



# Student Handbook & Code of Conduct 2025-2026

DeRuyter Central School

BOE Approved 8/13/25

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## **DeRuyter Central School Board of Education**

Mrs. Jodi Wiesing, President  
Mr. Daniel DeGear  
Mr. Connor Langevin

Mrs. Lisa Benedict, Vice President  
Mrs. Elizabeth Pierce

### **Superintendent of Schools**

Dr. Neal Capone  
315-852-3400

Ms. Juanita Hayes-Secretary  
315-852-3400 x 7403

### ***Elementary Principal***

Mrs. Jenny Valente  
315-852-3400- x 7122

Mrs. Janene Kascha - Secretary  
315-852-3400 x 7122

### ***Director of Special Education PK-12***

Mrs. Jenny Valente  
315-852-3400 x 7122

Mrs. Janene Kascha- Secretary  
315-852-3400 x 7122

### **Counseling Office**

Mrs. Maureen Alger- Grade 9-12  
315-852-3400 x 7226

Ms. Julia Platt – Grades 5-8  
315-852-3400 x 7225

Mrs. Anne Chesbrough – Grades PK-4  
315-852-3400 x 7130

Mrs. Alexis Flint – Secretary  
315-852-3400 x 7204

### ***Library Media Center***

*Ms. Jennifer Jones– Library Media Specialist*

*Mrs. Rachel Hyde– Library Aide*  
315-852-3400 x 7147

### ***Head Custodian***

*Jody VanDee*  
315-852-3400 x 7301

### **School Business Executive**

Mrs. Amanda Graham-Quirk  
315-852-3400

Mrs. Katy Denkenberger- District Treasurer  
315-852-3400 x 7501

Mrs. Kelly Covert – Accounts Payable  
315-852-3400 x 7108

### **5-12 Principal**

Mr. Stephen Rafferty  
315-852-3400 x 7105

Mrs. Kimberly Stanton - Secretary  
315-852-3400 x 7105

### **School Nurse**

Ms. Jessica Vadala  
315-852-3400 x 7112

### **Special Education Counselors**

Mrs. Janene Kascha- Secretary  
315-852-3400 x 7122

Mr. Andrew Scherrer- School Psychologist  
315-852-3400 x 7125

Ms. Wendy Hutton – Social Worker  
315-852-3400 x 7107

### **Technology Coordinator**

Mrs. Nancy Haws  
315-852-3400 x 7506

### **Cafeteria**

Sarah Snyder – Cook Manager  
315-852-3400 x 7146

### **Transportation Assistant**

Ms. Sarah Rouse  
315-852 3400 x7408

## **Teacher/Staff Members**

<b>PK</b>	Ms. Corrine Parker	
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Mrs. Marley Barber	Ms. Kristine Volles
<b>1st grade</b>	Mrs. Melissa Wheatley	
<b>2nd Grade</b>	Mrs. Karen Nieman	Mrs. Regina Raleigh
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	Mrs. Shala Wykstra	Ms. Kylie Stenger
<b>4th Grade</b>	Mrs. Lisa Hirt	Ms. Linda Ladd
<b>AIS</b>	Mrs. Samantha Fillippi	
	Mrs. Karen West	
	Miss Molly LaHart	
<b>Occupational Therapist</b>	Ms. Justine Shay (BOCES)	
<b>Physical Therapist</b>	Mrs. Jessica Degear (BOCES)	
<b>Special Education Elementary</b>	Mrs. Stacy Inman	Mrs. Destini Door
<b>Speech Therapist</b>	Mrs. Jamie Mody	
<b>Teaching Assistants/Aides (Elementary)</b>		
Mrs. Kathy Cook	Ms. Amanda Cook	Mrs. Michelle McDougal
Mrs. Yvonne Fish	Mrs. Angela Wood	Mr. Alan Ingerto
Mrs. Holly Harris	Mrs. Amy Denkenberger	Mr. Colton Roberts
<b>5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grades</b>	Ms. Sheri Smith	Mr. Colton Mennig
	Mr. Charles Thornton	Mr. Aaron Brown
<b>English</b>	Mrs. Kate Meigs - Grades 7 & 8	
	Ms. Allison Moorhead - Grades 9 & 10	
	Mr. Zachary Miller - Grades 11 & 12	
<b>Social Studies</b>	Mrs. Shannon Forrest – Grades 7 & 8	
	Mr. Christopher Dutcher – Grades 9 & 10	
	Mrs. Donna Barber – Grades 11 & 12	
<b>Science</b>	Ms. Brieann Lohmann – Grades 7 & 10	
	Ms. Jennifer Hull – Grades 8 & 9	
	Mr. David Kempf – Grades 11 & 12	
<b>Mathematics</b>	Mrs. Amy Prince – MS Math	
	Mr. Jared Tiffin – HS Math	
<b>Foreign Language</b>	Spanish – Mrs. Barbara Agazzi-Poncica	ESL – Mrs. Mary Shamblen
<b>Special Education MS/HS</b>	Ms. Julie Arno	Ms. Cassidy Richardson
	Ms. Natalie Staehle	Ms. Meghan Morgan

## Special Area

<b>Ag/Tech</b>	Ms. Taylor Currie		
<b>Art</b>	Mr. Joe Drake (MS/HS)	Mrs. Erin Brown (Elementary-6th)	
<b>Business</b>	Mrs. Marielle Wallace		
<b>Health</b>	Mrs. Melissa Newton		
<b>Instrumental Music</b>	Mrs. Lisa Stearns		
<b>Vocal Music</b>	TBD		
<b>PK-12 Physical Education</b>	Mrs. Jessica Zech Mrs. Jamie Doolittle Mr. Brian Wright		
<b>Security Window</b>	Mrs. Tammy Baker		
<b>Teaching Assistants/Aides (MS/HS)</b>			
Mrs. Bert Ufford	Mrs. Lauren Winters	Mr. Tom Moade	Ms. Emily Spath
Mrs. Judy Stone	Mrs. Piper Proctor	Mr. Brandon Burdick	
<b>Bus Mechanic</b>	Mr. Terry Leete		
<b>Drivers</b>	Mr. Greg Coon Mr. Jason Covert Mrs. Shelley Campbell Mr. Jeff Randall	Ms. Amy Calhoun Mr. James Fuller Mr. Ed Stafford Ms. Michelle Stafford	Mr. Jim Tiffany
<b>Cafeteria Staff</b>			
Ms. Sarah Snyder	Ms. Maureen Pigott	Mrs. Caren Newton	
<b>Head Custodian</b>	Mr. Jody VanDee		
<b>Custodial Staff</b>			
	Miss Madison Leete	Mr. Eric Salisbury	
	Ms. Christine Warner	Mr. Mike Stith	
<b>Groundskeeper</b>	Mr. Travis Baker		

## Grades 5-12 Daily Schedule

Period	Time	Notes
	7:50	First Bell - Students may enter the building
	8:00	Second Bell
1	8:05-8:53	Attendance & Announcements (3-4mins)
2	8:56-9:36	
3	9:39-10:19	
4	10:22-11:00	
Lunch 1 (5A)	11:00-11:30	Lunch 1 (9-12)
Lunch 2 (5B)	11:30-12:00	Lunch 2 (5-8)
6	12:03-12:44	
7	12:47-1:27	
8	1:30-2:11	
9	2:14-2:55	
Tues/Wed	3:00-4:00	After school Study Skills

**NOTE:**

- 8:05am BOCES Bus leaves DeRuyter
- 11:30am BOCES Bus arrives back at DeRuyter
- 11:35am BOCES Bus leaves DeRuyter
- 2:55pm BOCES Bus arrives back at DeRuyter

## Report Card and Progress Report Dates School Year 2025-2026

Marking Period	End Date	Report Cards Home
5 Weeks	10/3/25	10/10/25
10 Weeks	11/7/25	11/14/25
15 Weeks	12/12/25	12/19/25
20 Weeks	1/23/26	1/30/26
25 Weeks	2/27/26	3/6/26
30 Weeks	4/6/26	4/10/26
35 Weeks	5/8/26	5/15/26
40 Weeks	6/16/26	6/30/26

## **Arrival to School Procedures**

Students should not arrive to school before 7:50am due to lack of supervision. If students arrive prior to the 7:50 bell, they should wait in the front foyer until the bell rings.

## **End of the Day Dismissal Procedures**

For the safety of all of our students and our bus drivers, students that walk/drive or are being picked up by an adult will not be dismissed/leave school property until after all buses have left the school property. Listed below you will find times of when various classes will be loading the buses and also the dismissal time for all walkers and student drivers.

- PK-K will be dismissed at 2:50pm
- Grades 1 - 4 students will be dismissed at 2:52pm
- Grades 5-12 will be dismissed at 2:55pm
- The buses will leave promptly at 3:00pm

All walkers in grades PK-4 should report to the small gym to be signed out by a parent/guardian. All walkers in grades 5 & 6 should report to the LMC to be signed out by a parent/guardian. All walkers and student drivers in grades 7-12 should report to the cafeteria upon dismissal. All 5-12 walkers and student drivers will be dismissed after all school busses have departed school property (by about 3:05pm).

## **Student Dismissal Precautions**

The Principal in the District shall maintain lists of individuals who are authorized to obtain the release of students in attendance at the school. No student may be released in the custody of any individual who is not the parent or guardian of the student unless the individual's name appears on the student's emergency card.

Parents or guardians may submit a list of individuals authorized to obtain the release of their children from school at the time of the child's enrollment. A parent or guardian may amend, in writing, a list submitted pursuant to this procedure at any time.

Certified copies of any court order or divorce decrees provided by the custodial parent/guardian, which restrict a parent's/guardian's ability to seek the release of his/her child shall be maintained by the Principal. Individuals seeking the release from school of a student must report to the appropriate School Office and present identification deemed satisfactory by the school Principal. The Principal/designee must check the authorized list and relevant court orders or divorce decrees before a student may be released.

The Principal/designee may release a student to an individual not appearing on the approved list only if the Principal/designee has determined that an emergency exists and the parent or guardian has been personally contacted by the Principal/designee and has approved the release.

- Students in grades PK-4 should see their principal, Mrs. Jenny Valente. Students in grades 5-12 should see Mr. Stephen Rafferty. Of course, if one is not available, students may seek the assistance of the other principal.



## Emergency School Closings

In the case of an emergency school closing we will contact 93 Q, 92.1, 94.5, 101.5, 104.7, 106.9, 107.9, 570, 620, 920, WIXT –9, WTVH-5, WSTM-3 with all emergency closing information. Please do not call the school. This information will also be listed on the school website (<http://deruytercentral.org/>.) and the school's Facebook page. In addition to posting this information on TV stations and listing them with radio stations, the DeRuyter Central School District utilizes ParentSquare. We will use this communication platform to notify you of school delays, closings, emergency early closings and cancelation of after school activities. In order for this system to work effectively, we must have up to date contact information in our system. **Please remember to contact us throughout the school year if there are any changes in your phone numbers or email addresses.**

# CODE OF CONDUCT

## MISSION STATEMENT

The DeRuyter Central School District, in partnership with parents and the community, will educate and empower all students to embrace a passion for learning while developing into respectful, productive members of society.

**The DeRuyter Central School District is a community of learners with responsibility to one another. The purpose of the school district is teaching and learning. We are all responsible for ensuring an environment in which teachers can teach and students can learn. As members of this educational community students, teachers, staff members, parents and the community share in the responsibility of fostering a respectful environment in which teaching and learning are paramount.**

**Students of the DeRuyter Central School District have the right to a free, appropriate public education. In addition, students have all other rights afforded to students under the provisions of the Federal and State Constitutions and the laws of the State of New York. Athletic and co-curricular participation is not a right but a privilege. Therefore, students may be held to certain behavioral standards in order to maintain the privilege of participation.**

**Students of the DeRuyter Central School District have the responsibility to attend school as prescribed by New York State Law. While in school, a student shall not act in a manner which invades the rights of others, or which causes disorder and disrupts the educational process.**

*To improve security at DCS, surveillance cameras may be located in common areas including hallways, stairwells, gymnasiums, parking lots, and the cafeteria. Surveillance cameras will not be placed in classrooms or areas where students and staff would have an expectation of privacy.*

## Definitions

**For the purposes of this code, the following definitions apply:**

### ***Cyberbullying***

A form of bullying which occurs via electronic communication, including but not limited to, the use of cell phones, e-mail, YouTube, chat rooms or social networking (or other electronic modalities) to harass, threaten, or intimidate someone and can be transmitted by video, pictures or words. Types of cyber bullying can include but are not limited to: posting, sending or forwarding inappropriate or derogatory messages or images, spam, viruses, humiliating messages, sharing private information, sending hateful or defamatory remarks that can include racial, ethnic or homophobic messages or posting or contributing to polling sites.

Cyber-bullying involving district students may occur both on campus and off-school grounds and may involve student use of the District Internet system or student use of personal digital devices including but not limited to: cell phones, digital cameras, personal computers, electronic tools.

Cyber-bullying that occurs off-campus that causes or threatens to cause a material or substantial disruption in the school could result in formal discipline by school officials. Such conduct could also be subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and possible referral to local law enforcement authorities.

***Disability***

(a) a physical, mental or medical impairment resulting from anatomical, physiological, genetic or neurological conditions which prevents the exercise of a normal bodily function or is demonstrable by medically accepted clinical or laboratory diagnostic techniques or (b) a record of such an impairment or (c) a condition regarded by others as such an impairment, provided, however, that in all provisions of this article dealing with employment, the term must be limited to disabilities which, upon the provision of reasonable accommodations, do not prevent the complainant from performing in a reasonable manner the activities involved in the job or occupation sought or held.

***Discrimination***

Discrimination against any student by a student or students and/or employee or employees on school property or at a school function including, but not limited to, discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or sex.

***Disruptive Student***

An elementary or secondary student under the age of 21 who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.

***Employee***

Any person receiving compensation from a school district or employee of a contracted service provider or worker placed within the school under a public assistance employment program, pursuant to title Nine-B of Article Five of the Social Services Law, and consistent with the provisions of such title for the provision of services to such district, its students or employees, directly or through contract, whereby such services performed by such person involve direct student contact.

***Gender***

Actual or perceived sex and includes a person's gender identity or expression.

***Gender Expression***

The manner in which a person represents or expresses gender to others, often through his or her behavior, clothing, hairstyle, activities, voice or mannerisms.

***Gender Identity***

One's self-conception as being male or female, as distinguished from actual biological sex or sex assigned at birth.

***Harassment and/or Bullying***

The creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that either (1) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being, including conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably expect to cause emotional harm; or (2) reasonably causes or would reasonably expect to cause physical injury to a student or to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.

Such conduct shall include acts of harassment and/or bullying that occur:

- (i) on school property; and/or
- (ii) at a school function

- (iii) off school property where such acts create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property.

For the purpose of this Code, the term “threats, intimidation or abuse” shall include verbal and non-verbal actions. For the purposes of this Code, “emotional harm” that takes place in the context of “harassment and/or bullying” means to harm a student’s emotional well-being through creation of a hostile school environment that is so severe or pervasive as to unreasonably and substantially interfere with a student’s education.

Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to acts based on a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or sex.

### ***Hazing***

An induction, initiation or membership process involving harassment which produces public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule or creates a situation where public humiliation, physical or emotional discomfort, bodily injury or public ridicule is likely to occur. Hazing includes, but is not limited to, induction, initiation or membership processes organized by groups, clubs and athletic teams.

### ***Illegal Substances***

Illegal drugs and inhalants, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, barbiturates, ecstasy, heroin, steroids, look a-like drugs (including but not limited to synthetic cannabinoids), any substances commonly referred to as “designer” drugs, prescription or over-the-counter drugs when possession or use is unauthorized or such are inappropriately used or shared with others, or any product which, when misused, will result in an impaired or altered state.

### ***Lockers***

Lockers are provided by the school for student use and the administration has the right to search lockers. A student may have exclusive use of the locker as far as other students are concerned, but he/she does not have such exclusivity over the locker as it relates to school authorities.

### ***Parent***

A parent, guardian or person in parental relation to a student.

### ***Material Incident of Harassment, Bullying and/or Discrimination***

A single verified incident or a series of related verified incidents where a student is subjected to harassment, bullying and/or discrimination by a student and/or employee on school property or at a school function. In addition, such term shall include a verified incident or series of related incidents of harassment or bullying that occur off school property, and is the subject of a written or oral complaint to the Superintendent, Principal, or their designee, or other school employee. Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, sex or any other legally protected status.

### ***School Bus***

Every motor vehicle owned by a public or governmental agency or private school and operated for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity, to or from school or school activities, or, privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of pupils, children of pupils, teachers and other persons acting in a supervisory capacity to or from school or school activities.

**School Function**

A school-sponsored extra-curricular event or activity

**School Property**

In or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or secondary school, or in or on a school bus.

**School Zone**

School owned/controlled property and buildings, school vehicles and school sponsored activities

- While students are in the school zone, the school has an obligation to keep all students safe. When a student leaves the school zone, the school's obligation ends, however, the school's rights to investigate incidents continues.

**Sexual Orientation**

Actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality

**Tobacco Products**

Any lighted or unlighted cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, clove cigarette, herbal tobacco product or any other smoking product; smokeless tobacco in any form (including but not limited to chewing tobacco, dip, or snuff); any electronic cigarette or vaping device (including but not limited to e-cigarettes, Juul devices, vaporizers, vape pens and chemical substances used with such devices); or any other simulated tobacco products that imitate or mimic tobacco products; as well as matches, lighters and related paraphernalia.

**Under the Influence**

A student shall be considered "Under the Influence" if he or she has consumed any quantity of a prohibited or illegal substance or alcohol within a time period reasonably proximate to his/her presence on school property, on a school bus, in a school vehicle, or at a school-sponsored function and/or exhibits symptoms of such use as to lead to the reasonable conclusion of such consumption.

**Violent student**

A student under the age of 21 whom:

1. Commits an act of physical or verbal violence with a school employee or attempts to do so.
2. Commits, while on school property or at a school function, an act of physical or verbal violence with another student or any other person lawfully on school property or at the school function, or attempts to do so.
3. Possesses, while on school property or at a school function, a weapon.
4. Displays, while on school property or at a school function, what appears to be a weapon.
5. Threatens, while on school property or at a school function, to use a weapon.
6. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys the personal property of any school employee, or any person lawfully on school property or at a school function.
7. Knowingly and intentionally damages or destroys school district property.

**Weapon**

A firearm as defined in 18 USC 921 for purposes of the Gun-Free School Act, and any device, instrument, material or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for or is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury; and any other gun, pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle, machine gun, disguised gun, BB gun, starter gun, pellet gun, dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, switchblade knife, gravity knife, pocket knife with a blade of at least 2.5 inches, pen knife or other knife, brass knuckles, sling

shot, metal knuckle knife, box cutters, cane sword, electronic dart gun, kung fu star, electronic stun gun, pepper spray or other noxious spray, explosive or incendiary bomb, look alike false weapons or other devices, instruments, materials, or substances ("Other items") that can cause physical injury or death when used to cause physical injury or death or, when such "other items" are brandished as a weapon.

