

**Okeechobee High School Freshman Campus  
2023-2024 STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**Vision Statement**

Excellence through P.R.I.D.E. (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability, Ethics)

**The Brahman Way**

As Brahmans, we will:

- \* Model the pillars of P.R.I.D.E
- \* Create a community of graduates and life-long learners
  - \* Live as the example we want to see in others
- \* Build a supportive campus environment to grow as a Brahman family
  - \* Be of service to those in need, on and off campus
  - \* Move Forward and Be Great

**Disclaimer**

As this information goes to press, several committees involving parents, faculty, staff, students and community members are at work at OHS and in concert with the Okeechobee County School Board looking at possible revisions and updates of policy and procedures that may have an impact on the information provided herein.

Updated information and weekly parent newsletters can be accessed at the school website:  
<http://okeechobeehighschool.sites.thedigitalbell.com>

**Teacher Teaching Out of Field Notification**

When a teacher in a district school system is assigned teaching duties in a class dealing with subject matter that is outside the field in which the teacher is certified, outside the field that was the applicant's minor field of study, or outside the field in which the applicant has demonstrated sufficient subject area expertise, as determined by district school board policy in the subject area to be taught, the parents of all students in the class shall be notified in writing of such an assignment, and each school district shall report out-of-field teachers on the district's website within 30 days before the beginning of each semester. A parent whose student is assigned an out-of-field teacher may request that his or her child be transferred to an in-field classroom teacher within the school and grade in which the student is currently enrolled. The school district must approve or deny the parent's request and transfer the student to a different classroom teacher within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 2 weeks, if an in-field teacher for that course or grade level is employed by the school and the transfer does not violate the maximum class size pursuant to s. 1003.03 and s.1, Art. IX of the State Constitution. If a request for transfer is denied, the school must notify the parent and specify the reasons for the denial. This subsection does not provide a parent the right to choose a specific teacher.

**AHERA Awareness**

Okeechobee County School Board is in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act. Management plans containing survey procedures, results, and completed response actions are available in the office of the principal's secretary. A 3-year re-inspection plan is available at the Director of Operations office.

**Assemblies**

At all times a student's behavior should be refined and courteous as the high expectations of our school and community demand. Whether guests are present or not, each student is personally responsible for the impression made by the school as a whole. Unacceptable conduct would include but is not limited to whistling,

uncalled for clapping, boisterousness, talking, or leaving one's seat during a program. As soon as assemblies have ended, students will return to class. Examples include: Veteran's Day, academic presentations, guest speakers, etc.

### **Athletics**

- The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), which governs all high school interscholastic athletics in Florida ([www.fhsaa.org](http://www.fhsaa.org)), requires that:
  - a. Each student must have a parental consent form (EL3 form) on file with the Athletic Director prior to being allowed to participate in practice.
  - b. All students are required to undergo a complete annual physical examination (EL2 form) by a medical doctor prior to participating.
  - c. Any student participating in athletics must meet G.P.A. requirements (2.0 cumulative) and eligibility requirements as set forth in the [Athletic Handbook](#).
  - d. Complete all [forms for the Drug and Alcohol testing](#) program.
  - e. Complete registration process through [okeechobee-fl.finalforms.com](http://okeechobee-fl.finalforms.com).

**Fall Sports:** Cross Country, Cheerleading, Football, Golf, Swimming, and Volleyball

**Winter Sports:** Boys and Girls Basketball, Basketball Cheerleading, Soccer and Wrestling

**Spring Sports:** Softball, Flag Football, Tennis, Track, Baseball, Girls Weightlifting, Lacrosse

### **Attendance**

Florida has a Compulsory School Attendance Law. Florida Statute 1003.27(7) (1-2) states: A parent who refuses or fails to have a child who is under his or her control attend school regularly, or who refuses or fails to comply with the requirements in subsection (3) is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided by law. The continued or habitual absence of a child without the consent of the principal or teacher in charge of the school he or she attends or should attend, or the tutor who instructs or should instruct him or her, is prima facie evidence of a violation of this chapter; however, the court of the appropriate jurisdiction, upon finding that the parent has made a bona fide and diligent effort to control and keep the child in school, shall excuse the parent from any criminal liability prescribed herein and shall refer the parent and child for counseling, guidance, or other needed services.

