NOW Online

http://www.smcps.org/handbook

SMCPS main page
The Department of Student Services
Parent Resources
Student Resources

Want a printed copy? Contact a school administrator.
Student Handbook & Code of Conduct

Students rights and responsibilities

- Attendance
- Student Welfare
- Rights & Responsibilities
- Code of Conduct
ATTENDANCE

Regular Attendance
- Academic success
- Participation
- Greater understanding

Unlawful or Excessive Absences
- Poor/failing grades
- Retention
- Ineligible for activities

Does your student need help?

They can talk to:
- teacher
- counselor
- pupil personnel worker
Every child who resides in St. Mary’s County and is 5 or older and under 18 must attend school regularly and each person who has **LEGAL CUSTODY** of a child shall see that the child attends school.

**GOOD ATTENDANCE FOR SUCCESS**

*Every Minute in School Counts*
WHAT IS A LAWFUL ABSENCE?

- Death in the immediate family
- Student illness (a physician’s note may be required)
- Pregnant and parenting student
- Court summons
- Hazardous weather conditions
- Work (approved or sponsored by the school)

- Observance of a religious holiday
- State of emergency
- Suspension
- Lack of authorized transportation
- Other emergencies or circumstances as determined by the principal
UNLAWFUL ABSENCES

Absences for any reason other than those listed as lawful.

Family vacation absences are unlawful (exceptional circumstances may be reviewed by the principal/designee).
Is your student absent from school? Your child should request make-up work.

**Lawful Absence**
- may receive full credit
- allowed to make up assignments, take alternative exams and tests
- five (5) school days to turn in completed assignments

**Unlawful Absence**
- may forfeit the opportunity to earn credit
ALL ABSENCES MUST BE DOCUMENTED WITH A REASON

Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s) should notify the school by-

● phone
● email
● school website portal
● written note

No documentation within three (3) days = UNLAWFUL
EXCESSIVE ABSENCEs

Absent 25 days or more?
Responses may include:

- referral to the Pupil Services Team (PST)
- retention for the following year
- withholding credit for opportunity to learn and master grade level skills and/or course content
Tardy for School

Elementary - parent(s)/legal guardian(s) can sign in student.

Secondary - student can present documentation stating reason for tardiness or parent(s)/legal guardian(s) can sign in student.

Tardies are marked either lawful or unlawful.

Missing the bus or running late is marked UNLAWFUL.
Student Welfare

- Medication at School
- Playing sports
Does Your Student Require Medication at School?

Parent/legal guardian must:

- provide Medication Authorization Form (PS 109) completed by physician, parent signature on back
- give form (PS 109) and medication in original pharmacy container to nurse
- immediately notify school nurse of any medication changes
- pick up unused or discontinued medication from the school nurse

Students must NEVER bring medication to school (this includes over-the-counter medication such as Tylenol, aspirin, etc.)
Is your student eligible to play sports?

Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 or above is required

MARKING PERIOD GRADES determine GPA

Every marking period, your student can become eligible or ineligible

**CAUTION**

Your student may be **INELIGIBLE** for high school activities **IF**:

🚫 suspended from school
🚫 assigned in-school intervention
🚫 debts and fines at the end of the marking period
🚫 absent from school
Signing Out a Student

A valid photo ID is required
Rights and Responsibilities

- Dress Code
- Drug Free Schools
- Student Conduct
Sometimes your student’s picture or a display of your student’s work will be used for public information or by the media.

You don’t want your student’s picture, name, and/or school work displayed?

Complete the Parental “Opt Out” form, **USE OF STUDENT IMAGES AND LIKENESSES IN PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS**.
What Is Your Student Wearing?

Students are expected to follow the SMCPS’ Student Dress Code.

Dress or grooming which is likely to cause the disruption of the instructional program or which creates a potential safety hazard is prohibited.
SCHOOLS ARE DRUG-FREE ZONES

SMCPS prohibits the possession, and/or use of illegal substances on school grounds.

Canine drug scans may be used to scan buildings and school grounds to protect and further ensure the safety of students.

Is your student in a situation and needs help? Talk to the school nurse, teacher, school counselor, or administrator to get resources.
TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

- selling or use of tobacco or tobacco products/devices in any form
- in school buildings, on school grounds, on school buses and in vehicles
No VAPE Zone

Vaping May Cause Serious Health Risks/Consequences

E-cigarette aerosol is NOT harmless “water vapor”

E-cigarette vapor can contain harmful and potentially harmful substances:

- Nicotine
- Ultrafine particles that can be inhaled deep into the lungs
- Flavoring such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease
- Cancer-causing chemicals
- Heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead

Information provided by Center for Disease Control & Prevention
No VAPE Zone

Why Is Nicotine Unsafe for Kids, Teens, and Young Adults?

