

# **Tidewater Academy**

**“It’s a Great Day to Be a Warrior”**



## **Student Code of Conduct**

**2023-2024**

Tidewater Academy  
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Head of School

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The development, implementation, and enforcement of the student conduct policy is intended to ensure a safe, non-disruptive environment for effective teaching and learning.

Board of Directors, school personnel, parents, and students share the responsibility to create and maintain a school environment that is safe and conducive to learning. The Head of School has the responsibility to issue standards of student conduct including a list of corrective disciplinary actions for violation of the standards and to enforce the student conduct standards using reasonable judgment. Each parent has the duty to assist the school in enforcing the standards of student conduct and attendance. Students are expected to attend school regularly and to demonstrate good citizenship, enjoying the rights and fulfilling the responsibilities set forth in the student conduct standards.

The following Code of Student Conduct is written as a guide for administrators to use when determining disciplinary action. Every case will be given individual consideration by the teachers and administrators at Tidewater Academy. The final decision on the consequence for any unacceptable behavior rests with the school's administration/designee, or upon appeal, to the Board of Directors. Parents/guardians will be notified in writing of after school detention, in-school and out-of-school suspensions. Referrals will be used for infractions.

**Offenses are listed in four categories, from least to most serious.**

### OUT-OF- SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

Out-of-school suspension requires that a student not attend school or any school-sponsored activity for a specified amount of time. Upon return to school, students can make up schoolwork after school by making appointments with the given teachers. Failure to make up the work will result in a zero being assigned for each missed assignment.

### IN - SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

In-school suspension is a program in which students who are suspended attend school but do not attend their regular classes. Students assigned to ISS must report to the ISS room and spend the designated number of days in the ISS room where they will be given assignments by teachers/administration. To be readmitted to regular classes, students must complete all requirements, including classroom assignments, homework and following the ISS rules. Students will receive grades from their regular teachers for completed work. Days missed from class because of ISS will not be counted towards a student's maximum allotment of absences. The student will be counted present in class.

### ISS Policies and Procedures

- A. Students who have been assigned ISS must report to the ISS room by 8:00 AM.
- B. All necessary books and school supplies must be taken to ISS when students report as students will not be permitted to go to lockers during the school day.
- C. Students will not be permitted to attend or participate in any school activities during the day or after regular school hours while assigned to ISS.

**D. Students must complete all ISS assignments before they will be readmitted to their regular classes.**

E. Failure to abide by all rules may result in additional time in ISS or OSS.

F. Students who refuse to report to ISS may receive double the time for OSS.

**Administrative Discretion Clause: In the event an offense is committed which is NOT specifically covered in this Student Code of Conduct, it shall be left to the administrator's discretion to levy a fair and justified consequence(s) for the student's action.**

## CATEGORY I OFFENSES CONSEQUENCES

### **Being in Unauthorized Areas:**

Students shall not frequent or loiter in unauthorized areas of the school or school grounds without a pass.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- Warning/Parent Notified*

*2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 1 day ISS and Parent Notified*

*3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 1 day ISS*

### **Cheating:**

Students shall not violate Tidewater Academy's Honor Code.

**This includes the use of text messaging to send and/or receive. This is also considered an Honor Code violation.**

*1<sup>st</sup> offense - Zero on assignment/Parent Notified*

*2<sup>nd</sup> offense- Zero on assignment/Parent Notified and 1day ISS*

*3<sup>rd</sup> offense- Zero on assignment/Parent Notified and 2 days*

*ISS*

*\*A parent phone call and referral will be sent to the parents and a copy of the referral will remain in student's cumulative record until graduation.*

*\*Student will also be removed from National Honor Society*

### **Communicable Diseases:**

Students shall not pull on someone else's mask. Students shall not cough, spit, or get in someone else's personal space intentionally, maintain Social Distancing.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense – Warning/Parent Notified*

*2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 1 Day ISS/Parent Notified*

*3<sup>rd</sup> offense – 2 Days ISS/Parent Notified*

### **Classroom Disruptions:**

Students shall not engage in any conduct which causes disruption of the orderly operation of a classroom. **The following is to be adhered to for Classroom Disruptions.**

**Step 1:** A student who is deemed to be disruptive and/or detrimental to the regular flow of instruction shall be removed only after the student has been redirected and warned. \*Parental Contact by the teacher shall be made (either through a written notification or phone call).

**Step 2:** The continued disruptive behavior by the student will result in the removal from class and the student is to be sent to ISS for a "Time Out".