- Attendance in class is extremely important. Class discussions, lectures, and other activities are difficult, if not impossible, to recreate for a student who is absent. The student and the student's family must make every effort to ensure that the student is present each school day.
- When a student is absent for the whole or any part of a school day, it is the responsibility of the parent(s) or guardian to provide a written statement to the **ATTENDANCE OFFICE (RM. 206)** indicating the reason for the absence(s) within 3 days of the student's return to school.
- In accordance with board policy, absences may be excused for the following reasons:
  1. illness of the student
  2. major illness or death in the immediate family
  3. medical appointment of the student (appointment card must be provided)
  4. religious holidays
  5. subpoena or forced absence by any law enforcement agency
  6. absences mitigated in **advance** by the Principal
- Any planned absence other than a medical appointment must be approved in **advance** by the Principal if the absence is to be excused.
- Absences that are unexplained after 3 days or absences for reasons other than those listed above will remain

unexcused.

- **When unexcused absences total more than 9 days , further absences require documentation beyond a parent note (i.e., doctor's note, hospital documentation, subpoena, etc.) in order to be excused.**
- Absences due to participation in school-sponsored activities are not recorded as absences; however, all work missed must be made up. It is the student's responsibility to contact the teacher to arrange for make-up work.
- The **Department of Motor Vehicles** has procedures for suspending and revoking the driver's license of a student who accumulates 15 unexcused absences in any 90-day period.
- Truancy is absence or continued absence with possible legal as well as disciplinary consequences.
- A student who misses more than 15 minutes of class time is classified as absent rather than tardy. Students intentionally skipping class to be marked absent, to avoid tardiness, will be referred to the Dean's office.

## **Brahman Traditions**

### Seniors

- A cumulative GPA of 2.0 is the minimum requirement for OHS activities. Other activities may require a higher GPA as listed in other sections of this handbook.
- Grad Day - During spring, seniors are able to go to Grad Day at a theme park for a day of fun and entertainment. A 2.0 cumulative GPA through the first semester is required for attendance at Grad Day. The Dean's Office has the right to approve those purchasing tickets. **Excessive absences (10+ per semester), tardiness, and the student's discipline record are factors in the decisions made.**
- Class Day - On Class Day, the Senior Class enjoys a class breakfast and will present a program in which the Senior Class officially hands over the rights, responsibilities and status to the Junior Class. Only students classified as juniors and seniors may attend.
- Graduation - Baccalaureate and Graduation Exercises are privileges earned by Seniors to celebrate the culmination of the senior year. Only students completing the required 24 credits or 18 credit options with a 2.0 or higher GPA will participate in Graduation.

### Homecoming

- During Spirit Week, the classes compete against each other in various events to see which class will be named the most-spirited class. The Homecoming pep rally is held the night before the game. Afterwards selected students lead the way to the bonfire to unite the student body for the homecoming football game.
- One of the highlights of homecoming is the parade. The OHS Band leads the parade of floats and the homecoming court through downtown Okeechobee.
- Prior to the game, a reception is held for the honored ten-year alumni class. Pre-game activities include: the floats circle the field and the winners of the Homecoming competition and Spirit-Week are announced. At halftime, the Homecoming Queen is crowned. Homecoming is celebrated with a dance for all qualifying OHS students. Out-of-school guests must meet the requirements outlined in the **School Dance** section of this publication.

### Class Honors and Distinctions

During the school year, various OHS students are chosen to hold certain titles of honor and distinction. To be considered for any of the following titles or as an escort for a student holding the title, students must have a **2.5 cumulative GPA**, 9 or less semester unexcused absences, and a satisfactory behavior record.

- Homecoming Queen and King: The Senior Class nominates three senior girls for Queen and three senior boys for King. The entire school then selects one girl and one boy to reign over the homecoming festivities. The queen candidates will be escorted by the king candidates.
- Float Attendants: Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman classes select three girls to represent their classes for homecoming. Each girl then chooses a boy from her class as an escort.

- Senior Most: Seniors choose students of their graduating class with characteristics in different categories.
- Mr. & Miss OHS: The student body chooses the senior nominees for this honor. The senior class votes for the candidates.
- Miss Brahman: Each school club or girls sport nominates a **senior** girl for this honor. A judge from outside the school family, selected by the yearbook staff, chooses Miss Brahman, who is revealed in the yearbook.
- Prom Queen and King: Junior class nominates three senior girls for Queen and three senior boys for King. The Queen and King are elected by the senior prom attendees.