# **Essential Partners of DeRuyter Central School**

## ***Parents***

All parents are expected to:

- Recognize that the education of their child(ren) is a joint responsibility of the parents and the school community.
- Send their child(ren) to school ready to participate and learn.
- Ensure their child(ren) attend school regularly and on time.
- Ensure absences are legal excuses.
- Insist their child(ren) be dressed and groomed in a manner consistent with the student dress code.
- Help their child(ren) understand that in a democratic society appropriate rules are required to maintain a safe, orderly environment.
- Know school rules and help their child(ren) understand them.
- Convey to their child(ren) a supportive attitude toward education and the district.
- Build good relationships with teachers, other parents and their child (ren's) friends.
- Help their child(ren) deal effectively with peer pressure.
- Inform school officials of changes in the home situation that may affect student conduct or performance.
- Provide a place for study and ensure homework assignments are completed.
- Teach their children respect and dignity for themselves, and their peers regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression), or sex, which will strengthen the child's confidence and promote learning in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act.

## ***Teachers***

All district teachers are expected to:

- Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students and colleagues regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) or sex, with the intent of strengthening students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn
- Be prepared to teach.
- Demonstrate interest in teaching and concern for student achievement.
- Know school policies and rules, and enforce them in a fair and consistent manner.
- Communicate to students and parents:
  - (1) Course objectives and requirements
  - (2) Marking/grading procedures
  - (3) Assignment deadlines
  - (4) Expectations of students
  - (5) Classroom discipline plan

- Communicate regularly with students, parents and other teachers concerning growth and achievement.
- Develop classroom routines that support school rules and regulations.
- Work closely with support staff in order to assist students exhibiting disruptive behavior.
- Inform administration of students exhibiting disruptive behavior and keep administration apprised of developments.
- Report incidents of discrimination and harassment that are witnessed in a timely manner.

### ***Pupil Personnel Services***

Pupil Personnel Staff are expected to:

- Assist students in coping with peer pressure and emerging personal, social and emotional problems.
- Initiate teacher/student/counselor conferences and parent/teacher/student/counselor conferences, as necessary, as a way to resolve problems.
- Regularly review with students their educational progress and career plans.
- Provide information to assist students with career planning.
- Encourage students to benefit from the curriculum and extracurricular programs.
- Provide to staff essential information on the needs of individual students.
- Confront issues of discrimination and harassment or any situation that threatens the emotional or physical health or safety of any student, school employee or any person who is lawfully on school property or at a school function.
- Address personal biases that may prevent equal treatment of all students in the school or classroom setting.
- Report incidents of discrimination and harassment that are witnessed in a timely manner.

### ***Building Administration***

Building Administrators are expected to:

- Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students, staff and colleagues regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) or sex, with the intent of strengthening students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn
- Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning.
- Ensure that students and staff have the opportunity to communicate regularly with the Principal and approach the Principal for redress of issues.
- Evaluate on a regular basis all instructional programs.
- Support the development of and student participation in appropriate extracurricular activities.
- Be responsible for enforcing the Code of Conduct and ensuring that all cases are resolved promptly and fairly.



## **Superintendent**

The Superintendent is expected to:

- Maintain a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students and employees of the district regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) or sex, with the intent of strengthening students' self-concept and promote confidence to learn
- Promote a safe, orderly and stimulating school environment, supporting active teaching and learning.
- Review with district administrators the policies of the Board of Education and state and federal laws relating to school operations and management.

## **Board of Education**

The Board of Education is expected to:

- Collaborate with students, teachers, administrators, and parent organizations, school safety personnel and other school personnel to develop a code of conduct that clearly defines expectations of the conduct of students, district personnel and visitors on school property and at school functions.
- Adopt and review at least annually the district's code of conduct to evaluate the code's effectiveness and the fairness and consistency of its implementation.
- Lead by example by conducting Board meetings in a professional, respectful, courteous manner.

## **District Procedural Chart**

When you have questions or concerns, please follow the steps below in order to get your questions and concerns addressed in the most efficient manner. Thank you.

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
Academic Difficulties	Sec: Teacher Elem: Teacher	Sec: Guidance Office Elem: Principal	Sec: Principal Elem: Superintendent	Superintendent
Academic Scheduling	Sec: Guidance Office Elem: Teacher	Sec: Principal Elem: Principal	Superintendent	
Academic Curriculum	Teacher	Principal	Superintendent	
Athletics	Coach	Athletic Director	Sec: Principal	Superintendent
Student Behavior	Teacher	Guidance	Principal	Superintendent
School Budget	Business Administrator	Superintendent		
Building Use	Principal	Superintendent		
Classroom Procedures	Teacher	Principal	Superintendent	
Co-Curricular Activities	Advisor	Principal	Superintendent	
Medical	School Nurse	Principal	Superintendent	
Special Education	Teacher	CSE Chairperson	Principal	Superintendent
Transportation	Bus Driver	Head Mechanic	Principal	Superintendent
Board of Education Policy	Principal	Superintendent	Board of Education	

“Sec” – Secondary (MS: Grades 6-8 or HS: Grades 9-12)

“Elem” – Elementary (Grades PK-5)

**Subject: COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES BY STUDENTS****Policy: 7550**

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• While students have the responsibility to abide by the policies and regulations of the District, they shall also be afforded opportunity to present complaints and grievances free from interference, coercion, restraint, discrimination or reprisal. Administration shall be responsible for:

- Establishing rules and regulations for the redress of complaints or grievances through proper administration channels;
- Developing an appeals process;
- Ensuring that students have full understanding and access to these regulations and procedure; and
- Providing prompt consideration and determination of student complaints and grievances.

**Complaints and Grievances Coordinator**

• In addition, students and parents/guardians will receive annual notification of the District's established grievance procedures for resolving complaints of discrimination based on sex or disability. This notice shall include the name, address and telephone number of the Title IX, Section 504, ADA Coordinator.

• The Title IX, Section 504, ADA Coordinator shall also be responsible for handling complaints and grievances regarding discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, political affiliation, age or marital status.

*Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,  
42 United States Code (U.S.C.)  
Section 2000-e, et seq. – Prohibits discrimination on  
the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin.*

*Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,  
42 United States Code (U.S.C.)  
Section 2000-d, et seq. – Prohibits discrimination on  
the basis of race, color or national origin.*

*Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973,  
29 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 794 et seq.*

*The Americans With Disabilities Act,  
42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 12101 et seq. -  
Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability.*

(Continued)

**Subject: COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES BY STUDENTS****Policy: 7550**

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*Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972,  
20 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1681 et seq. –  
Prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex.*

*New York State Executive Law  
Section 290 et seq. - Prohibits discrimination on the  
basis of age, race, creed, color, national  
origin, sex, disability or marital status.*

*Age Discrimination in Employment Act,*

*29 United States Code Section 621.*

**NOTE:** Refer also to Policy #3420 -- Anti-Harassment in the School District.

**DeRuyter Central School**  
**Title IX Notice**

DeRuyter Central School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, natural origin and prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations, including employment.

Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to DeRuyter Central School's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both. DeRuyter Central School's Title IX Coordinator is Amanda Graham-Quirk, Business Executive, 711 Railroad St., DeRuyter, NY 13052, [grahamquirk@deruytercentral.org](mailto:grahamquirk@deruytercentral.org), 315-852-3400 xt, 7502.

DeRuyter Central School's nondiscrimination policy and grievance procedures can be located at [www.deruytercentral.org](http://www.deruytercentral.org).

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under the Title IX, please refer to [www.deruytercentral.org](http://www.deruytercentral.org), or contact the Title IX Coordinator, Amanda Graham-Quirk

## **General Student Behavioral Guidelines**

DCS has three district wide expectations for all students and staff

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe

The matrices that follow provide descriptions of what those expectations look and sound like across educational settings. They serve as a general guideline to help everyone understand how to meet these expectations.

## PK-4 School Wide Expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe

	HALLWAY	CAFETERIA	OUTSIDE	RESTROOM	CLASSROOM	TECHNOLOGY	BUS
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	<p>Follow adult directions</p> <p>Use quiet voices</p> <p>Hands at your sides</p> <p>Observe hallway decorations with your eyes</p>	<p>Follow adult directions</p> <p>Wait your turn in the line</p> <p>Use quiet voices</p> <p>Use your manners (please, thank you)</p>	<p>Follow adult directions</p> <p>Take turns on playground equipment</p> <p>Include everyone</p>	<p>Knock on door</p> <p>Use quiet voices</p> <p>Give others privacy</p>	<p>Follow classroom expectations and adult directions</p> <p>Make your own best choices</p> <p>Help others</p>	<p>Use equipment as intended</p> <p>Use kind words and actions when communicating via technology</p>	<p>Follow adult directions</p> <p>Use polite language</p> <p>Use a quiet voice</p>
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	<p>Keep hallways clean</p> <p>Keep lockers/hooks organized</p> <p>Go directly to your destination</p>	<p>Raise hand for help</p> <p>Help clean up</p> <p>Discard trash in trash can and return tray</p>	<p>Keep playground clean</p> <p>Line up at signal</p>	<p>Flush toilet after use</p> <p>Turn off faucets</p> <p>Dispose of trash in garbage can</p> <p>Return to room promptly</p> <p>Report problems to an adult</p>	<p>Work the whole time</p> <p>Get started right away</p> <p>Take care of materials</p> <p>Ignore distractions</p>	<p>Take care of your device</p> <p>Check your login information</p>	<p>Be on time</p> <p>Take care of belongings</p> <p>Keep bus clean</p>
<b>BE SAFE</b>	<p>Walk</p> <p>Keep eyes forward</p> <p>Stay to the right</p> <p>Use handrail on stairs</p>	<p>Eat your own food</p> <p>Walk</p> <p>Stay seated</p> <p>Put unwanted, unopened food on share table</p>	<p>Walk to and from playground/annex</p> <p>Use crosswalks</p> <p>Stay within playground boundaries and use equipment as intended</p> <p>Leave mulch on ground</p>	<p>Keep feet on floor</p> <p>Keep water in sink</p> <p>Wash hands</p>	<p>Use materials and supplies as intended</p>	<p>Be on appropriate and approved websites only</p> <p>See something, say something to an adult</p> <p>Keep personal information private</p>	<p>Stay seated in your assigned seat</p> <p>Hands, feet and belongings to self</p> <p>Ask for help if needed</p> <p>Watch for driver's signal before crossing</p>

## 5-12 School Wide Expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe

	HALLWAY	CAFETERIA	Athletic Fields/Recess	RESTROOM	CLASSROOM	TECHNOLOGY	BUS
<b>BE RESPECTFUL</b>	Follow adult directions  Use quiet voices  Use Quiet Language  Give others personal space	Follow adult directions  Wait your turn in the line  Use quiet voices  Use your manners	Follow adult directions  Demonstrate fairness  Display good sportsmanship	Knock on stall doors  Give others privacy  Use quiet voices	Follow classroom expectations and adult directions  Take care of yourself  Take care of others	Use equipment as intended  Use kind words and actions when communicating via technology	Follow adult directions  Use polite language  Use a quiet voice
<b>BE RESPONSIBLE</b>	Keep hallways clean  Keep lockers organized  Go directly to your destination	Help clean up  Recycle	Clean up  Put equipment away  Take your belongings with you	Flush toilet after use  Turn off faucets  Dispose of trash in garbage can  Return to room promptly  Report problems to an adult	Be in school and on time  Be prepared  Make the most of your learning time  Take care of the space	Be aware of your surroundings  Use equipment and tools as intended  Ask permission to leave and use a pass	Be on time  Take care of belongings  Keep bus clean
<b>BE SAFE</b>	Walk  Stay to the right  Keep hands to yourself	Eat your own food  Put unwanted, unopened food on share table  Give others personal space	Wear appropriate footwear and clothing  Use equipment as intended  Be aware of your surroundings	Wash hands	Use materials and supplies as intended	Be on appropriate/approved websites  See something, say something to an adult  Keep personal information private	Stay seated in your assigned seat  Hands, feet and belongings to self  Ask for help if needed  Watch for driver's signal before crossing

# MS/HS Study Hall Expectations

## **Be Respectful:**

- Follow adult directions
- Take care of yourself
- Take care of others
- Use quiet voices

## **Be Responsible:**

- Be on time
- Be prepared: Bring school/homework or a book to read, your agenda and a pen/pencil.
- Make the most of your learning time
- Take care of the space

## **Be Safe:**

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Use equipment and tools as intended
- Ask permission to leave and use a pass:
  - Must have a pre-signed pass to go to a teacher's classroom
  - 5 students may go to the LMC (pre-signed pass given priority)
  - One student at a time for locker/bathroom

A student may be subjected to disciplinary action when the student does not comply with these Behavioral Guidelines for DCS:

Public displays of affection are not appropriate behaviors in an educational setting. The following are examples, but not limited to arm in arm, hugging, kissing, sitting on laps, or other displays viewed as disruptive to the educational process. This rule applies before, during and after school, on the buses, and at all school functions.

Backpacks/Book Bags (of all sizes) will be stored in lockers between 7:50am and 2:55pm.

## Visitors to School

We really enjoy having parents and guests visit school especially on special occasions like assemblies, birthday parties, and plays. Our policy states that if you wish to visit school that you make an appointment to see your child's teacher. Unannounced visitors disrupt the flow of the classroom and teaching.

If you do not have an appointment, we respectfully request that you not "stop" in to see your child. Their days are very busy and learning is our first mission. If you would like to have lunch with your child, those arrangements can be made on an occasional basis. Please call the office to make these arrangements.

For the safety of your children, all visitors must report to the Security Office and present identification (Driver's license, or non-drivers NYS ID Card) which will be scanned on our Raptor System. Once your identification has been verified, you will be asked to sign in and will receive a visitor's pass. Violators may be charged with criminal trespass. No student is allowed to bring small children to school, and as a general rule, no guests are allowed during the school day. Thank you for respecting our policy and procedures.

## Transportation

Bus safety is a prime consideration. The drivers will enforce all rules set up for pupils' safety. Your cooperation is necessary. Remember, distraction of the bus driver may cause an accident.

### ***Consequences of bus misconduct***

Any inappropriate acts on the bus can cause harm or injury. The following consequences are put in place as guidelines and are subject to change depending on the conduct and act. Actions that place the driver or other students in danger will result in suspension in or out of school.

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	Warning to student and contact home
2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	2 days of lunch detention and contact home
3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	2 days after school detention, phone call and/or parent conference
4 <sup>th</sup> Offense	3 days bus suspension, parent conference
5 <sup>th</sup> Offense	5 days bus suspension, parent conference
6 <sup>th</sup> Offense	Principal's decision

Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. With privileges comes responsibility and obeying the rules of the bus is vital. Students suspended from the bus will be expected to attend school, and the responsibility of getting to school falls on the parents.

The above may be increased depending on the severity of the offense.



## ***Late Bus Procedures***

For the majority of the school year, a late bus is offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays for the following activities:

***Tuesdays & Wednesdays-After School Study Skills.*** The purpose of study skills is for students to receive extra help, work on projects, and participate in school related activities. It is mandatory for students on the Fail 1 (must attend two) and Fail 2 (until off) lists.

***Tuesdays & Thursdays-After School Detention.*** Please see page 61 for more information on detention.

***Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday-After School Enrichment.*** Enrichment is open to all K-12 students and offers opportunities for further after school exploration on interests and/or activities.

After school study skills, detention, and Enrichment begin immediately after dismissal and conclude at 4:00pm. To ride the late bus, a student needs to sign up in the 5-12 Main Office no later than 1:00p.m. This is to allow the scheduling of the appropriate number and size of buses.

The first time a student fails to sign up for the late bus or is not with a teacher from 3:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. he or she will receive a warning. If the problem continues to occur, they may be denied transportation.

## ***Bus Passes***

Requests for bus passes or changes for PK-4 students must go to Mrs. Kascha in the Elementary office before 1:00 p.m. to effectively coordinate timely messages to the homeroom teachers, bus drivers, and parties involved. Similarly, bus passes for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students should go Mrs. Stanton in the 5-12 main office before 1:00p.m.

## ***Driving to BOCES***

Only students who have completed the approval process for OCM BOCES may drive themselves to the BOCES Campus. Students may lose the privilege if they drive other students to BOCES, leave campus without permission prior to the release time for BOCES and lose their privilege to park on campus. School transportation is provided for students in all BOCES programs.

## ***Transportation to Special Events***

When students leave DeRuyter on a school bus to attend a function, they will travel back to DeRuyter on that bus. As an exception, chaperones may release students only to their parents. For any other transportation arrangements, permission slips must be turned in to the office before the event, with approval by parent and administrator to follow.

## ***Student-Driven Vehicles***

Students requesting permission to drive to school must obtain a permit from the High School Office to register their vehicle and park on school grounds. Seniors **only** may park in the designated 15 spots designated for student drivers. Students who drive in an unsafe manner on or around school property will lose privileges and may be reported to the authorities.

**NOTE: If you do not receive a parking permit, you cannot park on school property.**

### ***Hall Passes***

A pass given to a student is a privilege. Students will go only where the pass gives them the privilege of going. During class periods, students are not to be in the halls without a pass.

If for some reason a teacher detains a student for a short time after class, causing late arrival to the next class, it is the student's responsibility to obtain a pass from this teacher. No pass is valid unless the teacher issuing the pass has signed it, along with the date, time, destination and place where the student came from.

The middle school/high school office, guidance office, or nurse's office will not issue passes for tardiness to class that is within the student's control.

### ***Lockers***

The school district loans a corridor locker to each student in grades 5-12 during the school year. Lockers and combinations are assigned in the fall. The school reserves the right to inspect lockers at any time. It is the student's responsibility to maintain his/her own locker. Students should not place stickers on the inside or outside of their lockers. The cost of repairing a damaged locker will be charged to the student at the end of the year. Students should use the lockers loaned to them and not exchange them with other students. The school cannot be responsible for articles that are reported lost or stolen from lockers, classrooms, or other areas of the building. Storing valuables in lockers is not advisable.

## **Academic Integrity**

Honesty is assumed and expected in all academic endeavors, be it homework assignments, routine essay assignments, quizzes, tests or major research projects. All work submitted by students should be a true reflection of their effort and ability. Any form of cheating, be it as simple as offering or accepting homework assignments or as serious as intentional plagiarism\* will NOT be tolerated. It is our intention to be sure that our students understand the seriousness of academic dishonesty prior to leaving high school and the impacts it will have on them.

