing the facts concerning an incident, students are expected to cooperate with school officials. Students shall not give, or assist in giving false or fictitious accounts to any school official, staff member, and/or faculty.

P. Firearm Look-a-Likes:

Any item that resembles a firearm but does not have the explosive characteristics of a firearm but may use spring loaded devices or air pressure by which to propel an object or substance (For example: toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, pellet guns) in the school building, school grounds, school property, and at school functions is prohibited. Any possession, use, or threatened use of a look-a-like or counterfeit weapon is prohibited. This violation may result in a police referral.

Q. Gambling

A student shall not engage in any gambling activities, such as playing or gambling for money or other stakes.

R. Insubordination / Defiance

A student shall not refuse to comply with reasonable requests, orders and directions of teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, administrators or other authorized personnel during any period of time when the student is properly under the authority of school personnel. Insubordination includes but is not limited to: disobedience or disrespect toward any staff member, not serving assigned detentions, not following school rules or proper procedures, not following assigned schedule/being in authorized area, chronically tardy to school or class, repeated misbehavior after warning.

S. Intentional Burning

A student shall not act or attempt to act in the burning or attempted burning of any item on school property.

T. Intimidation / Harassment / Menacing

Harassment, intimidation or menacing behavior by any student/school personnel is strictly prohibited (See Board Policy 5517, 5517.01). Intimidation, harassment, or menacing, can mean any intentional written, nonverbal, verbal, graphic or physical act including electronically transmitted acts (For example: through the Internet, cell phone, tablet, or other wireless hand-held device).

These acts can occur either overtly or covertly, by a student or group of students toward other students/school personnel with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule, humiliate or such actions as a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of causing mental or physical harm to the other student/school personnel including placing an individual in reasonable fear of physical harm and/or damaging of students' personal property; and/or, is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student/school personnel.

U. Loitering

A student shall not loiter or delay in any way that may cause disruption of some activity or function. Students must have a ride if planning to leave early. If a student does not have anywhere to go after school he/she can wait in a designated area until no later than one hour at the conclusion of the school day.

V. Misuse of Vehicles on School Property

A student shall not violate the prescribed rules and regulations for use of vehicles on school property or exhibits unsafe vehicle operations on school grounds. This includes parking in the areas identified for visitors, designated parking for persons with disabilities, parking without a parking pass, parking against a yellow curb, parking in unmarked spots. It also includes students who exhibit unsafe vehicle operation such as donuts, speeding, cutting into the bus line, etc. This violation may result in a police referral.

W. Misconduct Away From School

Students who engage in assault or the sale or transmission of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, cocaine, marijuana, or other controlled substance or drug of abuse off school property or at a non-school sponsored or related activity, function, or event, or on school property before or after school may, in accordance with the procedures set forth in Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3313.66, be subject to suspension or expulsion from school if the principal or assistant principal determine that the student's continued presence in the school is reasonably certain to disrupt or interfere with the educational process or endanger the health or safety of the student or others.

X. Multiple Code Violation

A student who accumulates 10 or more days of suspensions in the course of the school year may be recommended for expulsion from school. Serious violations of the Conduct of Student Conduct could result in a recommendation for expulsion before the accumulation of 10 days of suspension.

Y. Profane, Obscene or Vulgar Language / Gestures

A student shall not use profane, obscene or vulgar language or gestures at school, on school buses or while engaged in or present at any school sponsored event or activity or may face consequences.

Z. Prohibited Articles

Any object that in the judgment of the administration disrupts or interferes with the educational process or endangers the health, welfare or safety of students or staff is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, gambling and gambling related items, CD/MP3 players, headphones, TV sets, cell phones, iPods, personal computers, and other electronic devices that disrupts the learning environment. These electronic devices may be confiscated if seen by a staff member if deemed to be disruptive to the learning environment.

AA. Repeated Offenses

A student shall not repeatedly fail to comply with school rules and regulations or directions of teachers, student teachers, teacher aides, principals, or other authorized school personnel. Repeated violations may result in increased severity of the consequence per occurrence.

BB. School Bus Conduct

A student shall not violate the prescribed rules and regulations for student conduct on school buses.

CC. Sexual Harassment / Unwelcomed Sexual Contact

A student shall not sexually harass another student (see Board Policy 5517, 5517.01). Sexual harassment is prohibited between members of the same gender as is sexual harassment between members of different genders. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to: sexual flirtation, touching, advances, or propositions, verbal or physical abuse of a sexual nature, graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body, the use of sexually degrading words to describe an individual, displaying sexually oriented objects or photographs, and/or sexually explicit or obscene jokes. Unwelcome sexual advances, sextortion, requests for sexual favors, other physical or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature, including gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education or work environment (For example: pinching, grabbing, suggestive comments, gestures or jokes or pressure to engage in sexual activity) are prohibited.