### Junior-Senior Prom

The Juniors work hard to organize a memorable prom for the Seniors complete with elaborate decorations, favors, food, and photographs. Only students classified as juniors or seniors may purchase prom tickets. Any Okeechobee High School student who wishes to attend the prom must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA through the first semester and a satisfactory behavior record. Guests must meet the requirements outlined in the **School Dance** section.

### **Bullying and Harassment**

#### Policy 5.321

To view entire policy visit [www.okee.k12.fl.us](http://www.okee.k12.fl.us).

#### Statement Prohibiting Bullying and Harassment

- A. It is the policy of the Okeechobee County School District that all of its student and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The District will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited.
- B. The District upholds that bullying or harassment of any student or school employee is prohibited:
  1. During any education program or activity conducted by a public K- 12 educational institution
  2. During any school-related or school-sponsored program or activity
  3. On a school bus of a public K-12 educational institution
  4. Through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network of a public K-12 education institution.

The School Board approved policy 5.321 specifically defines bullying and harassment and sets forth specific actions the district must take to make sure bullying is not tolerated.

First and foremost, **all** incidents of bullying and harassment must be reported to school administration. Florida Statute outlines very specific procedures that must be documented in our efforts to stop bullying. These procedures include disciplinary action, notifications to the parents of the victim and the alleged perpetrator, referrals to the school-based intervention teams and possibly for counseling.

Typically bullying or harassment must meet three indicators to be considered as such: the situation must include aggression albeit physical, verbal or social, the incident usually involves some sort of dominance on behalf of the perpetrator and some sort of offensiveness to the victim, and, lastly, the event is chronic or persistent. If the incident you observe does not meet these three indicators, it still may be an offense the administration will need to deal with, but it may not be considered bullying.

We all need to do our part in eradicating bullying and harassment on our campuses and in the workplace. Please be sure to report all possible bullying and harassment incidents immediately.

**You may report incidents of Bullying and Harassment by using the *School District of Okeechobee County bullying and Harassment Report Form* that is enclosed in the Bullying and Harassment binder located in the front office or by directly reporting the incident to your administrator.**

### **Cafeteria Policies**

1. Eating areas are to be kept clean by students, with trash placed in the proper receptacles.
2. Students are to stay within the area of campus created by the purple lines.
3. Students must present their ID cards for service in the food lines.
4. Students may purchase cafeteria lunch or bring their own. **Food deliveries will not be permitted.** Students checking in with restaurant lunches will eat in the office before entering the commons area. **Repeat offenders will face disciplinary actions.**

### **Checking Out**

The office personnel will take the responsibility for checking students out only when a doctor or dentist appointment can be confirmed by an appointment card. In all other cases, parents or guardians must sign the student out in the attendance office. Only those persons named on the student's contact list may check the student out of school. A picture ID will be required. No exceptions will be made unless approved by an administrator.

### **Clubs and Organizations**

Information about forming clubs may be obtained from the Principal's Office. The principal appoints advisors for all clubs.

- Any club wishing to have an activity must have an activity form filled out by the sponsor and the activity approved by the principal or designee.
- In order for a student to participate in interscholastic club activities, he or she must have a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.
- All students must have a signed parent permission form before joining or participating in any club or organization.
- All clubs and organizations must follow the guidelines set forth in the School Board policies.
- Complete all forms for the Drug and Alcohol testing program.

### **2022-2023 Code of Student Conduct**

Students will receive a copy of the Code of Student Conduct with this handbook. It is also available online at the Okeechobee County School Board website. ( [www.okee.k12.fl.us](http://www.okee.k12.fl.us) ). Code includes student, teacher, and parent roles, as well as, policies and consequences for behavior during school and on the bus. Notice of receipt should be returned during the first week of school.

### **Computer Lab & Chromebook Usage**

- Please refer to this section and to the [Student Code of Conduct](#) (Okeechobee County School Board Policy 8.80) Online Information Services Use Policy. This policy contains guidelines for usage, defines what may be considered unacceptable use, and defines acronyms dealing with the technology.
- No food or drinks are to be consumed inside of a computer lab.

### **Cumulative GPA**

- A cumulative GPA of 2.0 is the minimum requirement for participating in OHS activities. Other activities may require a higher GPA, as listed in other sections of this handbook.