Direct evidence of academic dishonesty will be addressed in the following ways:

### ***Homework Assignments***

- A single episode of receiving or providing direct assistance; failure on the assignment in question and further consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct
- Continued practice; Conference with principal and parent and further consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct

***Quizzes, Essay Assignments, Exams, Projects, Research Papers, Etc.*** (For receiving or providing assistance)

- A single episode:
  - a. Automatic failure on the quiz, essay, exam, project, research paper, etc.
  - b. Parental conference at the discretion of the teacher
  - c. Further consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct
- A second or continued episode:
  - a. Conference with Principal and Parent
  - b. Automatic failures in the assignments in question or may result in failure of the grading quarter course – at the discretion and agreement of both the teacher and the principal
  - c. Further consequences as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct

**\* *Plagiarism: The use of words or ideas of another person without adequate acknowledgement***

A teacher suspecting intentional plagiarism may follow either or both of the following procedures:

- Request cited source material from the student
- Independently research cited source material for comparative purposes

Students must present source materials that they use in preparing essays, reports, research papers, etc. Failure to present source materials will be taken as an admission of plagiarism.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

AI is a powerful tool that can offer numerous educational benefits and opportunities for personal growth. However, it must be used responsibly and ethically. By using AI technologies, students agree to abide by the rules and principles set forth in this policy.

AI is not a substitute for schoolwork that requires original thought. Students may not claim AI generated content as their own work. The use of AI to take tests, complete assignments, create multimedia projects, write papers, or complete schoolwork without permission of a teacher or administrator is strictly prohibited. The use of AI for these purposes constitutes cheating or plagiarism, with students facing disciplinary consequences as outlined in this Student Code of Conduct.

In certain situations, AI may be used as a learning tool or a study aid. Students who wish to use AI for legitimate purposes must have permission from a teacher or an administrator. Students may use AI as authorized in their individualized Education Program (IEP).

Students may not use AI, including AI image or voice generator technology, to violate school rules. In order to ensure academic integrity, tests, assignments, projects, papers, and other schoolwork may be checked by AI content detectors and/or plagiarism recognition software.

The establishment of a cheating record in a student's file may have long-term consequences. For examples, should a student ask a teacher, counselor, or administrator to write a letter of recommendation for the student for college admission or scholarship, the person may decline based on the cheating episode. In addition, the "Common College Application" form used by many colleges and universities asks:

"Has the applicant been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at your school, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in the applicant's probation, suspension, removal, dismissal, or expulsion from your institutions?" What impact do you think a "Yes" answer would have on your chances of acceptance?

## Grading Policy

### ***Homework:***

At DeRuyter Central School, we believe that learning is a three-way partnership among students, parents/guardians, and the school. Homework is an integral part of that partnership. We believe that homework provides opportunities for development of self-discipline, responsibility, time-management, and organizational skills. It is important that homework reinforces and complements the work students do in school. The amount of homework students receive should reflect the stage at which they are in their schooling and in their personal and academic development.

- It is expected that homework will be carefully and neatly completed by the date indicated by your teacher.
- All homework completed and handed in will be evaluated.
- Late homework assignments will be accepted, but may accrue less credit than otherwise may have been earned or no credit at all.

### ***Incompletes:***

- An Incomplete (I) is a grade given if a faculty member believes the student deserves additional time to complete a test, assignment, project, etc.
- Incompletes must be given in instances where the work is missing due to a medically excused absence. Incompletes must be satisfied within 5 weeks or the grade becomes an "F" or 50.
- Students who receive incomplete grades will not have their grades calculated for Honor Roll purposes.

### ***On-Line Courses:***

All costs incurred are the sole responsibility of the student.

Credit from an on-line course may be earned by a student enrolled at DeRuyter Central Schools only if:

- The course is not offered at DeRuyter Central School and
  - No appropriate course is available in the curriculum area
- OR
- The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction related to a health-related or disabling condition
  - The student has been expelled from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued.

In all cases approval for such an on-line course must be granted by the appropriate teacher, Guidance Office, and the Principal.

Students applying for permission to take an on-line course will do the following:

- Complete pre-requisites, possess a minimum GPA of 85, and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in an on-line learning environment;
- Obtain written approval of the Principal before enrolling in an on-line course;
- Adhere to the DeRuyter Central School code of conduct to include rules of behavior and consequences for violations;

### ***Post-Completion***

- On-line courses will appear on student's transcript but will not be counted towards GPA.

**Calculation of Final Grades for Students in Grades 6-12:**

*Ten-Week Courses-* Take the averages of the 10 week marking period, multiply by four (4), add the final exam and divide by five (5).

*Twenty-Week Courses-* Add the average of the two marking periods, multiply by two (2), add the final exam and divide by five (5).

*Forty-Week Courses-* Add the averages of the four (4) marking periods, add the final exam and divide by five (5).

A passing grade is a 65 for students in grades 6-12.

Fifty (50) is the lowest grade that may be recorded on report cards for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> marking periods; however, for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of a semester course the lowest grade given will be a 50 and the actual grade will be given for the second quarter. If a 50 is given, and it represents a lower grade, the following comment will be included on the report cards "Actual grade lower than grade indicated". The 50's for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> marking periods will be averaged in determining final averages. Actual student grades will be reported for all interim grades (i.e., 5, 15, 25 and 35 week grades) and for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grades.

**Calculation of Grade Point Averages:**

When calculating Cumulative Grade Point Averages (CGPA), grades for honor classes will be weighted 1.05 and advanced placement/concurrent enrollment classes will be weighted 1.10.

Weighted averages will be used when calculating Valedictorian and Salutatorian, honor rolls, National Honor Society selection, and class rank.

**Adding or Dropping a Course:**

Every student is required to carry 5 1/2 credits including Physical Education and no course may be dropped if it leaves a student enrolled in fewer than 5 1/2 credits. Changes to schedules must be made by the end of the first week of school.

Students who choose to drop courses after the first week of school:

- Must have valid reasons for dropping
- May not drop prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the marking period (with the exception of changes made by the end of the first week of school)
- May not drop a course after the 10<sup>th</sup> week of marking period (on an individual basis, courses may be dropped at the Principal's discretion)
- A "Request for Schedule Change" form is completed properly and meets the approval of parents, teachers, principal and guidance. If a course is dropped after the first ten (10) weeks, then a "Drop" will be reflected on their report card and transcript.
- Students must follow their original schedule until they receive an approved new schedule from guidance

# Homework Policy

## ***Purpose of Homework***

- Reinforce school learning by practicing for mastery and application of basic skill.
- Provides extension of the school day and learning.
- Strengthens the home and school connection.
- Provides opportunities for development of self-discipline, responsibility, time management and organizational skills.

## ***Partners in the Homework Process***

We share the understanding that homework is an essential part of learning and school success.

## ***Student's Responsibilities***

- Maintain and use agenda by writing down all assignments.
- Complete homework assignments accurately, neatly and submit on time.
- Seek assistance from teachers and parents when difficulties arise.
- Complete assignments missed because of an absence.

## ***Teacher's Responsibilities***

- Provide quality homework activities.
- Clearly state and post assignments so students can write them down correctly.
- Ensure that students are aware of what is expected of them and how their work will be assessed.
- Coordinate major assignments, exams, and long-term projects across disciplines.
- Make periodic checks to make certain that the agenda is being used correctly.
- Alert parents when homework problems arise and suggest strategies they can use to assist their children with homework.
- Teachers will keep a log of all missed homework, which will include action taken, and communication with student and parent.

## ***Parent's Responsibilities***

- Take an active interest in homework.
- Check your child's agenda daily and make sure assignments are completed and turned in.
- Provide time, space and materials for your child to complete homework.
- If there are any concerns about your child's progress in class, contact the teacher or school counselor.

## **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

### ***A student in the DeRuyter Central School shall have the right to:***

1. Take part in all activities on an equal basis regardless of race, gender, or national origin.
2. In all matters, have the opportunity to present their version of the facts and circumstances, with truthfulness and honesty, leading to decisions of disciplinary consequences.
3. Address the Board of Education in the same manner as any citizen.

***It shall be the responsibility of each student in the DeRuyter Central School District to:***

1. Become familiar with and abide by all rules and regulations pertaining to student conduct.
2. Work to the best of his/her ability in all academic and co-curricular pursuits and strive toward the highest level of achievement possible. This includes completing class and homework assignments on time.
3. Conduct him/her, when participating in or attending school-sponsored co-curricular events, as a representative of DeRuyter Central School District and as such hold himself/herself to the highest standards of conduct, demeanor, and sportsmanship.
4. Be in regular attendance in school and in class.
5. Be responsible for contributing to the maintenance of an environment that is conducive to learning, show respect to all persons and to property.
6. Make constructive contributions to our school and to report with honesty and truthfulness the circumstances of school related issues.
7. Act and speak respectfully about issues/concerns.
8. Use non-sexist, non-racist and other non-biased language
9. Respect and treat others with tolerance and dignity regardless of actual or perceived race, color weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) or sex.
10. Use communication that is non-confrontational and is not obscene or defamatory
11. Report acts of bullying, discrimination, harassment and other inappropriate actions that hurt others.

**Dignity for All Students Act**

The Dignity for All Students Act amends Education Law to put in place procedures for the creation of school environments free of bullying, discrimination and/or harassment. The law is effective July 1, 2012.

The DeRuyter Central School District prohibits bullying, discrimination and/or harassment against any student by employees or students that creates a hostile environment by conduct (with or without physical conduct) or verbal statements, intimidation or abuse, including cyberbullying, that either (1) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, or with the student's mental, emotional, and/or physical well-being, including conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; or (2) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury to a student or to cause a student to fear for their physical safety.

The prohibition of discrimination includes, but is not limited to, threats, intimidation, or abuse based on the student's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) or sex, on school property or at school functions.

Prevention is the cornerstone of the District's effort to address bullying and harassment. In order to implement its anti-bullying prevention program, the Board will designate, at its annual organizational meeting, individuals at each school to act as the DAC. These individuals shall be thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, sex and any other legally protected status.

The DAC's shall be employed by the District and be licensed and/or certified by the Commissioner as a classroom teacher, school counselor, school psychologist, school nurse, school social worker, school administrator or supervisor or Superintendent of Schools.

The DAC's will be responsible for assisting in coordinating and enforcing the requirements of the Dignity for All Students Act and its related policies and regulations at each school building, including but not limited to:

- Professional development for staff members
- The complaint process; and
- Support of the Dignity Act's civility curriculum components.

The Dignity Act Coordinators for the current school year for each building are:

DeRuyter Elementary	Mrs. Jenny Valente	<a href="mailto:Valente@deruytercentral.org">Valente@deruytercentral.org</a> 315-852-3400 ext. 7122
DeRuyter MS/HS	Mr. Stephen Rafferty	<a href="mailto:Rafferty@deruytercentral.org">Rafferty@deruytercentral.org</a> 315-852-3400 ext. 7105

## **Comprehensive Attendance Policy**

The District is an active partner with students and parents in the task of ensuring that all students meet or exceed the New York State Learning Standards. The District recognizes that consistent school attendance, academic success, and school completion have a positive correlation, and therefore has developed a comprehensive student attendance policy. Along with the school's commitment, however, is an accompanying obligation for each student to accept responsibility for their education and strive to attain their potential. The 5-12 attendance system includes important roles for students, parents/guardians, teachers, and administrators. The information below has been established in conjunction with regulations set forth by the New York State Department of Education.

The attendance aide records daily attendance, absences, instances of tardiness, and early departures for all students. Attendance is taken electronically during the homeroom period each morning. Classroom teachers record attendance for each period of scheduled instruction and study halls. Students who arrive at school after 8:00am must sign in at the security and attendance office in the front foyer and present their written excuse.



**The following are legal excuses for absences, tardy arrivals, and early dismissals, as defined by DeRuyter Middle School (Grades 5-8) and High School (Grades 9-12):**

- Sickness
- Sickness/death in the family
- Required court appearances
- Scheduled appointments with physicians and health clinics with doctor's note
- Religious observance
- Approved internship/work program
- Approved school-related activity
- Counselor-endorsed college visit with college confirmation
- Approved job-shadowing opportunities
- Appointment at DMV for permit and road test

Parents and guardians are asked to notify the school in the morning if their child will be absent on any given day. If a student has not been marked as present for the first period of scheduled instruction, and the school has not been previously notified of the absence, parents/guardians will receive an automated message informing them of their child's absence.

An absence will be recorded as *unexcused* until communication with parent/guardian is provided to the school. Any absence, tardiness, or early departure for which a student has no valid school-approved excuse is recorded as unexcused until an electronic (Parent Square message/email), or written note with parent/guardian signature is provided to the school.

After three (3) or more consecutive unexcused absences, phone contact with the family will be made by the school counselor to learn the nature of the student's absence and notify the parent/guardian that the student has not arrived at school.

### **Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians**

Within two (2) school days of the student's return to school following an absence or tardy arrival, the parent/guardian should provide the school with a written excuse containing the *student's full given name, grade level, the reason for the absence or tardy, the exact date of the absence(s) or tardy, and parent/guardian signature*. Submitting an attendance note through Parent Square or via email ([hillman@deruytercentral.org](mailto:hillman@deruytercentral.org)) are also acceptable.

The following is a list of acceptable written excuses for each cause of absence or tardy:

<b>Cause of Absence or Tardy Arrival</b>	<b>Acceptable Written Excuse</b>
Sickness	Note from parent/guardian
Sickness/death in family	Note from parent/guardian
Required court appearance	Note from parent/guardian
Scheduled health appointment	Note from medical professional
Religious observance	Note from parent/guardian
Approved internship/work program	Note from parent/guardian and teacher or counselor
Approved school-related activity	Note from teacher
Counselor-endorsed college visit	Verification of attendance from college
Approved job-shadowing opportunities	Note from teacher

## **Tardy Arrival to School and Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

Acceptable causes of tardiness for students who want to participate in extracurricular activities on the day they are tardy are:

- Scheduled health appointments (a note from a medical professional is required unless pre-approved by administrator)
- Required court appearance
- Religious observance
- Approved internship/work program
- Approved school-related activity
- Counselor-endorsed college visit
- Approved job-shadowing opportunities
- Special circumstances (in the event of a special circumstance, parents/guardians must inform the Principal's office (315 852-3400 x7105) no later than the same day).

Students must provide an acceptable written excuse on the day they are tardy to participate in extracurricular activities (e.g., practices, games) on that day. Otherwise, they will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities.

If a student is absent due to illness, leaves school due to illness, or is illegally absent from school, the student cannot participate in an extra/co-curricular activity on that day.

## **Disciplinary Procedures**

Written or electronic excuses for any absence and tardy arrival are expected within two school days upon returning to school. These excuses should be given or sent to Mrs. Baker in the security and attendance office. Students may be subject to disciplinary procedures for unexcused absences, tardiness, or early departure, including written warnings, detentions, in-school suspensions, and loss of extracurricular privileges, as described in the Student Code of Conduct. In addition, any student who is absent unexcused or tardy for 10% or more of the days of school prior to a field trip will not be allowed to attend the trip; including the senior trip. According to New York State Law, parental consent to an unexcused absence does not relieve the student from the consequences of an unexcused absence, tardy, or early departure.

## **Truancy**

- Students are expected to attend school on a daily basis. Absence from school/school programs without an excuse and/or prior permission is truant. Offenses will result in an in-school suspension.
- Chronic trancies may be reported to county agencies for further action.

Skip Days: Occasionally students get together and organize a day or part of a day off from school. The DeRuyter Central School District does not condone these activities. Students participating in such activities will be subject to sanctions for truancy as outlined in the Code of Conduct. The truancy is considered an illegal absence regardless of parent permission.

## ***Leaving the Building***

Students (i.e., all students, including students 18 years of age or older) who need to be excused from school are to bring a written excuse to the security and attendance office before the beginning of the school day. The excuse must state the reason and time being excused and must be signed by their parent/guardian. Students will be dismissed from school for legal reasons: medical appointments, court appearances, and legal matters. Arrangements must be made with the guidance counselor, parents, employer, and the principal for school release for employment. BOCES releases need home school, BOCES, and parent approval.

In case of emergency, the nurse may excuse students if the principals are not available.

1. Students (i.e., all students, including students 18 years of age or older) who wish to leave the building must first sign out in the Security Office. They must show a written excuse from home or from the Health Office before leaving. Returning to school after an appointment, students must sign in at the Security Office and get a pass to return to class.
2. Students may not leave the school property without approval by the principals or school nurse.
3. Leaving the school building or property without authorization is a serious offense and may result in suspension.
4. National Honor Society members in grade 10 have the privilege of leaving school to go to Sal's for lunch on Wednesdays. NHS students in grade 11 have the privilege of leaving school to go to Sal's for lunch on Thursdays. The following rules apply:
  - a. Sign out in the Security Office.
  - b. Travel on foot. No vehicle may be used.
  - c. If a student returns late
    - i. The first time they lose the privilege for one month
    - ii. A second time they lose the privilege for the rest of the school year
  - d. Food is to be eaten at Sal's.

## **Unexcused Tardiness to School**

- All students must be in their homerooms by 8:00am.
- Students who arrive in their homeroom after 8:00am are considered tardy.
- Once a student has been tardy or dismissed early 3 times during a ten (10) week marking period, a student may not participate in athletic activities (including practices and games) or extra-curricular activities on that day unless they bring a doctor's note to the nurse. If there are no practices, games, events or activities the day the student reaches the third tardy or early dismissal, the student may not participate the next time said activities are held.
- If a student is not currently participating in extra-curricular activities or athletics, the student will serve one after school detention.
- Once the suspension and/or detention has been earned and served, the student's attendance cycle will be reset and the process started above will begin again. Chronic offenders will be referred to the principal for possible additional disciplinary action.

## **Tardiness to Class**

- A student entering class after the bell rings is late.
- For every three (3) times a student is late to class per marking period, the following disciplinary actions will be taken:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Offense-Warning by Principal and law and school policy explained
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense-One after school detention and parent notification
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense-Two after school detentions
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Offense- Half a day of in-school suspension (ISS)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Offense- One full day of in-school suspension (ISS)

## ***Absence from BOCES Occupational Education Classes***

1. Students attending occupational education courses at BOCES are subject to all BOCES rules and procedures regarding attendance and behavior, as well as the rules of DeRuyter Central School.
2. Students who miss the BOCES bus will report to the Principal's Office.
3. If a pattern of illegal absenteeism develops, the student may be dropped from the BOCES program

**BOCES students returning to the building MUST sign in at the main office.**

## **Cutting Class**

Being prompt and consistent in attending class ensures that the continuity of learning is not disrupted. After a student arrives at school, any absences from scheduled classes and study halls without prior parental or school permission are classified as cuts and constitute an illegal class absence. Education Law mandates that students must attend scheduled classes and study halls for the entire time the school is in session. The following disciplinary actions will be taken for students who cut class:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense-One (1) after school detention
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense-Two (2) after school detentions
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense-Half a day of in-school suspension
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense- Full day of in-school suspension
- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense- Two (2) full day of in-school suspension

## **Dismissal During the School Day**

A parent requesting a student's early dismissal from school should provide the child with a written excuse on that day, noting the time and reason for the dismissal. Students Should bring excuses to the security and attendance office before homeroom (prior to 8:00 a.m.). If a student has an appointment but does not bring in a note that day, a parent or guardian must call the security and attendance office as early as possible to obtain a release.

Dismissals during the day, because of illness, must be cleared through the nurse's office. Students may leave school only after the school nurse's office has contacted a parent/guardian.