DD. Shakedown / Strong Arm / Extortion

A student shall not force another person to give money or articles of value.

EE. Theft

A student shall not attempt to act or act in taking or acquiring of the property of others without their consent. This violation may result in a police referral.

FF. Threat

A student shall not engage in any threatened act of physical violence or force causing, attempting to cause, or threatening to cause physical harm to another. Acts of harassment and hazing may be considered threats as well.

GG. Truancy

A student shall not be absent from school without parental and school approval. Students found in violation will face truancy charges as per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and Summit County Juvenile Court. Both the student and parent will be charged if found in violation.

HH. Unauthorized Bodily Contact (Level 1, 2, 3)

Unauthorized bodily contact of any kind is prohibited. Level 1: Students are pushing, shoving, grasping each other. Level 2: Students have a physical altercation but end altercation on their own. This is a mandatory police referral. Level 3: Students have a physical altercation which requires the intervention of bystanders/school personnel and/or the aggressor engages in an unprovoked attack upon another student. This is a mandatory police referral.

II. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Tobacco Products

Possession, use, or evidence of consumption (for example: smelling of the substance) of tobacco products in the school building, school grounds, school property, and at school functions is prohibited. This includes smokeless tobacco or inhalants, such as e-cigs.

JJ. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Intoxicating Alcoholic Beverages

Possession, sale, use, concealment, transmission, or evidence of consumption (for example: smelling of the substance) of intoxicating beverages is prohibited. Attendance at school sponsored activities when there is evidence of consumption of such a substance is also prohibited.

KK. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Drugs Other Than Tobacco or Alcohol

Use, possession, sale, distribution, or evidence of consumption (for example: smelling of the substance) of any controlled drug other than prescription medication that has been administered in accordance with the district's policies is prohibited. Possession, sale, use, concealment, transmission, or evidence of consumption of intoxicating substances is prohibited including the use of inhalants, drugs, counterfeit or look-a-like drugs while on school property or in attendance at school sponsored activities. This includes the prohibition of any prescription drug or medication which is not possessed by the student in accordance with school policy governing the possession of prescription medication on school grounds.

LL. Vandalism

A student not shall act or attempt to act in a way that results in the destruction or defacement of school property or private property of person or entity if located on school grounds or at a school related activity.

MM. Violation of the Athletic Code of Conduct

A student participating in extra-curricular activities shall not violate the rules and regulations contained in the Student Code of Conduct or in the Athletic Code of Conduct or may face consequences.

NN. Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

A student shall not bring to school, or threaten to bring, to any interscholastic competition or extracurricular event/activity on or off school property, or possess, handle, transmit, or conceal an object capable of injuring himself or others. This includes but is not limited to, knives, regardless of length, multi-tools, explosives, pyrotechnic devices of any kind, and other dangerous weapons or ordinances, including objects made, constructed, or altered so that to a reasonable person the object appears to be a firearm. This is a mandatory police referral.

The following offenses, as defined on the previous pages, shall result in automatic suspension with a possible recommendation for expulsion unless mitigating factors significantly outweigh the necessity for punitive measures. These violations may result in police charges.

C. Bomb Threat / False Alarm / Causing Panic
G. Damage to Property
LL. Vandalism
EE. Theft
S. Intentional Burning
HH. Unauthorized Bodily Contact (Level 1, 2, 3)
B. Bullying / Cyber-bullying / Hazing / Degrading Behavior
DD. Shakedown / Strong Arm / Extortion
NN. Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
II. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Tobacco Products
JJ. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Intoxicating Alcoholic Beverages
KK. Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Drugs Other Than Tobacco or Alcohol

A student is subject to expulsion for one (1) calendar year for the following offenses:

- Bomb threats;
- Bringing a firearm to onto property owned, used or controlled by the Board of Education or to a school activity or program off school property;
- Bringing a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury onto property owned, used or controlled by the Board of Education or to a school activity or program off school property;
- Possessing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury on school property or at a school activity even if the firearm or knife was initially brought to school or a school activity by another person; or
- Any criminal offense that results in serious physical harm a person or serious physical harm to property while the student is at school, at a school activity, or on any other property owned or controlled by the Board of Education.

These offenses may result in police charges.