## Credits

<u>Required Credits</u>	<u>End of Year</u>	<u>Mid Year Promotion</u>
Total credits to graduate	24	-
Credits to become a Senior	17	20.5
Credits to become a Junior	11	13.5
Credits to become a Sophomore	5	7.5

<u>Required Credits</u>	<u>End of Year</u>	<u>**Mid Year Promotion</u>
Total credits to graduate	18	
Credits to become a Senior	13	15 1/2
Credits to become Junior	8	8 1/2
Credit to become a Sophomore	5	6

\*\* To become a Junior under the 18 credit option, a student must have successfully completed: 2 credits of English, 2 credits of Math, 1 credit of Science, and 1 Social Studies Credit.

\*\*To become a Senior under the 18 credit option, a student must have successfully completed: 3 credits of English, 3 credits of Math, 2 credits of Science and 2 credits of Social Studies.

## Dress Code

**The personal appearance of students may be in the style of the day. Special consideration will be given to dress fads except when suggestive, offensive or threatening.**

Inappropriate dress may include, but is not limited to: decals, slogans, or “sayings” on clothes that are rude, vulgar, advertise alcohol or alcoholic beverages or tobacco products, display pictures or slogans that promote illegal drugs, are racially or sexually offensive or reference illegal or inappropriate behavior.

Students wearing inappropriate clothing will be given an opportunity to call parents to bring additional clothing or to wear clothing supplied by the school if parents are unavailable to bring proper clothing. Students will return to class when they are properly dressed. Failure to do so will result in the student finishing the day in ISS.

1. Masks are optional while on campus.
2. **All clothing apparel** must fully cover from the top of the armpit to the top of the waistband. Revealing shirts or garments shall not be worn. Tube tops are not permitted. Pajamas are not appropriate for school.
3. **Dresses, skirts, or shorts may be no shorter than mid-thigh length.** Pants with holes or slits may be worn if the holes and slits are not revealing or excessive and do not show undergarments. Students will be asked to change if a teacher deems the length of dresses, skirts, or shorts inappropriate.
4. **Pants will be worn at the natural waist with no undergarments or other garments visible under the pants.** Students with a habit of wearing pants too large to remain at the waist could be placed on a special dress code or be subject to increased discipline for non-compliance.
5. **Shoes are to be worn at all times during the school day.** Bedroom slippers are not to be worn.
6. Students may not wear clothing that is so extreme as to be immodest, **including while attending OHS Dances.**
7. Traditionally, **camouflage is reserved for the Senior class on Fridays.** Underclassmen will be considered out of dress code and required to change or finish the day in ISS.

When, in the judgment of the administration, the dress requirements have not been met or extreme in nature, the student will not be permitted in class until the situation is corrected. Repeated dress code violations will result in disciplinary action.

**It is the joint responsibility of every student, parent, or guardian, teacher and administrator to see that the dress of the student is appropriate, safe, and does not interfere with the teaching/learning process. Any class time missed due to dress code violations will be unexcused.**

### **Crime Stoppers**

**CRIME STOPPERS** is the tool for a safe school. Please help “break the code of silence” by calling Crime Stoppers at **1-800-273-TIPS**.

### **FORTIFY FL APP**

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. You can decide whether you want to be anonymous or include your name and contact information. Video and photo can also be included with your tip report. FortifyFL automatically routes your tip report to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL is available on every student device on campus and automatically opens as a tab once students log-in. It is suggested that you download the app for your phone by visiting <https://getfortifyfl.com/>

### **Graduation Regalia**

The following approved graduation regalia is used to denote the honors and recognition earned during the students' tenure at Okeechobee High School.

- Summa Cum Laude (top 1% of graduating class) are given stoles denoting their rank.
- The top 5% of the graduation class are given honor medals and will sit in the front row of the graduation ceremony.
- Students earning an AA degree from IRSC will be supplied a cord/regalia from Indian River.
- The National Honor Society members are given a cord.
- National Beta Club members are given a medallion.
- Students that are College Ready in both reading and math are given a cord.
- Students who earned an Industry Certification in a vocational program are given a cord.
- Students who have taken five years of math and four years of science are given a cord.
- AVID students are given a cord.
- Other various medals and cords are given to indicate excellence in subject-specific academics, athletics, the arts, and/or service to school and community.

### **Interior Gates**

Interior gates provide an extra layer of security for students and staff at Okeechobee High School/Freshman Campus. Gates will only be open in the morning prior to the tardy bell at 7:05 (OHS)/7:15 (OFC) and at the end of the day at 1:45 (OFC)/2:05 (OHS). Gates are only to be opened by OHSFC staff and are not to be opened or propped open by students. Repeated failure to comply with this rule will result in disciplinary consequences.

