



DeRuyter Central School

Home of the Rockets

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Dear 6-12 DeRuyter Families:

I hope this message finds you well. The 2022-2023 DCS Student Handbook & Code of Conduct was recently approved by the Board of Education. It contains numerous revisions, particularly in the areas of disciplinary responses, policy and procedures.

New Disciplinary Responses

This year's Student Handbook & Code of Conduct defines four consequence levels for inappropriate behavior. They include:

- **Level 1:** Any misbehavior that represents an infraction of the established procedures which regulate the operation of the school and its educational process.
- **Level 2:** Any misbehavior whose frequency or seriousness tends to disrupt the learning climate of the school and to seriously affect the student's own education.
- **Level 3:** 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.
- **Level 4:** Any misbehavior whose consequences pose a serious and immediate threat to the health and safety of others

Examples are provided for all four infraction levels, as well as the minimum consequences each time a violation occurs. Together, these changes help clarify the standards of conduct expected of all students and sets forth procedures for building and maintaining a safe, respectful, and positive school climate.

A new consequence for Level 1 and Level 2 infractions this school year is After School Detention. After School Detention will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m., with transportation home available to students.

Policies and Procedures

Several policies and procedures were updated to more clearly communicate our core values and principles and ensure the smooth running of the school.

Cell Phone Policy: While most of the policy remains intact, consequences were revised to reflect the addition of After School Detention. Consequences related to students caught taking pictures/videos/audio recordings of other students and staff, are also specified. Additional consequences will be imposed for disseminating pictures/videos/audio recordings of other students and staff.

Dress Code Policy: Hats are permitted for the 2022-2023 school year. Hoods are not allowed to be worn up and must be kept down at all times.

Tobacco Policy: Consequences for usage and possession of tobacco/paraphernalia are now the same. The first offense is now one day In-School Suspension (ISS). While in ISS, students will complete an online vaping/e-cigarette program to educate them about vaping.

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Fail 1 and Fail 2 Guidelines

Some modifications were made to both the Fail 1 and Fail 2 Lists.

Fail 1:

- 6-12 students must attend all after school study sessions prior to an extracurricular event they wish to attend or participate.

Fail 2:

- Students on Fail 2 have the opportunity to remove themselves from the list through a successful "appeal".

Fail 1 & Fail 2:

- If students are on either fail list, their last day on Fail 1 or Fail 2 for that current mid/marking period is the date the next five week report cards go home (see District Calendar).
- Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, 40 week grades (last report card of the school year) will determine fall eligibility status for extra-curricular activities (school clubs, dances, sports team practices/events/contests, school play, NYSSMA, All County, FFA, etc.).

Health and Safety Measures

To best protect students and staff, random metal-detector wand screenings of students will take place from time to time. The screenings of random students and their personal belongings will occur on pre-selected days during a specified period of the day, using trained personnel. As in the past, random and unannounced canine drug detection sweeps will continue periodically during the 2022-2023 school year.

The Code of Student Conduct is an important part of establishing a safe learning environment and setting the expectation for everyone on campus. We will be following the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct with fidelity this year, so it is imperative for everyone to review and familiarize themselves with the document and the rules set forth therein. All students will receive a copy of the Code of Conduct on the first day of school. The Code of Conduct can also be viewed on our school district web site by hovering over the "District" tab on the main page of the school's website.

Similar to past years, we are asking students and parents to sign and return the Student Handbook, District Code of Conduct Acknowledgement Form. Students can submit the signed form to their homeroom teacher or Mrs. Stanton in the main office by September 12, 2022.

To discuss in greater detail the revisions to the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct, a meeting for students and parents will take place on September 8, 2022 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Small Gym. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me via phone at (315) 852-3400 ext. 7105 or by email at rafferty@deruytercentral.org if you would like to share comments, thoughts, or opinions.

Thank you for your partnership and continued support with providing a safe and productive learning environment for our 6-12 students as we head into a new school year.

Sincerely,



Stephen Rafferty
6-12 Principal