Parents are urged to make appointments with physicians, dentists, etc., after school hours. Parental requests for release during school hours must include the date, time, and reason for the release. Students cannot be excused without request by the parent/guardian, and must be released in the care of a parent/guardian, unless otherwise noted.

Upon returning to school following a properly excused absence, tardiness, or early departure, it will be the responsibility of the student to consult with his or her teachers regarding arrangements to make up missed work, assignments, and/or tests. The student and teacher should discuss the expectation of when make-up work will be completed.

At the middle school and high school level, any student with 27 or more unexcused absences in a full credit course (or 13 absences in a half-credit course) may not receive credit for the course.

## **Food Policy**

Students can either bring their lunch to school or order food from the cafeteria. Students are not allowed to order food and have it delivered at the school. There is a vending machine in the cafeteria that students can use during their lunch period.

## **SENIOR PRIVILEGES (SP)**

- Seniors will be able to go outside for lunch, weather permitting, at picnic tables
- If lunch is followed by a study hall, seniors may be allowed to work outside (weather permitting) on picnic tables AFTER signing out from their study hall and with staff supervision.
- During homeroom, seniors will be allowed to drink a hot beverage purchased from the cafeteria
- 5. Seniors will have the privilege of leaving school to go to Sal's for lunch Tuesday-Friday. The following rules apply:
  - e. Sign out in the Security Office.
  - f. Travel on foot. No vehicle may be used.
  - g. If a student returns late
    - iii. The first time they lose the privilege for one month
    - iv. A second time they lose the privilege for the rest of the school year
  - h. Food is to be eaten at Sal's.

## ***Eligibility Requirements:***

### **Academics**

- Must not be on Fail 1 or Fail 2

### **Attendance**

- An unexcused tardy will result in loss of senior privileges for at least that day
- Unexcused absences or truancy (from class or school) will result in loss of SP for at least a week

### **Behavior**

- One or more detentions will result in the loss of SP for the rest of that week
- ISS for ½ day = Loss of SP for 1 week (five school days)
- ISS for full day = Loss of SP for 2 weeks
- 1 day OSS = Loss of SP for 4 weeks
- More than 1 day of OSS = Loss of SP for 8 weeks

### ***Senior Parking***

Seniors have the privilege of parking on campus in assigned senior parking spaces ONLY with a parking permit. Seniors should see Mrs. Stanton in the main office to obtain a parking pass. If seniors misuse or abuse this privilege, it may be revoked temporarily or permanently.

## Guidelines for Fail 1 and Fail 2 Lists for ALL Students in Grades 6-12

### FAIL 1

- Students are **restricted** to Study Hall until off the Fail 1 list. Only those students who bring a **pre-signed** pass from a teacher will be allowed to leave study hall for help from that specific teacher.
- Students must attend a minimum of **two (2)** afterschool study hall sessions in order to be eligible to get off the Fail list. Students on Fail 1 should complete their two study skills as soon as possible.
- Students on Fail 1 may attend school functions and are permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities. However, students who have not completed their two after school study skills by the Friday Appeal Date for Academic Eligibility (p. 38) for that mid/marking period are prohibited from attending and/or participating in all extracurricular activities until this requirement has been fulfilled.

### FAIL 2

- Students in grades 5-12 who are failing two or more classes will be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the 5-week mid/marking period (see **Last Day of Fail List** column below) in any extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to school clubs, dances, sports team practices/events/contests, school play, field trips, NYSSMA All County, prom, and senior trip and picnic).
- Students on the Fail 2 List are eligible to attend educational field trips that take place during the school day between 8:00am and 3:00pm.
- Students are restricted to study hall until they off the Fail 2 list. Only those students who bring a pre-signed pass from a teacher will be allowed to leave study hall for help from that specific teacher.
- Students must attend after school study skills on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until they are off the fail list.
- If the student's situation improves after a minimum of three weeks from the end of the mid/marking period date, the student may request an "appeal" (see below) for reconsideration of his/her ineligible to participate status.
- In order for a student to appeal his/her ineligibility status, he/she must be passing **ALL** classes.

Note: In order to successfully appeal, a student must complete the *Extra Curricular Release Form* (sample of form on page 39). This form must be submitted to Mrs. Stanton in the main office on the appeal date for that mid/marking period (see "**Appeal Date for Academic Eligibility**" column below for specific dates). Additionally, the student must attend at least four (4) after school study skills. Students will remain on Fail 2 for the remainder of that mid/marking period unless both the Extra Curricular Release Form and study skills requirements are met.

Note: A dropped class does not automatically reduce the number of failing course for a student. If a student drops a class, that failure will be considered "resolved" at the next five (5) week marking period. If a student's appeal is successful, they must maintain passing grades for the remainder of the five week marking period.

## 40 Week Fail List

Students who fail one or more classes for the 40 week marking period must watch the online *Crash Course Study Skills* video series and also complete and submit the corresponding assignment in order to participate in fall sports and extracurricular activities for the upcoming school year.

### Important Dates for Academic Eligibility

Marking Periods	End of Mid/Marking Period	Report Card Dates	Friday Appeal Date for Academic Eligibility	Last Day of Fail List
5	10/3/25	10/10/25	10/24/25	11/17/25
10	11/7/25	11/14/25	11/25/25	1/5/26
15	12/12/25	12/19/25	1/9/26	2/2/26
20	1/23/26	1/30/26	2/13/26	3/9/26
25	2/27/26	3/6/26	3/20/26	4/13/26
30	4/6/26	4/10/26	4/24/26	5/18/26
35	5/8/26	5/15/26	5/29/26	6/26/26

### Fail 2 Extracurricular Release Form

#### Fail 2 Extracurricular Release Form

Students: In the first column below, please fill out all the classes you are currently enrolled in. Then, have all of your teachers indicate your academic status (passing/not passing) in the second column. Finally, in the third column, have each teacher sign and date the form. This completed form should be returned to Mrs. Stanton in the main office on the Friday indicated in the Student Code of Conduct (see **Friday Appeal Date for Academic Eligibility** column).

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I am listing my schedule on this form, in order to be released for extracurricular participation. I need all of my teachers to indicate my current passing status and sign in the spaces below. I will remain on the Fail 2 List until I am passing all classes. I understand that I am restricted to study hall until I am off the fail list.

#### Class Schedule

Period	Class/Course	Status (passing/not passing)	Teacher Signature/Date
1			
2			
3			
4			
5A			
5B			
6			
7			
8			
9			

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **After School Study Skills**

**When:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school from 3:00-4:00pm

**Where:** Room 217

**Remember:** Student must sign up to ride the late bus with Mrs. Stanton in the main office by 1:00pm on the day they are staying after.

### ***Rules of After School Study Skills:***

- Students are to report to the designated rooms by 3:05pm and must stay the entire time
- Students are to bring everything they need with them as they will not be allowed to go to their lockers
- Students should also bring with them an outside reading book, writing utensil, and all homework
- Students are to work quietly and respect the adult in charge
- Students will be dismissed at 4:00pm to go to their lockers and get ready to go home
- Students will be allowed to attend practice at 4:00pm when the after school program ends
- Students' internet-enabled devices (except for Chromebooks) may NOT be used

### ***Who can attend?***

- All 5-12 students are welcome to attend.

### ***Who must attend?***

- 5-12 students who are on the **Fail 1** (minimum of two) **OR Fail 2** (minimum of four) list

## **Internet-Enabled Devices Policy**

(Including, but not limited to cell phones, earphones/earbuds, smartwatches, iPads)

The New York State "Distraction-Free Schools" policy, which restricts the use of internet-enabled devices during the school day, begins on August 1, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year. Research shows cell phone usage among students significantly stymies learning and reduces socialization between students during school. To comply with state law and allow students to give their undivided attention to lessons, fully participate in discussions, and to build relationships with their peers, the following 5-12 internet-enabled devices policy has been developed:

- Students in grades 5-12 are prohibited from using their internet-enabled devices (except their school issued Chromebooks) in school. Internet-enabled devices, including cell phones, earphones/earbuds, and iPads brought into school must be powered off and stored in students' lockers from the time they arrive to school until dismissal. 5-12 students caught having or using internet-enabled devices on school grounds (including but not limited to lockers, classroom, hallways, field trips) during the school day will face disciplinary consequences as defined below. Refusal to give the phone to a staff member upon request will be considered insubordination.

### **First Offense**

- Item is taken away and given to an administrator
- A phone call is made to the parent by an administrator
- Item is returned to the student at the end of the school day
- Written warning issued



### Second Offense

- Item is taken away and given to an administrator
- A phone call is made to the parent by an administrator
- Item must be retrieved by the parent
- The student's internet-enabled device(s) will be kept in the main office from arrival until dismissal for 30 calendar days
- One (1) after school detention

### Third Offense

- Item is taken away and given to an administrator
- A phone call is made to the parent by an administrator
- Item must be retrieved by the parent
- The student's internet-enabled device(s) will be kept in the main office from arrival until dismissal for the remainder of the school year
- Two (2) after school detentions (one after school detention will be added for each subsequent offense)

DCS recognizes that parents/guardians may need to contact their child/children during the school day. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to call the main office at (315) 852-3400 x7105 if they need to reach their child/children during school hours. The 5-12 secretary, Mrs. Stanton, will reach out to students with parent/guardian messages and/or have them use the office phone to contact them should the need arise.

**Remember:** Cell phones and other electronic devices, like other personal items brought by a student into a school zone may be subject to search. The extent of the confiscation and/or search of the electronic device is dependent upon circumstances present at the time and within the discretion of school authority. The outcome of the search may result in further school consequences and/or a criminal investigation by the police.

Taking photos of or video/audio recording of other students or staff members is prohibited. Students caught with photos/videos/audio recordings of other students or staff members will face disciplinary measures, up to and including suspension.

## Student Dress Code

The intent of the dress code is to foster an environment that is sanitary, safe and conducive to teaching and student learning. It is also intended to provide guidance to prepare students for their role in the work place and society. All students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to dress appropriately for school and school functions. School functions are defined as school-sponsored extra-curricular events or activities that occur both on and off school property, including but not limited to athletic events, concerts, dances and field trips. This is especially important when at functions outside the school. Your dress needs to be appropriate for the function you are attending. At these times you are a representative of your community and school, and the impression you make reflects on all.

The school does not dictate styles. However, school officials reserve the right to determine what acceptable and unacceptable attire is. Students and their parents have the primary responsibility for acceptable student dress, grooming, and appearance. Teachers and all other district personnel

should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. The Board of Education shall comply with provisions of State Education Law and Decisions of the Commissioner of Education dealing with student dress. A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, shall:

1. Not endanger the health, safety and welfare of self or others.
2. Not disrupt or interfere with the educational process. **Clothing which may be deemed inappropriate** (dependent upon school activity and setting) includes, but is not limited to: tube tops, halter tops, spaghetti straps (shoulder straps should be at least two fingers wide), bare midriffs (front and/or back), muscle shirts, low-cut and/or sagging pants, ripped or "destroyed" pants, swimsuits, sunglasses, and any see-through garments.
3. Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, or that defame or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.
4. Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities.
5. Skirts and shorts must extend at least to the top of the palm when standing normally, unless leggings are worn underneath.
6. Necklines and backs of blouses and shirts
  - a) No lower than one hands' width below the collar bone in front.
  - b) No lower than the center of the shoulder blade in back.
  - c) One hand must be able to cover any opening below the arm.
7. Ensure that undergarments are completely covered with outer clothing. Any clothing insufficient to conceal undergarments at all times such as low-cut or sagging pants, ripped or "destroyed" pants, mesh/sheer shirts, and transparent blouses, shirts or dresses are not allowed
8. Back Packs/Book Bags (of all sizes) must be stored in lockers between 7:50am and 2:55pm.
9. Footwear should be worn at all times. Footwear needs to be appropriate for the activity (i.e., athletic shoes for P.E., closed toe shoes for outdoor activities, etc.)
10. No jewelry (watches, rings, necklaces, bracelets, piercings, etc.) will be worn during physical education.
11. Head coverings (other than hats) are not allowed to be worn during the school day (8:00-2:55 p.m.) except for a medical or religious purpose. This includes, but is not limited to hoods, visors, skull caps, and bandannas (worn in any manner).

### **Consequences**

At a minimum, students who violate the dress code face the following consequences:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Written warning
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: 1 Afterschool detention
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: 2 Afterschool detentions
- 4<sup>th</sup> Offense: Half a day of detention (ISS)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Offense: 1 Full day detention (ISS)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Offense: 2 Full day detentions (ISS)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Offense: 1 Day out-of-school suspension (OSS)
- 8<sup>th</sup> Offense: 2 Days out-of-school suspension (OSS)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Offense: 3-5 Days out-of-school suspension (OSS)

Students who violate the student dress code shall be required to immediately modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item, or replacing it with an acceptable item. Students who refuse to cooperate will be sent to ISS until they are in compliance with the dress code.

***All Staff are responsible for reasonably enforcing the dress code.*** In the case of a question regarding whether a student is in violation of the dress code the Principals will be responsible for making a final determination. In such a case the student should be sent to the appropriate office with a pass. On the back of the pass the teacher should simply state what part of the student's dress, grooming and appearance is in violation of the Student Dress Code and the Principals will make a determination.

Each building Principal or his/her designee shall be responsible for informing all students and their parents of the student dress code at the beginning of the school year and any revisions to the dress code made during the school year.

***Formal and Semi-Formal Dress Code***  
**(Includes the Prom, Home-Coming and other dances and Extra-Curricular Events)**

- ❖ These guidelines will be enforced, with modesty in mind.
- ❖ Necklines and backs of dresses, tops and jackets must be worn no lower than one hands' width below the collar bone in front; no lower than the center of the shoulder blade in back; and one hand must be able to cover any opening below the arm.
- ❖ More than one-third of the midriff may not be exposed including the front and sides.
- ❖ Dress, skirt and pant length, including any slits, must be at least mid-thigh (that is, the hemline must be longer than 5 inches above the middle of the knee both front and back).
- ❖ No pinning will be allowed as an alteration for any garment. Fabric inserts must be sewn, not pinned on the garment if the garment does not meet dress code without inserts.
- ❖ Pants should fit properly on the hip and not sag below the waistline.

**Please Note:**

- ❖ These guidelines apply to both DCS students and their dates.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of the students to inform their dates of the dress code guidelines.

DCS students and/or their dates who are not dressed appropriately may not be allowed to enter the Prom, Homecoming or other dances or extracurricular events.

- ❖ These guidelines do not limit your ability to show your style and uniqueness.
- ❖ If you have questions about your prom attire, you may bring it in or a photo (front and back) to show to the principal, a guidance counselor or your class advisor

## **Appropriate Use of Computers**

It is the intent of the DeRuyter Central School Board of Education to make Internet access available to students to further educational goals and objectives by granting students the opportunity to utilize vast information resources and collaborate with other students, educators, professionals and experts throughout the world.

However, access to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Students using the Internet are expected to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and are required to comply with the standards of behavior contained in the student handbook, board policies and discipline code.

### **The following conduct is not permitted by students using the Internet services:**

1. Sending, displaying or distributing offensive messages, materials or pictures.
2. Using obscene language.
3. Harassing, insulting and/or attacking others. This also includes conversations, e-mail, instant messages, and postings at home that are brought into the school. Cyber-bullying will not be tolerated in school. It is disruptive to the education of students.
4. Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks. This includes creating or willfully disseminating computer viruses.
5. Adjusting, changing or viewing computer system configurations or settings in any way.
6. Violating copyright laws.
7. Using another's password.
8. Trespassing into another's folder, work or files.
9. Intentionally wasting limited resources.
10. Downloading files from the Internet (either to the student's H:\ drive on the server or to a workstation's hard drive), installing or running software, unless specifically instructed to do so by a DeRuyter Central School faculty or staff member.
11. Employing the network for commercial purposes.
12. Sending, displaying and distributing messages, materials or pictures containing adult material or material that threatens or intimidates a person or group of people on the basis of their sex, race, color, religion or national origin.
13. Removing/moving, unplugging, altering, or adding equipment or software to the

computers or network without the approval of the network administrator. This includes wireless equipment.

14. Connecting personal technology equipment or media, such as, but not limited to, laptops, flash drives, CD-ROMS, etc., to the computers or network without prior approval from the classroom teacher or network administrator. Any personal technology equipment or media must go through a thorough scanning process to prevent the potential spread of viruses or damaging applications.

The Internet contains essentially unregulated sources of information and communication.

Furthermore, some material accessible via the Internet may contain items, which are illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. While it is the District's position to make Internet access available only to further educational goals and objectives, students may find ways to access other material as well. As school officials have no control over the information available through the Internet, the District cannot be responsible for restricting, monitoring or controlling the communications of the individuals utilizing these services. Ultimately, parents and guardians of minors are responsible for setting and conveying standards that their children should follow when using these information sources.

While storage areas of the school computer network may be treated like school lockers, users should not expect their files stored on District servers or computers to be private in nature. Network administrators and school authorities may review files and communications to maintain system integrity to ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Student use of the Internet, sites visited, time on the site, and location of the computer within the school is recorded and monitored.

In order to access the Internet, permission from an adult will be sought by the student. Adults in the building will be observant of the sites students are visiting. Each time a student logs on to a district computer, an acceptance of responsibility statement will appear. Students are responsible for their conduct.

### **Consequences for Violation of Computer Usage:**

1. Violations may result in suspension and/or revocation of student access to the District's computer system as determined in accordance with appropriate due process procedures.
2. Additional disciplinary action may be determined at the building level in accordance with existing practices and procedures regarding inappropriate language or behavior, as well as federal, state and local law.
3. When applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

### **Office Computers – No student Use**

The computers used by office staff containing student and staff data, are restricted from student use (i.e. nurse, elementary office, MS/HS office, guidance/attendance office).

### **Library Media Center**

The DeRuyter Central Library empowers students to be passionate learners and responsible citizens by ensuring that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information.

(adapted from the DCS Mission Statement and AASL's *Empowering Learners*, 2009)

**Library Media Specialist (LMS):** Ms. Jones

**Library Aide:** Mrs. Hyde

### **LMC Policies**

- Be respectful to/of:
  - LMC staff
  - other students and teachers
  - LMC material and equipment
- Come prepared and ready to work (or read) for the entire period
- Electronics are for educational use only
- Students coming to the LMC outside of scheduled class times:
  - must have a pass
  - must sign in when they arrive
  - must sign out and have a pass if they leave before the end of the period
  - may be removed from the LMC if unable/unwilling to adhere to LMC policies
- All materials checked out from the LMC are the responsibility of the patron.
  - Lost/damaged materials must be paid for (or replaced, with LMS approval).
  - Patrons with overdue (or non-paid for lost/damaged items) may need approval from the LMS to check out materials.
- LMC material loans:
  - PK - K: 1 book for 1 week (2 books for 1 week after 25 returns)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup>: 2 items for 1 week
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: 3 items for 1 week
  - 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>: 4 items for 2 weeks
  - audio-books and videos: students may have only one checked out at a time
  - Inter Library Loan (ILL) items: determined by loaning library (generally 2 weeks)
- Additional policies and procedures may be established throughout the year in order to maintain a positive learning/working environment, or to accommodate specific situations.