## **ID Cards**

ID cards, holders, and lanyards will be issued to all students within the first two weeks of school. Students are expected to wear their ID's on a lanyard around their neck when they are out of class on a pass and show it to any high school employee upon request. The ID card must be shown at all school events and elections. Students who lose their ID will be issued a new one at a cost of \$2.00 (\$1 for new lanyard). If a student cannot pay for the replacement ID the fee will go on the fines and fees list. Repeated failure to wear an ID may result in further disciplinary measures.

## **Insurance**

The school has **no** accident insurance. Students are offered inexpensive insurance at the beginning of the school year. All students should be covered by some insurance policy. Students in vocational courses are required to have insurance.

## **Late Work**

Late work is defined as work that was not turned in on time even though the student was present when the assignment was due. Late work shall not be granted full credit. Late work shall be accepted for one day beyond the due date unless otherwise extended by the teacher or by accommodations of the student's IEP. The student will receive no less than 75% of the earned credit for the assignment. Honors and Advanced Placement courses that have a contract that includes a policy regarding late work will be exempt from the Late Work section of the Student Progression if approved by the principal. Parents and students will be required to review and sign the contract prior to placement in these courses. Dual Enrollment courses are also exempt from this section and the policies and procedures dictated by the postsecondary institution where they are enrolled will be followed. This deadline may be extended with the approval of the teacher or principal.

## **MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR ABSENCES**

Regardless of whether an absence is excused or unexcused, students are required to make-up all coursework and assessments missed during the period of non-attendance. Immediately upon returning to class, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed coursework, confirm corresponding dates for completion, and schedule missed assessments. Students shall earn full credit for all short-term assignments, long-term assignments, tests, and quizzes made up within the reasonable time limits established by the teacher. Partial credit shall be given for assignments not completed within the time limits established by the teacher.

- **Short-Term Assignments:** Short term assignments are those assignments given less than five (5) school days in advance of the student's absence.
  - a. Full credit will be given for those short-term assignments turned in within the reasonable time limits set by the teacher, which shall be no less than the number of days the student was absent, plus one (1) additional day.
  - b. Partial credit will be given for those short-term assignments turned in after the due date. The teacher will grade short-term assignments turned in late. After the letter grade for the assignment has been determined, the teacher may reduce it by no more than one (1) letter grade for every day the assignment was turned in late.
  
- **Long-Term Assignments:** Long term assignments are those assignments given five (5) or more school days in advance of a student's absence.
  - a. Unless exempted from this requirement by the principal or the principal's designee, in consultation with the teacher, long-term assignments are due on the assigned date for full credit.



- b. Partial credit will be given for those long-term assignments turned in after the due date. The teacher will grade long-term assignments turned in late. After the letter grade for the assignment has been determined, the grade shall be reduced by one (1) letter grade for every day the assignment was turned in late.
- Tests and Quizzes
  - a. Students are required to make-up tests and quizzes missed during an absence. At a minimum students have no less than the number of days they were absent, plus one (1) additional day, to make-up tests and quizzes missed during an absence. The time and place for the make-up is the decision of the teacher. The teacher's decision on make-up schedules shall be final.
  - b. The teacher may administer an alternate form test or quiz to assess competency or mastery of subject matter. There shall be no academic penalty imposed for tests and quizzes completed within the reasonable amount of time period set by the teacher. However, if a student fails to make-up the test or quiz within the reasonable time period set by the teacher, then the teacher may impose a reasonable academic penalty.
- 9 Weeks Exams : Exams must be made up within reasonable time limits, established by the teacher, at a minimum, the number of days absent plus one (1) additional day. The teacher may administer an alternate exam to assess competency or mastery of subject matter. The teacher's decision to make-up schedules shall be final.

### **Medication - School Board Policy**

The School Board has adopted policies concerning proper handling of medications on campus. The necessary *Authorization for Medication* form and details of clinic procedures are included in the Student Code of Conduct. Over-the-counter medications can only be administered to students who have current, completed medication forms on file in the clinic.

### **Media Center Procedures and Policies**

The Media Center provides a variety of services to the student body. A large variety of books, reference materials and technology are available for students' educational and recreational reading. The media center is located in the district office building, Room 2-106 Students may check out up to two books at a time from the general collection. These may be renewed for up to three weeks. Students are responsible for returning books in a timely manner. Overdue books must be returned before checking out additional materials. Books overdue more than 60 days will be declared lost and the student will be charged the replacement cost of the book.