**Step 3:** After a 3<sup>rd</sup> offense the student will serve ISS for each offense.

**Step 4:** After a 4<sup>th</sup> offense, the student will serve 3 days of ISS.

**Step 5:** Following a 5<sup>th</sup> offense, the student will be given (1-2) days of OSS.

A log of the offenses will be kept by the teacher and administration.

**Dress Code:**

Students must adhere to the school dress code and school as outlined in the student handbook. Parents will be notified if violated.

*1<sup>st</sup> Offense- Written Warning, directive to change clothing,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Offense- 1 day ISS and a mandatory meeting with parent.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense- 2 days of ISS*

*\*Repeat offenders of the School Dress Code will be subject to OSS.*

**Misconduct on the School Bus:**

Students are required to conduct themselves on school buses in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. Students who become disciplinary problems on school buses shall be reported to administration by the driver and may have their riding privileges suspended. In such cases, the parents of the student become responsible for ensuring that their child gets to and from school safely.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 week off the bus  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 2 weeks off the bus  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 1 month off the bus*

**Horseplay:**

Students will not engage in rough or noisy pranks such as pushing, shoving, or other acts that interfere with the instructional process.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 day ISS  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 2 days ISS  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 1 day OSS*

**Outward Affection:**

Students shall refrain from outward displays of affection. Example: Kissing, touching, hugging, etc.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- Warning  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 1 day ISS  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 2 days ISS*

**Possession of Cigarettes/Vapes/Juuls/Lighter/Matches or other incendiary devices:**

Smoking, possession of, or use of any tobacco/electronic cigarette/vapes or similar device, lighters/matches by students on school grounds, in school buildings, school transportation, school sanctioned events and in personal vehicles on school property is prohibited.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- Confiscation and parent notification/3 days OSS  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 5 days OSS*

**Note: The severity of this punishment may depend upon the nature of the incendiary device.**

**Beverage and/or Food Items within the Classroom except during designated times.**

Students are not allowed to eat or drink in the classroom, without the teacher's permission. Students should eat in the lunchroom/breezeway/outside.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- Confiscation\*  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- Confiscation and 1 day ISS  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- Confiscation and 2 days ISS*

**Possession/Use of Electronic Device: Cellular phone, walkie-talkie, and Electronic Devices for the intended use of entertainment purposes.**

Students shall not use these items at any time during instructional hours, except when directed by the teacher. **This includes cell phone usage of any kind.**

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- Confiscation\*, Warning and Parental Contact*

*2<sup>nd</sup> offense- Confiscation\* and 1 day ISS*

*3<sup>rd</sup> offense- Confiscation\* and 2 days ISS*

*A phone confiscated for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time will not be returned until the end of the semester.*

*\*Item will be returned only to the parent.*

**Unexcused tardies to class/school:**

Students shall not report tardy to class or to school without a valid reason. Students are to be warned the first 2 times this occurs and be assigned to ASD for each offense thereafter.

*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense- Warning and Parental Notification  
3<sup>rd</sup> Offense- 1 day ISS*

**CATEGORY II OFFENSES/CONSEQUENCES**

**Bullying:**

Students, either individually or as part of a group, shall not harass or bully others. The following conduct is illustrative of bullying: physical intimidation, taunting, name calling, insults, comments regarding race, gender, religion, physical abilities or characteristics of the targeted person, and/or falsifying statements about other persons (i.e. starting rumors).

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 3 days ISS and Parent Notification  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 3 days OSS/Parent Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 5 days OSS recommendation for expulsion.*

**Cutting Class:**

Students shall refrain from cutting class, leaving class without permission, or failing to stay for after school detention.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 day ISS  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 3 days ISS  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 1 day OSS*

**Disobedience/Defiance:**

Students shall comply with a reasonable request by teachers or other school staff in a timely and respectful manner.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 day ISS  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 3 days ISS  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 3 days OSS*

**Disrespectful/Rude:**

Students shall be respectful and courteous toward school staff and each other and refrain from any rude or argumentative statements. Examples: Talking back, shouting, or walking away

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 day ISS  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 3 days ISS  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 1 day OSS*

**Failure to Attend ISS:**

Students assigned to ISS must report to the ISS room and complete all assigned days in ISS.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- OSS equal to assigned ISS time*

**Leaving School Without Permission:**

Students shall not leave school without verified parental permission, approval by administrator, and signing out.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 2 days ISS  
2<sup>nd</sup> offense 1 day OSS  
3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 2 days OSS*