### **Sexual Harassment of Students**

The Board of Education affirms its commitment to non-discrimination and recognizes its responsibility to provide for all District students an environment that is free of sexual harassment and intimidation. Sexual harassment is a violation of law and stands in direct opposition to District policy. Therefore, the Board prohibits and condemns all forms of sexual harassment by employees, school volunteers, students, and non-employees such as contractors and vendors which occur on school grounds and at all school-sponsored events, programs and activities including those that take place at locations off school premises. Generally, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:

- a) Submission to or rejection of such sexually harassing conduct and/or communication by a student affects decisions regarding any aspect of the student's education, including participation in school-sponsored activities;
- b) Conditions exist within the school environment that allow or foster obscene pictures, lewd jokes, sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other harassing activities of a sexual nature; and
- c) Such conduct and/or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's academic performance or participation in an educational or extracurricular activity, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning

environment; and/or effectively bars the student's access to an educational opportunity or benefit.

The Board acknowledges that in determining whether sexual harassment has occurred the totality of the circumstances, expectations, and relationships should be evaluated including, but not limited to, the ages of the harasser and the victim; the number of individuals involved; and the type, frequency and duration of the conduct. The Board recognizes that sexual harassment can originate from a person of either sex against a person of the opposite or same sex, and from a third party such as a school visitor, volunteer, or vendor, or any other individual associated with the School District. Sexual harassment may occur from student-to-student, from staff-to-student, from student-to-staff, as well as staff-to-staff.

In order for the Board to enforce this policy and to take corrective measures as may be necessary, it is essential that any student who believes he/she has been a victim of sexual harassment in the school environment, as well as any other person who is aware of and/or who has knowledge of or witnesses any possible occurrence of sexual harassment, immediately report such alleged harassment; such report shall be directed to or forwarded to the District's designated complaint officer(s) through informal and/or formal complaint procedures as developed by the District. Such complaints are recommended to be in writing, although verbal complaints of alleged sexual harassment will also be promptly investigated in accordance with the terms of this policy. In the event that the complaint officer is the alleged offender, the report will be directed to the next level of supervisory authority.

Upon receipt of an informal/formal complaint, the District will conduct a thorough investigation of the charges. To the extent possible, within legal constraints, all complaints will be treated as confidentially and privately as possible. However, disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation of the charges, and any disclosure will be provided on a "need to know" basis.

Based upon the results of the investigation, if the District determines that an employee and/or student has violated the terms of this policy and/or accompanying regulations, immediate corrective action will be taken as warranted. Should the offending individual be a student, appropriate disciplinary measures will be applied, up to and including suspension, in accordance with District policy and regulation, the Student Code of Conduct, and applicable laws and/or regulations. Should the offending individual be a school employee, appropriate disciplinary measures will be applied, up to and including termination of the offender's employment, in accordance with legal guidelines, District policy and regulation, and the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s). Third parties (such as school volunteers, vendors, etc.) who are found to have violated this policy and/or accompanying regulations will be subject to appropriate sanctions as warranted and in compliance with law.

The Board prohibits any retaliatory behavior directed against complainants, victims, witnesses, and/or any other individuals who participated in the investigation of a complaint of sexual harassment. Follow-up inquiries shall be made to ensure that harassment has not resumed and that all those involved in the investigation of the sexual harassment complaint have not suffered retaliation.

Regulations will be developed for reporting, investigating and remedying allegations of sexual harassment. An appeal procedure will also be provided to address any unresolved complaints and/or unsatisfactory prior determinations by the applicable complaint officer(s).

Such regulations will be developed in accordance with federal and state law as well as any applicable collective bargaining agreement(s).

The Superintendent/designee(s) will affirmatively discuss the topic of sexual harassment with all employees and students, express the District's condemnation of such conduct, and explain the sanctions for such harassment. Appropriate training and/or "awareness" programs will be established for staff and students to help ensure knowledge of and familiarity with the issues pertaining to sexual harassment in the schools, and to disseminate preventative measures to help reduce such incidents of prohibited conduct. Furthermore, special training will be provided for designated supervisors and managerial employees, as may be necessary, for training in the investigation of sexual harassment complaints.

A copy of this policy and its accompanying regulations will be available upon request and may be posted at various locations in each school building. The District's policy and regulations on sexual harassment will be published in appropriate school publications such as teacher/employee handbooks, student handbooks, and/or school calendars.

**Legal References:**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972,  
20 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1681 et seq.

42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1981(a)  
29 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.)  
Section 1604.11(a)

34 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.)  
Section 100 et seq.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,  
42 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 2000e et seq.  
Executive Law Sections 296 and 297

## **Tobacco Free School Policy**

***Rationale:*** The School Board recognizes its responsibility to promote the health, welfare and safety of students, staff and others on school property. The health hazards of tobacco use have been well documented. This policy is established to:

- reflect and emphasize the hazards of tobacco use;
- be consistent with state and federal laws;
- protect the health and safety of all students, staff and visitors;
- supplement the prevention curriculum taught in the classroom; and
- set a non-tobacco use example by adults

To support and model a healthy, pro-active tobacco-free environment for everyone the School Board establishes the following policy:

**Tobacco Use Prohibited:** No person shall use, possess, sell or distribute and e-cig, jewel or a Tobacco Product at anytime, anywhere on school property, in or on a School Bus or in any vehicles used to transport children or school personnel, in any vehicle (public or private) while on school grounds, or at any School Function. Possession of tobacco products and paraphernalia, as well as tobacco promotional items is prohibited by students at all times.

A Tobacco promotional item: is any object that has a brand, logo or other identifier including, but not limited to, clothing, hats, bags, accessories, gear, lighters and other personal articles.

### ***Tobacco Prevention and Education:***

#### **Vaping Censors**

To help combat e-cigarette use among DCS students, vaping censors are installed in locker rooms and all middle school and high school bathrooms. The censors will send out real time alerts to administrators when vaping is detected. Based on the location of the triggered sensor and hallway video of students near that area during that time, those suspected of vaping will be interviewed and searched by school officials.



Instruction to discourage the misuse of tobacco shall be implemented through all secondary health education programs and all elementary classrooms according to the needs and abilities of the pupils at successive grade levels. Staff responsible for teaching tobacco-use prevention shall have adequate training and participate in ongoing professional development activities to effectively deliver the education program as planned.

Tobacco advertising is prohibited on school property, grounds, at any school-sponsored event or activity off campus, and in all school-sponsored publications. The school will request tobacco ad-free editions of all publications in school libraries. School acceptance of gifts, funding, or parent/classroom educational materials from the tobacco industry are prohibited.

Tobacco cessation resources will be made available to staff, students, and visitors.

**Communication:** Signs communicating this policy shall be prominently posted on all building entrances, grounds, athletic fields, parking lots and vehicles.

The District shall also notify students, parents/guardians, staff, contractors and other school visitors annually of the tobacco free policy in written materials including, but not limited to, handbooks, manuals, contracts, newspapers, programs, school website and newsletters.

**Enforcement:** All administrators and school employees are expected to enforce the tobacco free policy. Students and visitors are encouraged to inform school employees if they see tobacco use on school grounds.

Student violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action per the student code of conduct, including an alternative to suspension program. Any tobacco products or paraphernalia found in possession of a student will be confiscated and discarded.

Employee violations of this policy will lead to disciplinary action in accordance with personnel policies and may include verbal warning and/or written reprimand.

Violations of the policy by others will result in the following disciplinary action:

1. Verbal request to adhere to policy
2. If person refuses to stop, they will be asked to leave the premises
3. If person refuses to leave, refer to local authorities for trespassing

All student, school personnel and visitors are responsible for adhering to this policy at all times.

**Legal References:**

NYS Education Law, Article 9, Section 409. School building regulations in relation to health and safety.

NYS Education Law, Article 17, Section 804. Health education regarding alcohol, drugs, tobacco abuse and the prevention and detection of certain cancers.

NYS Department of Education, Commissioner's Regulations, Subchapter G, Part 135. Health, Physical Education and Recreation

NYS Public Health Law, Article 13-E, Section 1399. Regulation of smoking in certain public areas (Clean Indoor Air Act)

U. S. Department of Education—No Child Left Behind, Title IV C, Sections 4301 – 4304, Part A. Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

## **Consequences for Violating the Prohibited Substances Policy**

### **Use or Possession of Tobacco Products/*Paraphernalia*/Marijuana/Alcohol**

Disciplinary consequences for use or possession of prohibited Tobacco Products/*Paraphernalia*/Marijuana/Alcohol;

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | 1 day ISS and consequences per the Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct and completion of tobacco/marijuana/alcohol prevention related assignment. |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | 2 days ISS and consequences per the Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct   |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | 2 days OSS and consequences per the Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct   |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | 3 days OSS and consequences per the Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct   |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | 5 days OSS, informal or formal Superintendent's hearing plus consequences per the Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct                             |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> | Formal Superintendent's hearing plus consequences per the Athletic/Extra-Curricular Code of Conduct   |

## **Illegal Substances Policy**

The regulations regarding use of illegal substances are as follows:

- All school staff that suspects a student of misuse or of being under the influence of illegal substances on school property will report it to the Principals immediately and relate in confidence the facts concerning the case.
- The Principals will conduct an investigation into the matter and document all information obtained.
- The Superintendent or Principal will call a Law Enforcement Agency and the parents of the student if the information appears to be substantial that a crime has been committed.
- The Law Enforcement Agency will conduct their own investigation and gather evidence to discover if a crime has been committed and proceed to court at their own discretion. (If student is under eighteen years of age, the parent will be in attendance during the interview with the student if conducted on school property.)
- The school administration will use such form of punishment as is deemed necessary and advisable for violations of the law and school rules and regulations such as out of school suspension, in-school suspension, etc., but in all cases will attempt to find help through social agencies and the parents for the offenders.

Any student who is apprehended in school with illegal substances in his/her possession will be disciplined as follows:

If the drug has been prescribed by a doctor for the student's consumption during school hours, the medicine will be placed in the health office and the school nurse will administer it to the student. The parents will be notified of the incident and told that any future violations of this sort will result in disciplinary action.

### ***Use, Possession, Sale and/or Distribution of Illegal Substances (Including Paraphernalia with Drug Residue)***

- Parents will be called to come to school immediately
- The substance will be turned over to the appropriate law enforcement agency
- Immediate suspension from school for five days
- The student may be requested to attend an informal or formal Superintendent's hearing prior to return to school.

### ***Under the Influence of Illegal Substances***

- Immediate suspension
- The parents will be requested to come and get the student immediately
- The Principal may require a Superintendent's hearing if it is deemed warranted for further disciplinary action

### ***Prohibited Substances & Consequences for Athletic/Extra Curricular Activities (also on page 70)***

Use or possession of these substances in any form at any time during the sports season or extra-curricular activity is prohibited.

- A. Alcoholic beverages
- B. Tobacco products
- C. Marijuana

#### **Consequences**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense** during a school year – Suspension from the team and/or DCS extra-curricular activity for 10 calendar days. There will also be a required conference with the student, parents, Athletic Director/Activity Advisor and Principal. The student will be referred to a counseling program
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** during a school year – Dismissal from sport and/or DCS extra-curricular activity/club for at least 45 calendar days and a conference to occur with student, parents, Athletic Director/Activity Advisor and Principal. The student will be referred to a counseling program.

### ***Illegal Substances & Consequences for Athletic/Extra Curricular Activities (also on page 70)***

Use or possession of these substances in any form at any time during the sports season or extra-curricular activity is prohibited.

- D. Abusive non-prescription drugs, prescription drugs or use of performance enhancing drugs
- E. Narcotics, Barbiturates, Inhalants, Hallucinogens, Synthetic Drugs

- 1<sup>st</sup> Offense** during a school year – Suspension from the team and/or DCS extra-curricular activity for 45 calendar days. There will also be a required conference with the student, parents, Athletic Director/Activity Advisor and Principal. The student will be referred to a counseling program
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense** during a school year – Dismissal from sport and/or DCS extra-curricular activity/club for 60 calendar days and a conference to occur with student, parents, Athletic Director/Activity Advisor and Principal. The student will be referred to a counseling program

### ***Canine Search***

Random and unannounced canine drug detection sweeps can occur periodically. A positive alert by a trained dog gives the administration reasonable suspicion and the locker and its contents can be searched. Any illegal items found during the search can be used as evidence in a disciplinary hearing.

## **Reporting Violations of the Code of Conduct**

Any student observing another violating this Code of Conduct on District property or at a District function shall report this information immediately to a District staff member, administrator or supervising adult. Any teacher, administrator, employee, Board of Education member, or other person may report a violation of the student disciplinary code to the Building Principal or his or her designee. The Principal may then make an investigation of the charges as deemed appropriate and institute an informal or disciplinary proceeding, and/or make a referral to the Committee on Special Education, as deemed necessary. Any weapons, alcohol, or illegal substances found shall be confiscated immediately, followed by notification of local law enforcement agency and the parents or legal guardian of the student involved. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, up to and including permanent suspension and referral for prosecution.

An Administrator will notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency by phone or in person of those code violations that constitute a crime and substantially affect the order or security of a school as soon as practical, but in no event later than the close of business the day the administrator learns of the violation. The notification must identify the student(s) and explain the conduct that violated the Code of Conduct and constituted a crime. The Building Principal must also notify promptly the appropriate local law enforcement agency when such administrator, believes that any harassment, bullying or discrimination may constitute criminal conduct.

## **Reporting Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying and Cyberbullying**

The Building Principal is the school employee charged with receiving all reports of harassment, bullying and discrimination; however, students and parents may make an oral or written complaint of harassment, bullying or discrimination to any teacher, administrator or school employee.

The District will act to promptly investigate all complaints, verbal or written, formal or informal, of allegations of discrimination, harassment, bullying and cyberbullying; and will promptly take appropriate action to protect individuals from further discrimination, harassment, bullying and cyberbullying.

It is essential that any student who believes he/she has been subjected to discrimination, harassment, bullying or retaliatory behavior, as well as any individual who is aware of and/or who has knowledge of, or witnesses any possible occurrence, immediately report same to any staff member or administrator. The staff member/administrator to whom the report is made (or the staff member/administrator who witnesses or suspects bullying/cyberbullying behavior) shall document and take appropriate action, address the immediacy of the situation and shall promptly report in accordance with the following paragraphs.

Upon receipt of a complaint (even an anonymous complaint), or if a school employee otherwise learns of any occurrence of possible conduct prohibited by this policy, the school employee shall promptly and orally notify the school principal no later than one day after such school employee witnesses or receives the complaint or learns of such conduct. Such school employee shall also file a written report with the school principal no later than two school days after making such oral report.

After receipt of a complaint, the Building Principal shall lead or supervise a thorough investigation of the alleged harassing, bullying and/or retaliatory conduct. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall ensure that such investigation is completed promptly and investigated in accordance with the terms of district policy. All complaints shall be treated as confidential and private to the extent possible within legal constraints.

Based upon the results of this investigation, if the district determines that a school official, employee, volunteer, vendor, visitor and/or student has violated the district's Code of Conduct or a material incident of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination has occurred, immediate corrective action will be taken as warranted, it will take prompt action reasonably calculated to end the violation, eliminate any hostile environment, create a more positive school culture and climate, prevent recurrence of the behavior, and ensure the safety of the student or students against whom such violation was directed.

As a general rule, responses to acts of harassment, bullying and/or discrimination against students by students shall incorporate a progressive model of student discipline that includes measured, balanced and age appropriate remedies and procedures that make appropriate use of prevention, education, intervention and discipline, and considers among other things, the nature and severity of the offending student's behavior(s), the developmental age of the student, the previous disciplinary record of the student and other extenuating circumstances, and the impact the student's behaviors had on the individual(s) who was physically injured and/or emotionally harmed. Responses shall be reasonably calculated to end the harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination, prevent recurrence, and eliminate the hostile environment.

Retaliation against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of harassment, bullying, cyberbullying and/or discrimination is prohibited.

In the event that the Principal is the alleged offender, the report will be directed to the Superintendent.

All complaints of alleged harassing, bullying (including cyberbullying) and/or retaliatory conduct shall be:

1. Promptly investigated in accordance with the terms of District Policy;
2. Forwarded to the school building's Dignity Act Coordinator for monitoring;  
and
3. Treated as confidential and private to the extent possible within legal  
constraint

The Principal of each school in the District shall provide an annual report to the Superintendent on data and trends related to harassment, bullying and/or discrimination in accordance with applicable statutes and regulations.

## **Ranges of Consequences for Behavior Related Offenses**

The DeRuyter Central School Administration and Staff believe that instruction should occur in an orderly, safe environment that is conducive to learning. Discipline is most effective when it deals with the problem at the time and place it occurs, and in a way that is viewed as fair and impartial by the student. The code of conduct is designed to assist the faculty and administration in maintaining a satisfactory environment by standardizing procedures for administering disciplinary actions. When applicable, Dignity Act Statutory definitions will be referenced. Before seeking outside assistance, teachers will first use their resources to create a change of behavior in the classroom. When the teacher has made a determined effort to bring about positive behavioral change, and has been unsuccessful, the student will then be referred to the administration. Once done, the administrator or designee assumes the role of deciding appropriate further action. Disciplinary action, when necessary, will be firm, fair, and consistent in order to be most effective in changing behavior. While this plan is designed to be progressive in nature, the seriousness or nature of an act may result in acceleration to a higher level of discipline. Rules, regulations, and due process are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities. The purpose of issuing this code of conduct is to acquaint students, parents/guardians and others with some of the rules and regulations of DeRuyter Central School. Discipline referrals will be mailed home in an effort to maintain good communication with parents. The code of conduct will be most effective in maintaining a positive school climate when there is a shared responsibility among all stake holders. This document is not intended to be all-inclusive. Any other student actions not listed, which disrupt the normal educational process, will be handled in a similar manner. In all discipline situations, the administrator/designee will exercise discretionary authority in establishing appropriate disciplinary action. Actions, which are gross violations of the code of conduct, may also result in an immediate suspension from school and possible recommendation for a Superintendent's Hearing. Violations of this code of conduct may also result in denial of school privileges such as field trips and other extra-curricular activities.

Students violating the District's rules and regulations shall suffer disciplinary consequences commensurate with their misbehavior. In general, discipline shall be progressively administered so that penalties increase due to the severity or persistence of the misbehavior. Pursuant to State Law, however, some offenses require mandatory removal to an alternative education setting. As a consequence of persistent or serious violations, students may be referred to a counselor, nurse, or other staff members with special skills in modifying behavior. School officials shall notify a local/regional law enforcement authority if they suspect that criminal acts have occurred on district property or at a school sanctioned event.