The following basic guidelines should govern behavior in the Media Center:

- When entering the Media Center, students will sign in, with school issued ID
- Students may talk softly to avoid disturbing others who are studying
- Take proper care of all library materials
- Students should make use of the Media Center for reading, studying, Internet use, and other academic purposes
- When assistance is needed, ask the Media Specialist or teacher

- Improper use of the Media Center may result in temporary loss of library privileges and/or disciplinary action
- Internet use is for academic purposes only.
- Students must adhere to the Okeechobee County School Board's Technology Use Policy as found in the Code of Student Conduct

Assistance is provided to students working on class assignments. Students may create a variety of multimedia files using available programs. Some supplies are available for student use while in the library (markers, colored pencils, glue, tape, etc...) The Media Center is open during lunch on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to accommodate student needs.

**Okeechobee County School District  
NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE**

The School District of Okeechobee County has adopted Board Policy 6.43, Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited. No person shall, on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism), color, religion, gender, pregnancy, age, national or ethnic origin, genetic information, political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, if otherwise qualified, social and family background or on the basis of the use of a language other than English by Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity, or in any employment conditions or practices conducted by this School District, except as provided by law.

The School District of Okeechobee County shall comply with all federal and state laws which include the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), Title IX, Section 504, Florida Education Equity Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008 (GINA), and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

Any employee, student, applicant for admissions, or applicant for employment who believes he/she has been discriminated against or has been harassed by another employee, student, or third party is encouraged to use the Equity Plan Grievance Procedure for filing complaints. Complaints may be filed with the principal or immediate supervisor, District Equity Coordinator/Director of Human Resources or the Superintendent.

Director of Human Resources  
Title II, Title IX and the Florida Education Equity Act Complaints and  
ADA/Section 504 Complaints  
700 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974  
(863) 462-5000 Ext. 1067

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**Prohibición de discriminació**

Ninguna persona será discriminada en base a su raza (incluyendo el antisemitismo), color, religión, sexo, embarazo, edad, origen de su nacionalidad, información genética, creencias políticas, estado civil, orientación sexual, identidad de género, discapacidad, ni por sus antecedentes sociales y familiares, o en base al uso de otro lenguaje, además del idioma Inglés, o por ser estudiantes identificados como LEP (aprendices del idioma Inglés), no se les

debe de excluir de participar o negáseles beneficios, o ser sujetos a discriminación en ningún programa o actividad educativa, o en ningún empleo o prácticas realizadas por este Distrito Escolar, salvo lo dispuesto por la ley. (Junta Directiva 6.43). Todos los programas de Educación Profesional y Técnica tienen la inscripción abierta y todos los estudiantes son elegibles para solicitar estos cursos.

La Junta Escolar deberá de cumplir con todos los derechos federales y del estado incluyendo el Decreto de 1990 sobre Americanos Discapacitados (siglas en Inglés-ADA), Title IX, Section 504, Florida Education Equity Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008 (GINA), and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

Cualquier empleado, estudiante, aspirante del ingreso o aspirante del empleo que alegue haber sido discriminado u acosado por cualquier grupo (otro empleado, estudiante o persona), podrá llevar su queja directamente al/la director/a, supervisor, Coordinator de Justicia del Distrito, o Superintendente del Distrito.

El Coordinador de Justicia del Distrito/  
Directora de Recursos Humanos  
Quejas de Title II, Title IX, ADA/Section 504,  
Florida Education Equity Act  
700 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974  
(863) 462-5000 Ext. 1067

### **Notice of Limited Supervisory Responsibility**

The duty of the Okeechobee County School District to reasonably supervise students is limited to the time the student is:

1. Being transported to and from school at public expense;
2. Attending school;
3. On the school premises participating with authorization in a school-sponsored activity;
4. On the premises at his or her school for school attendance, but for **no more than thirty (30) minutes before or after school starts or ends**; and
5. On the premises at his or her school for authorized participation in a school-sponsored activity, but for no more than thirty (30) minutes before or after activity starts or ends. **(Florida Statutes)**

Failure to comply with the above could result in restriction from future activity privileges, i.e. field trips, sports, other activities.

### **Passes**

Any student in the hall during a class period must have a student ID on a lanyard around their neck and a valid pass. If a Guidance Counselor or other office staff needs to see a student, an office request pass will be sent using E Hall pass if possible. Email is a useful method to contact school staff.

### **Purple Lines**

Purple lines (painted on the sidewalks at OHS) are located around campus to indicate areas before school and during lunches that students are to remain on the commons area/cafeteria side of. There is ample area inside the purple lines for seating during breakfast and lunches. The expectation is, for supervision purposes, that all students remain on the appropriate side of the purple lines during these times (before school and lunch).