- can harm brain development
- can harm parts of the brain that control attention, learning, mood, and impulse control
- may increase risk for future addiction to other drugs

Information provided by Center for Disease Control & Prevention
Code of Conduct
Know the Consequences

204 - Tobacco or Tobacco Products

Possession, use, sale, or distribution of tobacco, tobacco products, and/or devices (e.g., cigarette lighters, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, and matches).

Level 1-3
Using/possession tobacco/e-cigarettes. **First time offense.**

Level 4
Repeated use/possession of tobacco/e-cigarettes.

Level 1-4
Distribution.

Reporting to law enforcement is required.
Electronic Devices

What?

Cell phones, laptops, iPads, iPods, or other devices.

When can students use them?

- during the instructional school day for instructional purposes only
- with teacher knowledge

Consider this...

- may be confiscated by an administrator
- parent/legal guardian may be required to meet with an administrator
- school assumes no liability for lost, stolen, or broken devices
Using School Computers?

- Illegal activity
- Commercial for profit activities
- Invasion of other people’s files, passwords, settings
- Disruption or destruction of hardware, software
- Malicious use of the network to harass others
- Illegal installation of copyrighted software
- Access to obscene or pornographic material
Gang Activity/Disruptive Behavior

- gang activity/illegal group behavior/similar destructive behaviors
- retaliation against those who report behavior

Consider this...

- this behavior is reported to the police
- report this behavior to an adult at the school by using the “Gang-Related Incident Reporting Form.”
Bullying

- intentional negative actions by 1 or more students
- repeatedly and over time
- interfere with a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the school’s educational programs
- cyberbullying is the use of electronic communication
Sexual Harassment

- Unwanted sexual attention from students, teachers, or other adults
- It may occur once or be repeated over time

An adult needs to know so that corrective action can be taken.

Say NO

Encourage your student to REPORT it to an adult (school counselor, teacher, parent(s)/legal guardian(s), administrator, or the Title IX designee).
Sexual Assault

- unwelcome sexual contact, either directly or through clothing
- committed by threat or by force
- without consent of the other person
- behaviors may include deliberate inappropriate touching/pinching/grabbing of a sexual nature, attempted rape, or rape.

Encourage your student to SAY SOMETHING- Report this behavior to an adult such as your school counselor, teacher, administrator, Title IX designee, or parent(s)/legal guardian(s)

An adult will take appropriate action.
WEAPONS

- Students will be reported to the police and the superintendent of schools or his/her designee immediately.
- The Gun Free School Act of 1994 and other public laws require expulsion from school for a period of not less than one calendar year.
Behaviors reported to Sheriff’s Office

- Alcohol
- Arson/Fireworks/Explosive
- Firearms, Stun Guns, Other
- Guns, Other Weapons
- Illegal Drugs/Intent to Sell
- Physical Attack
- Sexual Assault
- Tobacco or Tobacco Products

- Trespassing
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Gang-Related Behavior or Activity
Use of School/Bus Cameras

Video and Audio recording devices may be “in use” in school or on the bus.

WHY??

• monitor behavior
• enhance safety & security
Your Student May Be Searched If:

Principal or Assistant Principal has reasonable belief that in the student’s possession is an item that is in violation of any federal or state law, or a SMCPS rule or regulation.

The school building, furnishings, and lockers may be searched
THINK BEFORE ACTING

LONG-TERM SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION MAY MEAN...

STUDENTS CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS

STUDENTS CANNOT ATTEND PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNCTIONS

PLACEMENT IN AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
We Want Students to Succeed!

Have you heard of PBIS or MTSS?
- Schoolwide Behavior Expectations
- Classroom Behavior Expectations

Does your child know his/her school’s expectations?
ASK.
How Can Parents Help?

- Provide supervision for the student's health, physical and emotional well being, and assume responsibility for the student's timely regular attendance
- Promptly provide the school with explanations for student absences or tardiness
- Review and discuss with the student the Student Handbook & Code of Conduct
- Encourage student compliance with school and district rules
- Monitor student’s out of school Internet and social networking use
If you see something...

If you SEE something, SAY something.

If you see something on social media:
• Take a screen-shot and show it to an adult.
• Tell a teacher; tell an administrator; tell a school resource officer.
• Report it through our website.
• Do not like, share, or re-post.
Don't contribute to the rumors.

REPORT it, don't REPEAT it.

www.smcps.org
READ  The Handbook/Code of Conduct

Be informed!

be responsible