### **Level 1:**

Any misbehavior that represents an infraction of the established procedures which regulate the operation of the school and its educational process, is considered a Level I misbehavior. The frequency of the occurrence shall determine the appropriate disciplinary response, including reclassification to a higher level infraction. THE CLASSROOM TEACHER, FOR MOST LEVEL I INFRACTIONS, SHOULD HANDLE INITIAL DISCIPLINE. Parents may be requested to come for a conference with the teacher to discuss the misbehavior and a plan of corrective action. REPEATED LEVEL I offenses will result in a referral to the office.

**Examples of Level I Infractions:**

1. Inappropriate language
2. Inappropriate public displays of affection
3. Inappropriate dress
4. Minor class disruptions
5. Misuse of pass privileges
6. Lateness to class
7. Teasing/name calling
8. Use of inappropriate electronic devices, including laser pointers
9. Inappropriate cafeteria behavior

(PLEASE NOTE: School property is defined as any place where students are under direct supervision of school personnel, or any school district owned or operated facility, land, or vehicle.)

**Minimum Consequences for Level 1 Infractions:**

- 1st Offense: Written warning
- 2nd Offense: 1 Afterschool Detention
- 3rd Offense: 2 Afterschool Detentions
- 4th Offense: Half a Day of In-School Suspension (ISS)
- 5th Offense: 1 Full Day of In-School Suspension (ISS)
- 6th Offense: 2 Full Days of In-School Suspension (ISS)
- 7th Offense: 1 Day Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- 8th Offense: 2 Days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- 9th Offense: 3-5 Days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)

**Level II:**

Any misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school and to seriously affect the student's own education is considered a Level II misbehavior. Infractions at this level may include Level I infractions committed by a student who continues or repeats the infraction after being disciplined at Level I.

**Examples of Level II Infractions:**

1. Cutting class
2. Cutting detention
3. Persistent disrespectful/disruptive behavior
4. Persistent, inappropriate use of electronic devices
5. Forgery
6. Gambling

7. Harassing incident
8. Insubordination/blatant refusal to follow directions
9. Obscene/vulgar language or behavior, or possession of obscene material
10. Truancy
11. Academic cheating/plagiarism
12. Dangerous behavior such as throwing objects, pushing, shoving, etc.

**Minimum Consequences for Level II Infractions:**

- 1st Offense: 1 Afterschool Detention
- 2nd Offense: 2 Afterschool Detentions
- 3rd Offense 3 Afterschool Detentions
- 4th Offense 1 Full Day Detention (ISS)
- 5th Offense 2 Full Day Detentions (ISS)
- 6th Offense: 1-2 Days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- 7th Offense: 3-5 Days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- 8th Offense: Superintendent's Hearing

**Level III:**

Any misbehavior whose consequence may pose a serious threat to the health and safety of others in school or has a lasting effect on the individual is considered a Level III misbehavior.

**Examples of Level III Infractions:**

1. Computer Use: Accessing/possession of inappropriate material
2. Theft
3. Trespassing (i.e. breaking into school)
4. Minor Vandalism
5. Fighting
6. Acceptable Use Policy Violation

**Minimum Consequences for Level III Infractions:**

- 1st Offense: 1-3 Days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- 2nd Offense: 3-5 Days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- 3rd Offense: 5 Days Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)
- 4th Offense: Superintendent's Hearing



**Level IV:**

Any misbehavior whose consequences pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and safety of others.

**Examples of Level IV Infractions:**

1. Arson
2. Bomb threat/false fire alarm
3. Drug/alcohol possession, sale, use and/or purchase
4. Possession, sale, use, purchase, or sharing of drug paraphernalia
5. Weapon/explosives possession (i.e. including fireworks)
6. Serious vandalism
7. Assault
8. In any way deliberately endangering the welfare of others

**Minimum Consequences for Level IV Infractions:**

1st Offense: 3-5 Days Out-of-School Suspension and/or Superintendent's Hearing

2nd Offense: Superintendent's Hearing

<b>Offense</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Range of Consequences</b>
Alcohol/Illegal Substance Violation	Possession, distribution, consumption, being under the influence, or sale of illegal substances or alcoholic beverages (including synthetic drugs), drug paraphernalia, or prescribed medication without district authorization on school property, at a school function, on a school bus, or in a school vehicle.	III
Arson/Fire	Attempting to, aiding in, or setting fire to a building or other property.	IV
Cyberbullying	As defined in the Code of Conduct (See page )	II-III
Cheating/Academic Dishonesty	Copying, plagiarizing, altering records, or assisting another in such actions.	II
Computer/Electronic Communication Misuse	Any unauthorized use of computers, software, or internet/intranet account to access internet/intranet; accessing another's email or an appropriate website, misuse of a website.	II-III
Cutting Class	Illegal absence from a class or school activity.	II
Defamation	False or unprivileged statement or representation about an individual or identifiable group of individuals that harm the reputation of the person or the identifiable group.	I-II
Destruction of Property/Vandalism	Damage, destruction, or defacement (graffiti) of property belonging to another or the school.	II-III-IV
Discrimination	As defined in the Code of Conduct (See page )	I-II
Disrespect Toward Others	Inappropriate comment or physical gesture to a student, teacher, staff member, or other adult.	I-II

Disorderly Conduct	Behavior disturbing the atmosphere or order, to include obstructing or restraining the authorized or lawful movement or participation of another	II-III
Disruption-Classroom	Behavior that is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom.	II-III
Disruption-School	Behavior that interferes with the safe and orderly environment of the school or school activity (throwing objects, pushing, shoving, etc.).	II-III
Dress Code	As defined in the Code of Conduct (See page )	I-II
Driving/Parking Violations	Failure to obey all state, district, and campus traffic and parking signs and rules.	II
Electronic Devices	Use of electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, MP3's, etc.) during the school day without the permission of a staff member (see Cell Phone Policy).	II
False Alarms/Bomb Threats	Initiating a report or warning of fire, or catastrophe without valid cause, misuse of 911, or discharging a fire extinguisher.	IV
Fighting	A hostile confrontation with physical contact involving two or more students.	III-IV
Fireworks or Explosives	Possession, use, and/or threat to use a firework, smoke bomb, flare or combustible or explosive substance.	III-IV
Gambling	Wagering money or property.	II
Harassment and/or Bullying	As defined in the Code of Conduct (See page )	II-III
Hazing	As defined in the Code of Conduct (See page )	III-IV
Indecent Exposure	Exposing private parts of the body in a lewd or indecent manner.	III-IV

Insubordination	Refusing to follow reasonable requests or failure to identify self or knowingly providing false information.	II
Leaving School Grounds Without Permission	Leaving school grounds during regular school hours without written or verbal permission from parent/guardian AND administrator.	III
Loitering	Idle presence in an area without authorization.	I-II
Physical Attack on Staff/Students/Others	Assault, or aggressive physical action, directed at students, staff, or others, including a situation where a staff member is intervening in a fight or other disruptive activity	III-IV
Possession of Disruptive Items	Unauthorized possession of a sound box, laser pointer, squirt gun, water balloon, personal audio device, or any other disruptive item.	I-II
Possession of Skateboards/ Rollerblades/ Hoverboards/Scooters	Use of unauthorized possession of a skateboard, scooter, hoverboards, or rollerblades on school property.	I-II
Profanity	Using vulgar or abusive language, cursing, or swearing.	I-II-III
Sexual Harassment	Unwanted and inappropriate verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed toward another person.	II-III-IV
Tardiness	Lateness to school or class.	I-II
Threat to Staff, Peer, or Other Person	Expression, conveyed or evidenced by word or action that shows intent to abuse, intimidate, coerce, or injure a staff member, student, or other person, including on social media.	II-III

Tobacco Violation	Possession, sale, distribution, or use of any tobacco product as defined in this Code of Conduct.	III
Trespassing	Unauthorized presence on school property, including while on suspension.	II-III
Truancy	Unlawful absence without parental knowledge and/or permission.	II-III
Weapon Possession	Possession of a weapon (see Code of Conduct for definition).	IV

## **Permissible Penalties**

### ***Initiation of Student Discipline Proceedings***

Any teacher, administrator, Board Member, parent or other person may report a violation of the Student Disciplinary Code to the building Principals. The Principals shall then make such investigation of the charges, as he/she deems appropriate, and take whatever actions deemed necessary.

This policy and the Board's Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order on School Property shall be publicized and explained to all students, and provided in writing to all parents on an annual basis.

### ***Procedures***

The amount of due process a student is entitled to receive before a penalty is imposed depends on the penalty being imposed. In all cases, regardless of the penalty imposed, the school personnel authorized to impose the penalty must inform the student of the alleged misconduct and must investigate, to the extent necessary, the facts surrounding the alleged misconduct. All students will have an opportunity to present their version of the facts to the school personnel imposing the disciplinary penalty in connection with the imposition of the penalty.

Students who are to be given penalties other than an oral warning, written warning or written notification to their parents are entitled to additional rights before the penalty is imposed. These additional rights are explained below.

### ***After School Detention***

Teachers, Principals and/or the Superintendent may use after school detention as a penalty for student misconduct in situations where removal from the classroom or suspension would be inappropriate. Parents will be notified that after school detention has been assigned prior to a student attending. Detention will be scheduled on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, with transportation home. Upon learning they after school detention, students must attend the next one offered, even if they interfere with extracurricular activities (practices, games, Enrichment, FFA events, etc.). Refusal to attend the next closest after school detention will result in additional disciplinary measures.

### ***Suspension from Transportation***

If a student does not conduct himself/herself properly on a bus, the bus driver is expected to bring such misconduct to the building Principal's attention. Students who become a serious disciplinary problem may have their riding privileges suspended by the building Principal or the Superintendent or their designees. In such cases, the student's parent will become responsible for seeing that his or her child gets to and from school safely. Should the suspension from transportation amount to a suspension from attendance; the district will make appropriate arrangements to provide for the student's education.

A student subjected to a suspension from transportation is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the building Principal or the Principal's designee to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

### ***Suspension from Athletic Participation, Extra-Curricular Activities and Other Privileges***

A student subjected to a suspension from athletic participation, extra-curricular activities or other

privileges is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the district official imposing the suspension to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

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

The Board recognizes the school must balance the need of students to attend school and the need for order in the classroom to establish an environment conducive to learning. As such, the Board authorizes building Principals and the Superintendent to place students who would otherwise be suspended from school as the result of a Code of Conduct violation in "in-school suspension."

A student subjected to an in-school suspension is not entitled to a full hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. However, the student and the student's parent will be provided with a reasonable opportunity for an informal conference with the district official imposing the in-school suspension to discuss the conduct and the penalty involved.

### **Teacher Disciplinary Removal of Disruptive Students**

A student's behavior can affect a teacher's ability to teach and can make it difficult for other students in the classroom to learn. In most instances the classroom teacher can control a student's behavior and maintain or restore control over the classroom by using good classroom management techniques. These techniques may include practices that involve the teacher directing a student to briefly leave the classroom to give the student an opportunity to regain his or her composure and self-control in an alternative setting. Such practices may include, but are not limited to: (1) short-term "time out" in an elementary classroom or in an administrator's office; (2) sending a student into the hallway briefly; (3) sending a student to the Principal's office for the remainder of the class time only; or (4) sending a student to a guidance counselor or other district staff member for counseling. Time-honored classroom management techniques such as these do not constitute disciplinary removals for purposes of this code.

On occasion, a student's behavior may become disruptive. For purposes of this Code of Conduct, a disruptive student is a student who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom. A substantial disruption of the educational process or substantial interference with a teacher's authority occurs when a student demonstrates a persistent unwillingness to comply with the teacher's instructions or repeatedly violates the teacher's classroom behavior rules.

A classroom teacher may remove a disruptive student from class for up to three days. The removal from class applies to the class of the removing teacher only.

If the disruptive student does not pose a danger or ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process, the teacher must provide the student with an explanation for why he or she is being removed and an opportunity to explain his or her version of the relevant events before the student is removed. Only after the informal discussion may a teacher remove a student from class.

If the student poses a danger or ongoing threat of disruption, the teacher may order the student to be removed immediately. The teacher must, however, explain to the student why he or she was removed from the classroom and give the student a chance to present his or her version of the relevant events within 24 hours.

The teacher must complete a discipline referral form and meet with the Principal or his or her designee as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the school day, to explain the

circumstances of the removal and to present the discipline referral form. If the Principal or designee is not available by the end of the same school day, the teacher must leave the form with the secretary and meet with the Principal or designee prior to the beginning of classes on the next school day.

Within 24 hours, if the student is assigned to ISS, the Principal or other district administrator designated by the Principal must notify the student's parents by phone, that the student has been removed from class and why. The administrator must also inform the parent that he or she has the right, upon request, to meet informally with the Principal or the Principal's designee and the teacher to discuss the reasons for the removal.

The written notice must be provided by personal delivery, express mail delivery, or some other means that is reasonably calculated to assure receipt of the notice within 24 hours of the student's removal at the last known address for the parents. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the school has been provided a telephone number(s) for the purpose of contacting parents.

If, at the informal meeting, the student denies the charges, the teacher must explain why the student was removed and give the student's parents a chance to present the student's version of the relevant events. The informal meeting must be held within 48 hours of the student's removal. The timing of the informal meeting may be extended by mutual agreement of the parent and Principal.

The Principal or the Principal's designee may overturn the removal of the student from class if the Principal finds any one of the following:

1. The charges against the student are not supported by substantial evidence.
2. The student's removal is otherwise in violation of law, including the district's code of conduct.
3. The conduct warrants suspension from school pursuant to Education Law §3214 and a suspension will be imposed.

The Principal or his or her designee may overturn a removal at any point between receiving the referral form issued by the teacher and the close of business the next day following the 48 hour period for the informal conference, if a conference is requested. No student removed from the classroom by the classroom teacher will be permitted to return to the classroom until the Principal makes a final determination pursuant to Education Law §3214 (3-a)(c), or the period of removal expires, whichever is less.

Any disruptive student removed from the classroom by the classroom teacher shall be offered continued educational programming and activities until he or she is permitted to return to the classroom.

Removal of a student with a disability, under certain circumstances, may constitute a change in the student's placement. Accordingly, no teacher may remove a student with a disability from his or her class until he or she has verified with the Principal or the Chairperson of the Committee on Special Education that the removal will not violate the student's rights under state or federal law or regulation.

### ***Suspension from School***

Suspension from school is a penalty, which may be imposed only upon students who are insubordinate, disorderly, violent or disruptive, or whose conduct otherwise endangers the safety, morals, health or welfare of others.

The Board retains its authority to suspend students, but places primary responsibility for the suspension of students with the Superintendent and the Building Principals.



Any staff member may recommend to the Superintendent or the Principal that a student be suspended. All staff members must immediately report and refer a violent student to the Principal or the Superintendent for a violation of the Code of Conduct. All recommendations and referrals shall be made in writing unless the conditions underlying the recommendation or referral warrant immediate attention. In such cases a written report is to be prepared as soon as practical by the staff member recommending the suspension.

The Superintendent or Principal, upon receiving a recommendation or referral for suspension or when processing a case for suspension, shall gather the facts relevant to the matter and record them for subsequent presentation if necessary.

In the event of a student's suspension prior to or concurrent with snow days or other emergency days, the student's suspension will resume the first school day immediately following the snow day or other emergency day.

When a student of any age is removed from class by a teacher or a student of compulsory attendance age is suspended from school pursuant to Education Law §3214, the District will take immediate steps to ensure the provision of continued educational programming and activities, including alternative educational programs appropriate to individual student needs.

The following procedures will apply to suspensions of students from school:

***Short-term (five days or less) Suspension from school***

When the Superintendent or Principal (referred to as the "suspending authority") propose to suspend a student charged with misconduct for five days or less pursuant to Education Law §3214, the suspending authority must immediately notify the student orally. If the student denies the misconduct, the suspending authority must provide an explanation of the basis for the proposed suspension. The suspending authority must also notify the student's parents/guardians in writing that the student may be suspended from school. The written notice must be provided by personal delivery, express mail delivery, or some other means that is reasonably calculated to assure receipt of the notice within 24 hours of the decision to propose suspension at the last known address for the parents/guardians. Where possible, notice should also be provided by telephone if the District has been provided with a telephone number(s) for the purpose of contacting the parents/guardians.

The notice shall provide a description of the charges against the student and the incident for which the suspension is proposed and shall inform the parents/guardians of the right to request an immediate informal conference with the Principal. Both the notice and the informal conference shall be in the dominant language or mode of communication used by the parents/guardians. At the conference, the parents/guardians shall be permitted to ask questions of the complaining witnesses under such procedures as the Principal may establish.

The notice and opportunity for an informal conference shall take place before the student is suspended unless the student's presence in school poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the academic process. If the student's presence does pose such a danger or threat of disruption, the notice and opportunity for an informal conference shall take place as soon after the suspension as is reasonably practical.

After the conference, the Principal shall promptly advise the parents/guardians in writing of his or her decision. If the parents are not satisfied with the decision and wish to pursue the matter, they must file a written appeal to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of the decision.

### ***Long-term (more than five days) Suspension from School***

When the Superintendent or Building Principal determines that a suspension for more than five days may be warranted, he or she shall give reasonable notice to the student and the student's parents/guardians of their right to a fair hearing. At the hearing, the student shall have the right to present witnesses and other evidence on his or her behalf.

The Superintendent shall personally hear and determine the proceeding or may, at his or her discretion, designate a hearing officer to conduct the hearing. The hearing officer shall be authorized to administer oaths, and to issue subpoenas in conjunction with the proceeding before him or her. A record of the hearing shall be maintained, but no stenographic transcript shall be required. A tape recording shall be deemed a satisfactory record. The hearing officer shall make findings of fact and recommendations, as to the appropriate measure of discipline to the Superintendent. The report of the hearing officer shall be advisory only, and the Superintendent may accept all or any part thereof.

An appeal of the decision of the Superintendent may be made to the Board that will make its decision based solely upon the record before it. All appeals to the Board must be in writing and submitted to the District Clerk within thirty (30) days of the date the Superintendent's decision, unless the parents/guardians can show that extraordinary circumstances precluded them from doing so. The Board may adopt in whole or in part the decision of the Superintendent. Final decisions of the Board may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) days of the decision.

### ***Permanent Suspension***

Permanent suspension is reserved for extraordinary circumstances such as where a student's conduct poses a life-threatening danger to the safety and well-being of other students, District personnel, or any other person lawfully on District property or attending a District function.

## **Minimum Periods of Suspension**

### ***Students who bring a weapon to school***

**NOTE:** The Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994 (20 USC §8921) requires all states that receive funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to have a law that requires school districts to suspend students who bring weapons to school for a minimum of one calendar year. Section 3214(3) (d) of the Education Law has been amended to comply with the federal law. The federal law defines "weapon" somewhat narrowly. (See 18 USC §914)

The U.S. Department of Education, the federal agency responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act, has stated that local school districts may decide to broaden their definition to include other weapons as well.