## Prohibited Items

These items will be confiscated and will be returned only to the parents. Items not claimed by June 30th will be discarded.

1. Electronic Devices during class (including but not limited to: cell phones, headphones, wireless devices, external speakers, etc). **Follow classroom teacher guidelines and expectations for the class.**
2. Skateboards or skates (can be left in office for after school use)
3. Laser pointers or any object or device that may be considered dangerous
4. Literature promoting illegal or objectionable practices or substances
5. Items displaying inappropriate designs and writings which may be considered lewd, obscene, offensive, alcohol or drug related, threatening or gang-related.
6. **All other items included in the Code of Student Conduct.**

## School Dances

OHS organizations and classes sponsor dances at various times throughout the school year for OHS students. Students must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA, no major behavior problems, and no outstanding fines or fees to attend. If an Okeechobee High School student wishes to bring a non-OHS student guest, the OHS student must obtain an Event Guest Pass Form from the Dean's Office. The form must be completed and returned to the Dean's Office **at least two weeks prior to the event.** Out-of-school dates must meet the following requirements:

- Guests must be 20 or younger. No middle school students are permitted.
- Guests must be a graduate or a non-OHS high school student in good standing (2.0 GPA or better; (9 or fewer unexcused absences, no major behavior problems).
- Final approval for the guest to attend will be determined by the Administration.
- Guests must attend with the OHS student that purchased the ticket.

When the out-of-school date has been approved, the OHS student will be notified and then must purchase an advanced guest ticket from the advisor of the sponsoring organization or class. The tickets are non-transferable and will be checked at the door. Possession or use of tobacco products and possession or consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited at all school functions. **OHS officials retain the right to refuse admittance to anyone not conforming to school standards or dress code expectations.** A current school ID is required for admission to dances as well as a photo ID for any non-OHS students attending as guests.

## Sexual Harassment

It is sexual harassment for a student to subject another student to any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Overt sexual behaviors are prohibited. Students who engage in such conduct shall be subject to disciplinary and legal sanctions. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:

- Verbal harassment or abuse
- Repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implication
- Pressure for sexual activity, unwelcome or inappropriate touching, and/or
- Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats.

Students should report any unwelcomed behavior to the nearest adult on duty. If the behavior continues, a report should be made to a member of administration.

## Schedule Change Policy

Requests for schedule changes must be made on the **Schedule Change Request** form which is available in the Guidance Office and on the school website. \*\*Requests for elective changes must be made during the first 9 days of the semester and changes are not guaranteed. Completed forms (including parent and student signature) are to be turned in to your Guidance Counselor and then you will be called in to discuss the possibility of a change when the counselor is available. Please remember that changes are not guaranteed.

## Student Conduct

All students have many responsibilities to themselves and to others with whom they are involved throughout the day. The following general rules of conduct are expected of each student while at school or school activities.

1. Students should listen to morning announcements and check school email regularly for updates on activities and events.
2. Students are to treat each other, as well as all visitors, guests, and adults on campus with dignity, respect and appropriate honor.
3. Students are to respect their own property and the property of others.
4. Students should use language and demonstrate conduct that will reflect favorably upon themselves and their classmates. The use of obscenities, profanity, and personal attacks will not be tolerated.
5. All students will participate appropriately during the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
6. Public displays of affection (PDA) are inappropriate at school.

A record of inappropriate student conduct resulting in disciplinary actions will be maintained on all students referred to the office.

## Student Driving

Driving and parking your vehicle at Okeechobee High School is a privilege, not a right. A driver's license, vehicle registration, proof of insurance, and a current school ID must be provided in order to obtain a permit. Complete all forms for the Drug and Alcohol testing program. Priority will be given first to Seniors, then Juniors, and then Sophomores.