**Misrepresentation:**

Students shall not falsify any document, forge any name, or make false statements. Also, students shall not alter or tamper with report cards, grade books, or any other official documents.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 day ISS*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 3 days ISS*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 1 day OSS*

**Truancy:**

Students are expected to attend school regularly as prescribed by state law. Students who fail to attend school regularly will be disciplined.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 day ISS*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 3 days ISS*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 1 day OSS*

**Use of Profanity:**

Students will not use profane or obscene language or make obscene gestures at school or at any school sponsored activity.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 1 day ISS*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 3 days ISS*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 1 day OSS*

**CATEGORY III OFFENSES/CONSEQUENCES**

**Damaging Another Person’s Property:**

Students will not damage another person’s property including but not limited to clothing, class projects, automobiles, etc.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 3 days ISS*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 3 days OSS with Principal/Parent Conference*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 10 days with a possible recommendation for expulsion.*

**Explosives:**

Students will not possess or use any device containing combustible materials or a fuse on school grounds or at any school-sponsored activity. Example: firecrackers, stink bombs, caps.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 3 days OSS*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 10 days OSS with possible recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion; Principal/Parent Conference*

**Fighting/Physical Attack:**

Students shall not fight or engage in any violent or dangerous behavior by actively trying to inflict bodily harm by pushing, kicking, tripping, biting, spitting, hitting, scratching, pulling hair or striking with a foreign object.

**When two students are actively fighting, both are subject to suspension. When one person attacks another for no apparent reason in an angry, hostile manner, causing the other to suffer pain and bodily injury, and the second party fails to retaliate, only the person doing the attacking will be suspended.**

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 5 days OSS*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 7 days OSS*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 10 days OSS with possible recommendation for expulsion*

**Inappropriate Use of the Internet:**

Students will refrain from utilizing the TA Internet access without proper authority. This would include unauthorized use of sign-on codes, unauthorized attempts of bypassing the firewall to use any type of proxy server and/or to contact any school computer site from any computer station (home or school).

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 5 days OSS with loss of computer privileges*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 7 days OSS*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 10 days OSS with possible recommendation for expulsion.*

**Stealing:**

Students will not steal property or possess stolen property. Example: stealing clothing, jewelry, books, or other items.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 3 days OSS and restitution*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 5 days OSS and restitution*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 10 days OSS and restitution with possible recommendation for expulsion*

**Use of Profanity and Abusive language (staff directed):**

Student will not use profane or obscene language or make obscene gestures toward any staff member. This includes “giving the finger.”

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 5 days OSS*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense- 7 days OSS*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense- 10 days OSS with possible recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion*
- \*Principal/Parent Conference will be required for each offense.*

**CATEGORY IV OFFENSES/ CONSEQUENCES**

**Bomb Threats:**

Students shall not engage in any illegal activity involving firebombs, explosive or incendiary materials or devices, or hoax explosive devices, or chemical bombs as defined in the *Code of Virginia*. Students shall refrain from making any threats or false threats to bomb other students, school personnel, or property.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion; Principal/Parent Conference*

**Fighting/Physical Attack/Intimidation/Threatening/Stalking (staff directed):**

Students will not threaten to use or use physical force or violence against any staff member to include tearing clothes or threatening to seize or strike a staff member.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion; Principal/Parent Conference*

**Sale or Distribution of Drugs, Alcohol,**

**Inhalants or Intoxicants:**

Students will not distribute, sell, or purchase any drugs, alcoholic beverages, intoxicants, or other controlled substances. Students will not take any action that contributes to the sale, purchase, or distribution of such substances. This includes look-alike substances which are being represented as drugs, alcoholic beverages, or other intoxicants.

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense- 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion; Principal/Parent Conference*

**Vandalism:**

Students will not willfully destroy school property.

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 10 days OSS with recommendation for expulsion;*

*Principal/Parent Conference*

**Weapons and Dangerous Instruments/ Objects:**

Students will not possess, handle, transport, or use any

weapon or dangerous instrument or object that can be reasonably considered a weapon or substance that could cause harm or irritation to another individual. This definition is to include but is not limited to guns, look-alike guns, any size or shape of knives or blades, box cutters, razors, ammunition, stun guns, multi-fingered rings, metal knuckles, nun chucks, clubs, ice picks and antipersonnel spray (e.g., mace or pepper spray).

*1<sup>st</sup> offense- 10 days OSS and confiscation of the weapon (not to be returned) with recommendation for expulsion;*

*Principal/Parent Conference*