Any student, other than a student with a disability, found guilty of bringing a weapon onto school property will be subject to suspension from school for at least one calendar year. Before being suspended, the student will have an opportunity for a hearing pursuant to Education Law §3214. The Superintendent has the authority to modify the one-year suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the Superintendent may consider the following:

1. The student's age.
2. The student's grade in school.
3. The student's prior discipline record.

4. The Superintendent's belief that other forms of discipline may be more effective.
5. Input from parents, teachers and/or others
6. Other extenuating circumstances.

The Superintendent is required to refer the following students to the County Attorney (or the County Presentment Agency if not the County Attorney) for a juvenile delinquency proceeding before the Family Court:

- A. Any student under the age of 16 who is found to have brought a weapon to school, or
- B. Any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status under the Criminal Procedure Law.

The Superintendent is required to refer students over the age of 16 or any student 14 or 15 years old who qualifies for juvenile offender status to the appropriate law enforcement authorities. A student 14 or 15 years old who possesses a firearm, machine-gun, or loaded firearm (as defined in section 265.00 of the Penal Law) on District property (as defined in section 220.00 [14] of the Penal Law) qualifies for juvenile offender status under subdivision forty-two of section 1.20 of the Criminal Procedure Law.

A student with a disability may be suspended only in accordance with the requirements of state and federal law.

### **Random Metal-Detector Wand Screening**

Metal-detector screenings are a necessary means of detecting and deterring the possession of contraband/weapons and preventing its consequences. To improve security at DCS, the Superintendent or designee or other school officials may authorize metal-detector and/or wand screenings of students and their personal belongings on randomly chosen days during a specified period of the day, using trained personnel. The Superintendent or designee or other school officials may also authorize metal-detector and/or wand screenings on days chosen to address particular concerns as needed to maintain safety.

### ***Students who commit violent acts other than bringing a weapon to school***

Any student, other than a student with a disability, who is found to have committed a violent act, other than bringing a weapon onto school property, shall be subject to suspension from school for at least five days. If the proposed penalty is the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's parents will be given the same notice and opportunity for an informal conference given to all students subject to a short term suspension. If the proposed penalty exceeds the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's parents will be given the same notice and opportunity for a hearing given to all students subject to a long-term suspension. The Superintendent has the authority to modify the minimum five-day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the Superintendent may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

### ***Students who are repeatedly substantially disruptive of the educational process or repeatedly substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom***

Any student, other than a student with a disability, who repeatedly is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom, will be suspended from school for at least five days. For purposes of this code of conduct, "repeatedly is substantially disruptive" means engaging in conduct that results in the student being removed from

the classroom by teacher(s) pursuant to Education Law §3214 (3-a) and this code on four or more occasions during a semester, or three or more occasions during a trimester. If the proposed penalty is the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's parent will be given the same notice and opportunity for an informal conference given to all students subject to the short-term suspension. If the proposed penalty exceeds the minimum five-day suspension, the student and the student's parent will be given the same notice and opportunity for a hearing given to all students subject to long-term suspension. The Superintendent has the authority to modify the minimum five-day suspension on a case-by-case basis. In deciding whether to modify the penalty, the Superintendent may consider the same factors considered in modifying a one-year suspension for possessing a weapon.

### ***Permanent Suspension***

Permanent suspension is reserved for extraordinary circumstance such as where a student's conduct poses a life-threatening danger to the safety and well-being of other students, school personnel or any other person lawfully on school property or attending a school function.

## **Collaboration with Community Resources and Law Enforcement**

### **A. Human Services Agencies and Person in Need of Supervision (PINS) Petitions**

When there is evidence of educational neglect, the building Principal, in consultation with the Superintendent, shall determine whether a report to the appropriate agency is warranted.

When there is evidence of child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment, all mandated reporters shall follow the procedures established by law and District Policy.

When a student is frequently absent from or tardy without valid excuse; is habitually disobedient, ungovernable, or non-compliant with this Code of Conduct; or is in possession of marijuana in violation of the Penal Law; then the building Principal, in consultation with the Superintendent, may initiate the pre-PINS diversion process with the appropriate county lead agency. If the District is notified by the responsible county lead agency that no further diversion services are warranted, the building Principal, in consultation with the Superintendent, shall determine whether to initiate a PINS petition in Family Court.

### **B. Law Enforcement Agencies and Juvenile Delinquency Complaints**

An Administrator will notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency by phone or in person of those code violations that constitute a crime, including but not limited to incidents of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination, and substantially affect the order or security of a school as soon as practical, but in no event later than the close of business the day the administrator learns of the violation. The notification must identify the student(s) and explain the conduct that violated the Code of Conduct and constituted a crime. When an act is reported to a local law enforcement agency as a possible crime, it remains the responsibility of the building administrator to collect the information necessary to make a determination as to the appropriateness of disciplinary consequences under this Code.

In general, the person against whom the criminal act was directed should be identified as the complainant where the district attorney decides to initiate a criminal complaint or juvenile delinquency petition. The District, or a District employee in their official capacity, may only be identified as the complainant when the Superintendent determines that it is appropriate to proceed in that manner.

## **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

The board recognizes that it may be necessary to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline students with disabilities to address disruptive or problem behavior. The board also recognizes that students with disabilities have certain procedural protections whenever school authorities intend to impose discipline upon them. The board is committed to ensuring that the procedures followed for suspending, removing or otherwise disciplining students with disabilities are consistent with the procedural safeguards required by applicable laws and regulations.

### ***Suspensions or Removals of Students with Disabilities***

The District Superintendent of schools or a building Principal may order the placement of a student with a disability into an IAES, another setting or suspension for a period not to exceed five consecutive school days and not to exceed the amount of time a non-disabled student would be subject to suspension for the same behavior.

The Superintendent may order additional suspensions of not more than 10 consecutive school days in the same school year for separate incidents of misconduct, as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement.

Generally, disciplinary actions will be in accordance with the procedures of the *Student Code of Conduct* for all students with disabilities; however, for suspensions or removals up to ten (10) school days in a school year that do not constitute a disciplinary change in placement, students with disabilities must be provided with alternative instruction or services on the same basis as non-disabled students of the same age.

If suspension or removal from the current educational placement constitutes a disciplinary change in placement because it is for more than ten (10) consecutive school days or constitutes a pattern, a manifestation determination must be made. The District determines on a case-by-case basis whether a pattern of removals constitutes a change of placement. This determination is subject to review through due process and judicial proceedings.

### ***Manifestation Determinations***

A review of the relationship between the student's disability and the behavior subject to disciplinary action to determine if the conduct is a manifestation of the disability must be made by a manifestation team immediately, if possible, but in no case later than ten (10) school days after a decision is made:

- a) By the Superintendent to change the placement to an interim alternative educational setting (IAES);
- b) By an Impartial Hearing Officer (IHO) to place the student in an IAES; or
- c) By the Board, District Superintendent, Superintendent or Building Principal to impose a suspension that constitutes a disciplinary change of placement.

The manifestation team will include a representative of the District knowledgeable about the student and the interpretation of information about child behavior, the parent and relevant members of the CSE. The parent must receive written notice prior to the meeting to ensure that the parent has an opportunity to attend.

The manifestation team will review all relevant information in the student's file including the student's individualized education program (IEP), any teacher observations, and any relevant information provided by the parents to determine if: the conduct in question was caused by or had a direct and

substantial relationship to the student's disability; or the conduct in question was the direct result of the District's failure to implement the IEP. If the team determines the conduct in question was the direct result of failure to implement the IEP, the District must take immediate steps to remedy those deficiencies.

#### Finding of Manifestation

If it is determined, as a result of this review, that the student's behavior is a manifestation of his/her disability the CSE will conduct a functional behavioral assessment, if one has not yet been conducted, and implement or modify a behavioral intervention plan.

Functional behavioral assessment (FBA) means the process of determining why the student engages in behaviors that impede learning and how the student's behavior relates to the environment.

Behavioral intervention plan (BIP) means a plan that is based on the results of a functional behavioral assessment and, at a minimum, includes a description of the problem behavior, global and specific hypotheses as to why the problem behavior occurs and intervention strategies that include positive behavioral supports and services to address the behavior.

Unless the change in placement was due to behavior involving serious bodily injury, weapons,-drugs or controlled substances, the student must be returned to the placement from which the student was removed unless the parent and the District agree to a change of placement as part of the modification of the behavioral intervention plan.

#### No Finding of Manifestation

If it is determined that the student's behavior is not a manifestation of his/her disability, the relevant disciplinary procedures applicable to students without disabilities may be applied to the student in the same manner and for the same duration for which they would be applied to students without disabilities, subject to the right of the parent/person in parental relation to request a hearing objecting to the manifestation determination and the District's obligation to provide a free, appropriate public education to such student.

#### Provision of Services Regardless of the Manifestation Determination

Regardless of the manifestation determination, students with a disability shall be provided the services necessary for them to continue to participate in the general education curriculum and progress toward meeting the goals set out in their IEP. They must also receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment, behavioral intervention services and modifications designed to address the behavior violation so it does not recur:

- a) For subsequent suspensions or removals for ten (10) consecutive school days or less that in the aggregate total more than ten (10) school days in a school year but do not constitute a disciplinary change of placement school personnel, in consultation with at least one (1) of the student's teachers, will determine the extent to which services are needed;
- b) For suspensions or other disciplinary removals in excess of ten (10) school days in a school year which do constitute a disciplinary change in placement the IAES and services will be determined by the CSE.

#### ***Interim Alternative Educational Setting (IAES)***

Students with disabilities who have been suspended or removed from their current placement for more than ten (10) school days may be placed in an IAES which is a temporary educational setting other than the student's current placement at the time the behavior precipitating the IAES placement occurred.

Additionally, an Impartial Hearing Officer in an expedited due process hearing may order a change in placement of a student with a disability to an appropriate IAES for up to forty-five (45) school days if the Hearing Officer determines that maintaining the current placement is substantially likely to result in injury to the students or others.

There are three (3) specific instances when a student with a disability may be placed in an IAES for up to forty-five (45) school days without regard to a manifestation determination:

- a) Where the student carries or possesses a weapon to or at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the District; or
- b) Where a student knowingly possesses or uses drugs or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the District; or
- c) Where a student has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of the District. Serious bodily harm has been defined in law to refer to one (1) of the following:
  - 1. Substantial risk of death;
  - 2. Extreme physical pain; or
  - 3. Protracted and obvious disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or mental faculty.

A school function shall mean a school-sponsored or school-authorized extracurricular event or activity regardless of where such event or activity takes place, including any event or activity that may take place in another state.

School personnel may consider any unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether to order a change in placement for a student with a disability who violates a code of student conduct.

In all cases, the student placed in an IAES shall:

- a) Continue to receive educational services so as to enable the student to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting, and to progress towards the goals set out in the student's IEP, and
- b) Receive, as appropriate, a functional behavioral assessment and behavioral intervention services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior violation so that it does not recur.

The period of suspension or removal may not exceed the amount of time a non-disabled student would be suspended for the same behavior.

## **Suspension from BOCES**

The BOCES Principal may suspend School District students from BOCES classes for a period not to exceed five (5) school days when student behavior warrants such action.

## **In-School Suspension**

In-school suspension will be used as a lesser discipline to avoid an out-of-school suspension. The student shall be considered present for attendance purposes. The program is used to keep each student current with his/her class work while attempting to reinforce acceptable behavior, attitudes and personal interaction.

## BOCES Activities

BOCES activities, such as field trips and other activities outside the building itself, are considered an extension of the school program. Therefore, an infraction handled at BOCES is to be considered as an act within the School District itself.

A student who is ineligible to attend a District school on a given day may also be ineligible to attend BOCES classes. The decision rests with the Superintendent or his/her designee.

### Field Trips

The Board of Education recognizes that field trips are an educationally sound and important ingredient in the instructional program of the schools. **All overnight field trips need to be approved by the BOE before December 1<sup>st</sup>. Field trips that are supplemented by DCS will be open to all eligible students.**

A field trip is any journey by a group of students away from the school premises, under the supervision of a teacher, which is an integral part of an approved course of study and conducted for the purpose of affording a first-hand educational experience not available in the classroom. Pertinent information for each field trip, including the date, hours, and destination, will be sent home at least one week prior to the field trip. Parent permission slips will not be necessary for field trips that take place during the normal school day.

\*All rules of the Code of Conduct apply during a field trip. These include, but are not limited to, bus rules, behavioral expectations, dress codes, and attendance.

### Returning Equipment

It is the student's responsibility to turn in all materials and equipment borrowed from the school in a timely manner. Students who violate this procedure run the risk of further consequences. The school will send a bill to replace the item.

Consequences could be, but not limited too.

- Day of ISS
- Can't attend a school sponsored activity

### School Dances/Activities Attendance

- 1) Attendance is limited to currently enrolled DeRuyter Central School students in specifically identified grade levels.
- 2) No student will be allowed to enter more than one half hour after the event/activity has started without prior permission or the permission of an administrator.
- 3) Any student leaving will not be allowed to return to the dance/similar event. The student who leaves early will have to sign out at the door. The student is responsible for notifying their parent/guardian that they are leaving the dance early.
- 4) In events for younger secondary students, no student (grades 6-8) will be allowed to leave prior to the time scheduled for the event to end, unless the student has permission from a chaperone, or from his/her parents who will be appearing in person.



### ***Students Ineligible to Attend the Event/Activity***

- 1) Any student suspended ISS (half a day or more) or OSS from school at the time of the event.
- 2) Students not in attendance at school the day of the event/activity or those students who were illegally tardy.
- 3) Students restricted from activities including those on either the Fail 2 list, or those students on the Fail 1 list who have not attended **ALL** prior study skills sessions.

### ***Guests, Individuals Who Are Not Students at DeRuyter***

- 1) Requests for guest passes must be submitted to the Principal by noon on Thursday for dances that are to be held on Friday or Saturday. A list of students bringing guests will be available for the chaperones at the door.
- 2) Guests are expected to arrive and leave the dance with the DeRuyter student and to follow all school rules and policies.
- 3) DeRuyter students who appear at a dance with unexpected guests will not be allowed to enter the activity while the guests remain on school property.
- 4) All DCS guests must be under 21 years of age and provide a photo identification card if requested by an administrator.

## **Graduation Requirements**

### ***Who is eligible?***

- Any student that has successfully passed and completed the minimum 22 credits according to New York State Education Department
- Any student that has completed programs affiliated with DeRuyter Central School (i.e. Alternative High school)
- Any student that will be receiving a Regents/Local/IEP diploma from DeRuyter Central School.
- Home school students can not participate.
- Foreign exchange students are eligible if they qualify as a senior and will receive an honorary diploma from DeRuyter Central School.

### ***Parental notification***

- Communication is extremely important especially for seniors who are in jeopardy of not successfully completing their senior year. The following steps will be followed in an attempt to communicate concerns and issues with the appropriate parents/guardians.
  - 15 week reports- parents will be notified via phone call and letter
  - 20 week reports- parents will be requested to attend parent/teacher conference
  - 25 week reports- certified letter will be sent expressing concerns and parent conference recommended
  - 30 week reports- certified letter will be sent expressing concerns and parent conference recommended
  - 35 week reports- certified letter will be sent expressing concerns and parent conference recommended
  - 40 weeks reports- parent will be notified via phone call and letter upon final results of course work and if necessary summer school arrangements will be made

- **If a student does not meet the requirements to participate in graduation at the end of his/her senior year, but successfully passes and completes the necessary courses they will be invited to participate in the following year's graduation ceremony only.**

## **Promotion Policy for Grades 5-8**

### **Middle School Promotion Practices**

The promotion practices at the middle school level are based on an evaluation of the total needs of the individual student. At times it may be necessary for a student to repeat a grade or coursework in order for students to establish a strong foundation in each course/grade to move on to the next level of work. Having a child repeat a grade is a serious decision and must be based on sound evidence. The following guidelines are used when considering retaining students:

- If a student fails one core course (ELA, math, science, social studies, language other than English) the student will pass the grade but it will be recommended that he/she attend summer school.
- If a student fails two or more core courses summer school will be required and the student will need to pass at least one course.
- If a student fails three courses a student will be required to attend summer school and pass two courses.
- If a student fails four or more courses the student may not be promoted to the next grade level.

It is the practice of DCS that a targeted plan and instructional support will be provided to students who are in danger of failing in order to close the learning gap. The plan will also address the social and emotional needs of the student.

## **Promotion Policy for Grades 9-12**

In order for promotion to take place, students in grades 9-12 must be in good academic standing.

A grade of 65 or better is required to receive a passing grade and course credit toward graduation. Any student who fails a class will be encouraged to retake the course in summer school.

Outlined below are the criteria for promotion to that grade level:

Grade 9 – Satisfactory completion of eighth grade course work, and /or faculty recommendation and approval of Principal.

Grade 10- Satisfactory completion of 5 units of instruction of which the student must have 1 unit each of English and Social Studies.

Grade 11 – Satisfactory completion of 11 units of instruction of which the student must have 2 units each of English and Social Studies and 1 unit each of Mathematics and Science.

Grade 12 – Satisfactory completion of 16 units of which the student must have 3 units each of English and Social Studies and 2 units each of Mathematics and Science.

Note: For special circumstances these criteria may be modified with the concurrence of Guidance and the Principal.

## **Selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian**

Criteria listed below will be used to determine the valedictorian and salutatorian of the senior class of the DeRuyter Central School District.

1. The Valedictorian of DCS will be the student with the highest cumulative grade point average at the end of 7.5 semesters (third quarter of the senior year). The CGPA will be calculated using all credit bearing courses. Advanced Placement and Concurrent College Courses (e.g., TC3) will be weighted 1.1 and Honors Courses will be weighted 1.05.
2. The Salutatorian of DCS will be the student with the second highest cumulative grade point average at the end of 7.5 semesters (third quarter of senior year).
3. An eligible student must attend the DeRuyter Central School District for a minimum of three (3) full academic years, prior to graduation, from grades 9 through 12.
4. Student must be enrolled as a full-time student at the time of graduation.
5. Only the average of grades earned in the DeRuyter Central School District through the third quarter of the senior year will be used to select the final candidate. (Course credits earned in other high schools, in summer schools other than those conducted by DeRuyter Central School District, and post high school college credits will not be used in determining the final selection of a valedictorian or salutatorian.)
6. Eligibility will not be restricted in any way by virtue of the type of courses undertaken by the students.
7. The valedictorian and salutatorian will be afforded the opportunity to speak at commencement. This does not eliminate other students as determined by the school administration from speaking at commencement, i.e., senior class president, president of student association, etc.

## **DeRuyter Central School National Honor Society Selection Criteria\***

### ***Selection of Members***

Section 1. The DeRuyter Central School Chapter of National Honor Society shall select and induct students once a year, in the spring.

Section 2. Senior High NHS Candidates must be an entering junior or senior with a minimum GPA of 90% (beginning the 2020-2021 school year), Junior High NHS Candidates must be an entering freshman or sophomore with a minimum GPA of 90%, the only GPA calculation accepted is the one displayed on the official high school transcript.

Section 3. The student must have attended DeRuyter Central School for at least one semester before he/she is eligible for selection.

Section 4. The selection process shall be published and kept on file in the DeRuyter Central School LMC.