1. To get a parking permit, a student must present documentation to the Dean's Office. To be assigned a particular parking space, students must: pay any fines or fees owed to the school.
  - Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher will receive free parking.
  - Students with a cumulative GPA  $\geq 2.0$  pay \$40.00 per year. (\$20 to parking, \$10 to athletics, \$10 to activities)
  - Other students, under 2.0, pay \$50.00 per semester. (\$30 to parking, \$10 to athletics, \$10 to activities). Students under 1.5 GPA are not eligible to park on campus.
2. The student is considered on campus upon driving through the gate. Cars should be parked and locked, and students should leave the parking area. Students must be sure to gather all necessary items for the day upon leaving the vehicle because he/she will not be allowed to return to the parking lot during the school day.
3. No one should be in the parking areas during school hours without an escort from the Dean's Office or administration.
4. If the student drives a different vehicle without a sticker, the Dean's secretary must be notified immediately in order to issue a temporary permit.
5. The speed limit on campus is 15 mph. Tickets may be issued.
6. Students can lose their parking privileges, face disciplinary action or be issued a ticket for:
  - Speeding or reckless driving

- Returning to a parking lot without permission
  - Parking in an unauthorized area or another student/staff space
  - Removing their parking sticker and putting it on any other unauthorized vehicle
  - Driving and parking a second vehicle without a temporary permit from the Dean’s Office
  - Allowing other student(s) to leave campus in your vehicle without appropriate documentation. (example: students without a 6 hour day leaving with a 6 hour day student)
  - Excessive referrals, semester absences (9 or fewer), or tardiness to school (lock-outs).
7. Okeechobee High School is not responsible for damage to vehicles parked at the school.
  8. Vehicles displaying objectionable slogans, bumper stickers or other items that create disruptions will not be allowed on campus.
  9. Any vehicles on the OHS campus are subject to search by school officials, for any reasonable suspicion, at any time.
  10. Students who withdraw from OHS for any reason will have to reapply and pay for parking if they re-enroll.

### **Student Transfer and Withdrawal Procedures**

The student must have his/her parent or guardian(s) initiate the withdrawal or transfer in the Guidance Office.

### **Tardy Policy**

Tardiness is seldom necessary if one plans to be prompt. If allowed to continue, tardiness becomes a pattern and definitely affects school work. It is very important that students arrive in time for school and for class. Excessive tardiness will result in disciplinary action. If a student is not through the threshold of the doorway when the bell rings, that student is tardy. Tardy count clears each 9 week period.

#### **2023-2024 Tardy policy:**

Tardies will be considered “steps” within our Step Discipline Program.

Steps within each three-week cycle can lead to lunch, after-school detentions and eventually referrals.

**Detention starts promptly at 1:50.** Students must sign in to receive credit for detention.

Students who are tardy or removed from detention will result in a referral for Failure to Comply and ISS or OSS (based on tardy number) will apply as described above.

Loss of parking, participation in clubs or athletics, or other privileges (Senior Activities, etc.) could be used for chronic failure to comply with resulting detentions.

### **Textbooks/Chromebooks**

■ Students are expected to take good care of textbooks and Chromebooks. Textbooks and Chromebooks are furnished by the School Board of Okeechobee County, and students must assume full responsibility for the care of these items loaned to them. Books are issued by the subject teacher and must be returned to that same teacher upon completion of the school year or withdrawal from school. Chromebooks will be checked out to each student through the media center.

■ Responsibility for textbooks/ and Chromebooks rests with the student to whom the textbooks and Chromebooks are issued. Optional [Chromebook insurance](#) is available for \$20.

■ Students are encouraged to cover textbooks and to replace covers if they become worn.

■ Unpaid fines and charges for lost books, Chromebooks, and other property will become part of the student’s records. **Students owing for textbooks, Chromebooks, or other school property will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities including dances and will not be able to participate in**

**graduation exercises.**

- Loss of books or Chromebook due to theft or other circumstances will not be accepted as an excuse for non-payment or for not doing class assignments.

**Vandalism**

Our school buildings and equipment cost the taxpayer money to construct, purchase, and maintain. Students who destroy or vandalize school property will be required to pay for loss or damage. Students who willfully destroy school property are subject to suspension and subsequent expulsion, in addition to legal consequences. If you happen to damage something by accident, you should report it to a teacher as soon as possible.

**Visitors**

All visitors must first sign in at the main administrative office and pick up a visitor’s badge. The badge is to be returned to the office when the visitor signs out. Students are not allowed to bring guests to school during the regular school day. OHS graduates desiring to visit former teachers may do so after school by obtaining a pass from the Assistant Principal’s office. Violators could be trespassed from the school campus.

**Zero Tolerance**

The Okeechobee County School Board has a Zero Tolerance policy concerning drugs, alcohol, weapons and violence. Students, student lockers, vehicles, and student’s property are subject to random searches. At various times throughout the school year, law enforcement may be asked to search the entire school campus. **Please refer to the Code of Student Conduct which is updated prior to each school year.**