Section 5. During April, all candidates who meet the academic eligibility requirements shall receive a letter inviting them to complete a selection form packet and submit it, by the end of April (the date will be announced when the packet is distributed).

Section 6. The completed selection form packet shall be reviewed by a principal-appointed, five member faculty council. Service and Leadership documentation must be signed by the program coordinator unless other permission is given by the advisors. The applicant's Character will also be considered at this time. This includes (but is not limited to) prior instances of cheating/plagiarism, bullying, and/or any referrals on file for poor behavior. The Faculty Council shall consider activities and information which has occurred during the middle/high school years of enrollment only.

Section 7. The Faculty Council shall notify the Principal of all accepted candidates.

Section 8. The advisors shall notify the inductees and/or parents with an invitation to the induction ceremony.

Section 9. An active member of the National Honor Society who transfers to DeRuyter Central School will be accepted for membership in this chapter, after the advisors have verified the transfer student's NHS membership in his/her last school of attendance. To maintain membership, the transfer student must meet all continued membership requirements in the DeRuyter Central School NHS Chapter.

Section 10. Non-selection: If a student or parents have questions pertaining to non-selection they must first contact the chapter advisors. Should students or parents still not be satisfied, the next level of discussion should take place with the Principal.

\*The DCS National Honor Society Bylaws may be viewed in their entirety in the District Policies Manual.

## **In-Service Education Programs**

The Board of Education will provide in-service education programs for all district staff members to ensure the effective implementation of this Code, to promote a safe and supportive school climate while discouraging, among other things, bullying, discrimination and harassment against students by students and/or school employees and to include safe and supportive school climate concepts in the curriculum and classroom management.

In-service education programs shall also include training on the social patterns of harassment, bullying and discrimination, including but not limited to those acts based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender and sex, the identification and mitigation of harassment, bullying and discrimination, and strategies for effectively addressing problems of exclusion, bias and aggression in educational settings.

The Superintendent may solicit the recommendations of the District staff, particularly teachers and administrators, regarding in-service programs pertaining to the management and discipline of students.

# CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT FOR ATHLETIC/EXTRA CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

Participants in DeRuyter Central School sports and other extra-curricular activities become very special representatives for our school and community. Choosing to be a member of any group representing DCS is a privilege and creates valuable opportunities. It means accepting responsibilities and standards of conduct expected of our participating students. Beginning on his/her first day of participation, all participants are expected to follow the *Code of Student Conduct*, academic eligibility, and the expectations set forth in this document.

## I. Acknowledgement Form

In order for a student to participate in athletics and other extra-curricular activities, the parent/guardian and student must sign the Acknowledgement Form and return it to the coach/advisor. Parents, your signature indicates that you have read and understand how your child is expected to behave and the consequences of not doing so. A student may not participate without a signed Acknowledgement Form.

## II. School Attendance

*In order to participate in extracurricular events after school, the student must be in attendance the entire day (8:00 AM-2:55 PM). If the event is on a Saturday, the student must be in attendance all day the Friday prior to the event. If the event is over a break, the student must be in attendance the last day of school before the break in order to participate at all.*

Students are expected to be in school the entire day from 8:00 AM – 2:55 PM. Once a student has been tardy or dismissed early 3 times during a 10 week marking period, a student may not participate in athletic activities (including practices and games) or extra-curricular activities on that day unless they bring a doctor's note to the nurse. If there are no practices, games, events or activities the day the student reaches the third tardy or early dismissal, the student may not participate the next time said activities are held.

If a student is not currently participating in extra-curricular activities or athletics, the student will serve 2 days (120 minutes) of after school detention on the following Tuesday and Thursday or whenever the after school bus run occurs.

Once the suspension and/or detention has been earned and served, the student's attendance cycle will be reset and the process started above will begin again. Chronic offenders will be referred to the principal for possible additional disciplinary action.

***College visitations, when arranged with your guidance counselors, are allowable as defined by NYS Education Department), the student will be allowed to participate subject to approval by the Athletic Director or an administrator. Any student who leaves school due to illness is not eligible for participation that day.***

## III. Activity Attendance

### A. Tryouts:

Each team will conduct a 5 day tryout period.

1. After completion of a team's 5<sup>th</sup> day of practice, a student who quits a team cannot go out for another team that season.
2. During this 5 day team practice period, a student may choose to quit the first team for which they are trying out, and still go out for a different sport that season – required process:
  - a. The student must first directly tell the coach of the first team that he/she is quitting and what team they will be trying out for, and fill out the appropriate form supplied to them by the coach.
  - b. The student must also directly tell and get the signature of Athletic Director.
  - c. The AD (or High School Principal) will, as soon as possible, so inform the coach of the team for which this student will be trying out.
3. Under such circumstances, a student does not get a second 5 day team practice period and may not try out for another team that season if they quit again.
4. If a student wants to quit a team completely they must first have a meeting with the coach, and the athletic director.
5. If the student does not attend the meeting they will not be allowed to participate in the next sport season.

Missing a practice or arriving late for a practice requires prior permission from the coach/activity advisor or Athletic Director, if the coach is not available.

*Consequences* – **1<sup>st</sup> offense** - warning and explanation with coach/advisor.

**2<sup>nd</sup> offense** - suspension from the next game/activity.

**3<sup>rd</sup> offense** – Coach and Athletic Director's decision.

Missing a game/activity requires prior permission from the coach/advisor or Athletic Director, if the coach is not available. If not excused:

*Consequences* - Suspension from the next game/activity.

#### **IV. Sports Physicals/Injuries**

A. All students must have a complete physical examination performed by an accredited medical doctor, or authorized medical practitioner, and be declared fit for the particular activity prior to participating in the athletic activity. Paperwork must be submitted to the school nurse and deemed to meet all necessary requirements; coaches must receive clearance from the nurse before the student athlete will be allowed to practice.

#### **No one may participate without a physical examination**

B. Athletes/participants are responsible for reporting all injuries immediately to the Coach/Advisor.

C. If illness or injury causes an absence of five (5) or more consecutive school days, written permission from the student's doctor must be provided to our school nurse before participation can be resumed in athletic competition.

## **V. Training Regulations and Responsibilities**

Student athletes/activity participants must abide by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association rules.

## **VI. Prohibited Substances**

Use or possession of these substances in any form at any time during the sports season or extra-curricular activity is prohibited.

- A. Alcoholic beverages
- B. Tobacco
- C. Marijuana

### **Consequences**

**1st offense** during a school year - Suspension from the team and/or DCS extra-curricular activity for 10 calendar days. There will also be a required conference with the student, parents, Athletic Director/Activity Advisor and Principal. The student will be referred to a counseling program.

**2nd offense** during a school year - Dismissal from sport and/or DCS extra-curricular activity/club for at least 45 calendar days and a conference to occur with student, parents, Athletic Director/Activity Advisor and Principal. The student will be referred to a counseling program.

## **VII. Illegal Substances**

- D. Abusive non-prescription drugs, prescription drugs or use of performance enhancing drugs
- E. Narcotics, Barbiturates, Inhalants, Hallucinogens, Synthetic drugs

### **Consequences**

**1st offense** during a school year – Suspension from the team and/or DCS extra-curricular activity for 45 calendar days. There will also be a required conference with the student, parents, Athletic Director/Activity Advisor and the Principal. The student will be referred to a counseling program.

**2nd offense** during a school year – Dismissal from the sport and/or DCS extra-curricular activity/club for 60 calendar days and a conference to occur with student, parents, Athletic Director/Activity Advisor and Principal. The student will be referred to a counseling program.

## **VIII. Inappropriate Behaviors**

Respectful, responsible behaviors are expected of all participants and athletes.

- a) Any action judged by the Coach/Advisor, Athletic Director or Principal to be contrary to the best interests of the team and the school will not be tolerated.



- i) Copies of discipline referrals will be sent to the Athletic Director for code enforcement.
- b) Displays of un-sportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated. Such displays may result in immediate loss of participation for the remainder of the event and depending on the severity, loss of participation in all extra-curricular activities.
- c) Foul, vulgar language and gestures will not be tolerated.

## **Consequences**

Disciplinary action will include: warning and/or loss of participation in activity - based upon severity of incident.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Warning discussion with coach.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Loss of 1 activity.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Suspension from activity/team for season.

**NOTE:** An extreme display of inappropriate behavior may result in school suspension or dismissal from the team/activity subject to the judgment of the Coach/Advisor, Athletic Director, and the Principal.

## **IX. Academic Eligibility**

- A. All participants are expected to strive for their personal best in classroom activity.

### **Guidelines for Fail 1 and Fail 2 Lists for ALL Students in Grades 6-12**

#### **FAIL 1**

- Students are **restricted** to Study Hall until off the Fail 1 list. Only those students who bring a **pre-signed** pass from a teacher will be allowed to leave study hall for help from that specific teacher.
- Students must attend a minimum of **two (2)** afterschool study hall sessions in order to be eligible to get off the Fail list. Students on Fail 1 should complete their two study skills as soon as possible.
- Students on Fail 1 may attend school functions and are permitted to participate in extra-curricular activities. However, students who have not completed their two after school study skills by the Friday Appeal Date for Academic Eligibility (p. 38) for that mid/marking period are prohibited from attending and/or participating in all extracurricular activities until this requirement has been fulfilled.

#### **FAIL 2**

- Students in grades 5-12 who are failing two or more classes will be ineligible to participate for the remainder of the 5-week mid/marking period (see **Last Day of Fail List** column below) in any extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to school clubs, dances, sports team practices/events/contests, school play, field trips, NYSSMA All County, prom, and senior trip and picnic).
- Students on the Fail 2 List are eligible to attend educational field trips that take place during the school day between 8:00am and 3:00pm.
- Students are restricted to study hall until they off the Fail 2 list. Only those students who bring a pre-signed pass from a teacher will be allowed to leave study hall for help from that specific teacher.

- Students must attend after school study skills on Tuesdays and Wednesdays until they are off the fail list.
- If the student's situation improves after a minimum of three weeks from the end of the mid/marking period date, the student may request an "appeal" (see below) for reconsideration of his/her ineligible to participate status.
- In order for a student to appeal his/her ineligibility status, he/she must be passing **ALL** classes.

Note: In order to successfully appeal, a student must complete the *Extra Curricular Release Form* (sample of form on page 39). This form must be submitted to Mrs. Stanton in the main office on the appeal date for that mid/marking period (see "**Appeal Date for Academic Eligibility**" column below for specific dates). Additionally, the student must attend at least four (4) after school study skills. Students will remain on Fail 2 for the remainder of that mid/marking period unless both the Extra Curricular Release Form and study skills requirements are met.

Note: A dropped class does not automatically reduce the number of failing course for a student. If a student drops a class, that failure will be considered "resolved" at the next five (5) week marking period. If a student's appeal is successful, they must maintain passing grades for the remainder of the five week marking period.

#### **40 Week Fail List**

Students who fail one or more classes for the 40 week marking period must watch the online *Crash Course Study Skills* video series and also complete and submit the corresponding assignment in order to participate in fall sports and extracurricular activities for the upcoming school year.

#### **Important Dates for Academic Eligibility**

<b>Marking Periods</b>	<b>End of Mid/Marking Period</b>	<b>Report Card Dates</b>	<b>Friday Appeal Date for Academic Eligibility</b>	<b>Last Day of Fail List</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>10/3/25</b>	<b>10/10/25</b>	<b>10/24/25</b>	<b>11/17/25</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11/7/25</b>	<b>11/14/25</b>	<b>11/25/25</b>	<b>1/5/26</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>12/12/25</b>	<b>12/19/25</b>	<b>1/9/26</b>	<b>2/2/26</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>1/23/26</b>	<b>1/30/26</b>	<b>2/13/26</b>	<b>3/9/26</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>2/27/26</b>	<b>3/6/26</b>	<b>3/20/26</b>	<b>4/13/26</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>4/6/26</b>	<b>4/10/26</b>	<b>4/24/26</b>	<b>5/18/26</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>5/8/26</b>	<b>5/15/26</b>	<b>5/29/26</b>	<b>6/26/26</b>

Students who fail one or more classes for the 40 week marking period must watch the online *Crash Course Study Skills* video series and also complete and submit the corresponding assignment in order to participate in fall sports and extracurricular activities for the upcoming school year.

### ***Students Barred from the Event/Activity***

- 1) Any student suspended (ISS\* or OSS) from school at the time of the event
- 2) Students not in attendance at school the day of the event/activity.
- 3) Students who were illegally tardy\* or students who missed part of the day due to a medical or dental appointment and returned without a note from the physician or dental office\*
- 4) Students restricted from activities including those on the Fail-2 list\*

**NOTE:** Extreme behavior or a history of poor behavior may result in the loss of all participation privileges.

### **X. Team Dismissal**

Dismissal from a team ends the participation of a student for that season with that or any other team.

### **XI. Uniforms**

- A. All equipment must be returned within one week after the end of team/activity involvement in the condition it was assigned (with wear from normal use allowed).
- B. Articles not returned or damaged will result in a charge to the participant/parent/guardian for the replacement cost of the article.
- C. Failure to turn in equipment or pay assessments will result in being restricted from all extra-curricular activities and assigned lunch detention until the account is settled.

### **D. XII. Bus Travel**

- A. All team/activity participants ride to and from games/activities with other members on the school bus.
- B. Parents/Guardians may, with appropriate notification to the Coach/Advisor, provide a ride home for their own student. For extraordinary circumstances, other arrangements need to be coordinated in advance with the athletic director and principal.
- C. For all other circumstances other arrangements need to be approved, prior to the event, with the athletic director and principal.

### **XIII. Appeal Process**

**NOTE:** Students will not participate in sports/activities during appeal process.

Any consequence resulting from the application of Parts I through XII of the Student Conduct Code may be appealed using the following process:

**Stage 1** - Student meets with the Coach and Athletic Director or Advisor and Principal to discuss the situation and consequences. Parents are invited.<sup>82</sup>

**Stage 2** - Student to request a meeting with all concerned parties with the Superintendent to grieve an unsatisfactory Stage 1 decision. The request must be written, enumerating the specific points upon which the appeal is based.

The Superintendent will respond as soon as possible within five (5) days of receiving the written request to arrange for a meeting. Superintendent's decision is expected within 5 days after the meeting.

**Stage 3** - Appeal of the Stage 2 decision to the Board of Education may be by written request describing specific points of contention. The decision of the Board of Education will be determined at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting.

**Stage 4 – Appeal of Stage 3 is an appeal to the Commissioner of Education**

**Student Handbook, District Code of Conduct  
Acknowledgement Form  
2025-2026**

**This is to acknowledge that I/we have received a copy of the 2025-2026 DeRuyter Central School Student Handbook, District Code of Conduct.** It is my understanding that I am responsible for making myself aware of its contents. Further, although the guidelines, rules and policies contained herein are current on this date, I am aware that any or all sections of this handbook may be altered or omitted and new sections added by action of the New York State Education Department, the DeRuyter Central School Board of Education, and/or the administration. When such changes are made, I expect to be informed.

I have read and understand the Code of Conduct. My signature does not necessarily constitute my agreement.

_____ Student Name	_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
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I have read and reviewed with my child(ren) a copy of the 2025-2026 DeRuyter Central School Student Handbook, District Code of Conduct.

_____ Parent Name	_____ Parent Signature	_____ Date
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**\*Please sign and return this page to the MS/HS Office by September 19, 2025.**

**\*Students who do not sign and return this acknowledgement form will be unable to participate in any extracurricular activities (including sports) until they do so.**

## PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE OPT-OUT FORM

Photos and/or videos of your child at school or school-sponsored events and extracurricular programs may be taken by school employees or by other individuals at the request of the school. DeRuyter Central School District shares publications such as newsletters and maintains a website and several social media sites where we share photographs and information about the school and our students' achievements and activities.

DeRuyter uses the following social media accounts and platforms for the 2025-2026 school year:

- ☐ **District website**
- ☐ **District Facebook page**
- ☐ **District newsletters**
- ☐ **Bulletin boards**
- ☐ **Local news**

NOTE: School officials cannot prevent the media or community organizations from photographing or interviewing students off school property, which may occur for certain sporting events, school plays, concerts, or other public events.

If you authorize DeRuyter Central School to use your child's image or likeness and name as described above nothing is required of you.

If you wish to DENY PERMISSION for the inclusion of your child's image or likeness in media, including school-sponsored social media accounts, the school district website, partner publications, or school district publications, please complete the required section below even if you already opted out of directory information and submit it to Stephen Rafferty. You should receive confirmation that your form was received.

For help with this form or understanding your rights, please contact Stephen Rafferty in the main office.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the parent/guardian of the child listed below, understand that my child may be photographed/videoed at DeRuyter Central School during normal school hours, field trips, or activities. I understand that these photos/videos may be used on bulletin boards, in newsletters, on our District Website, District Facebook page, or in our local news.

☐ **No, I DO NOT want my child to appear in any photos/videos taken at school**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE THAT A NEW FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED EACH YEAR**

## BLANKET 5-12 FIELD TRIP PERMISSION SLIP

2025-2026 Academic Year

**To All Parents: This is a blanket permission slip to cover specific field trips taken during regular school hours.**

I understand that throughout the school year my son or daughter may have an opportunity to participate in trips that will take him/her away from the DCS campus. I also realize these trips will be under the direct supervision of a school faculty member. Therefore, for the current school year, I give permission for my son or daughter to participate in designated school-sponsored field trips. Notices describing each individual trip will be sent home prior to each field trip. If there is a specific trip you do not wish your child to participate in you may notify the teacher at that time.

I authorize any medical treatment in case of an emergency, and agree that I am responsible for the cost of such treatment. The undersigned agrees to release, hold harmless, and indemnify DeRuyter Central School District employees from all claims, damages, or other liabilities for injuries to my child which are not the result of gross negligence, intentional neglect, or willful or wanton conduct by school employees. In the event of an emergency, a building administrator and/or staff member will refer to the emergency contact information provided in SchoolTool, the student information system. As such, it is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian to contact the school district when information needs to be updated. Please contact the school nurse, Jessica Vadala, at (315) 852-3400 x7112 if pertinent medical information must be submitted or updated in order for your son/daughter to participate in one of the trips.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Legal Guardian (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE THAT A NEW FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED EACH YEAR**

**FERPA DIRECTORY INFORMATION  
OPT-OUT  
School Year 2025-2026**

The Family Education Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) is a federal law that protects student education records from disclosure without parent/guardian or eligible student (age 18 or older) student. An exception allows educational agencies to disclose certain "directory information" without consent. This information can only be disclosed if "it would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed."

Examples of how this information may be used include but are not limited to honor roll and recognition lists, PTA membership, school play and concert programs, graduation programs, and sports activity sheets (such as football showing the weight and height of team members).

DeRuyter Central School District has determined that the following information is directory information

\_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Listing

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_ Major Field of Study

\_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Attendance

\_\_\_\_\_ Grade

If you do not want DeRuyter Central School District to disclose any of the above information as directory, please check the information above that you do not want disclosed and return this form to Stephen Rafferty in the main office.