

OCONEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK

2023-2024



OCONEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
Watkinsville, Georgia



Discover your Why. Find your Place. Make a Positive Impact.

OCONEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Warriors

2721 Hog Mountain Road

Watkinsville, GA 30677

Phone: (706) 769-6655

Fax: (706) 310-2003

www.oconeeschools.org/ochs/

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Warrior Nation,

On behalf of the faculty, staff and administration, I would like to welcome you to Oconee County High School. Your enrollment as a Warrior automatically puts you into a long standing tradition of excellence in academics, the arts and athletics.

The faculty and staff of OCHS will provide a challenging educational experience for you in order to assist you to meet your academic goals in high school and pursuits after graduation. Our charge to you is to dedicate yourself from the beginning to do everything in your power to make sure you are the best version of you each day. We ask you to dedicate yourself to a positive attitude that welcomes and accepts opportunities that come your way. In addition, we ask that you develop discipline and a work ethic that will serve as the pillar of your future success. Each day we will encourage you to Discover your Why, Find your Place, and Make a Positive Impact.

The policies and procedures in this handbook are to be used as a guide. Please read over this with your parents/guardians and adhere so we can have a successful school year. It is your responsibility to follow the policies and procedures accordingly. If you have a question about a particular policy or procedure, do not hesitate to seek guidance from an administrator.

Make the commitment to get involved in our school community. Discover your Why. Find your Place. Make a Positive Impact.

Go Warriors!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Yancey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Yancey" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Kevin Yancey
Proud Principal
Oconee County High School

OCONEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL: A TRADITION OF SUCCESS

OCHS Vision

Oconee County High School will be a nationally-recognized leader in academic achievement by ensuring all students receive rigorous, balanced education that will enable them to compete in and contribute to a global society.

Oconee County High School Mission

Oconee County High School will provide a safe, challenging environment that inspires all students to accomplish their goals.

Oconee County High School Motto

Discover your why. Find your place. Make a positive impact.

Alma Mater

Through the years we've spent in high school
Friendships dear and true,
Shall remain and not be broken
Though we're far from you.
Hail to thee our Alma Mater
Highest in our sight
We will ever love and honor
Oconee Blue and White

OCHS Fight Song

We are the Warriors
Home of the Blue
Mighty and fearless
We'll fight for you.

We are the Warriors
Pride of OC
Fight, fight, fight, fight
To victory!

OCHS QUICK FACTS

Enrollment: 1310

CEEBS-ACT Code Number: 113190

Pattern of School Year: Two 18-week terms, Hybrid 4x4 Block Schedule (A/B Schedule)

Community and Location: Oconee County is adjacent to Athens, Georgia and is approximately 1½ hours from Atlanta. It is an urban/suburban community of more than 35,000 people.

Accreditation: OCHS is accredited by the Georgia Accrediting Commission and COGNIA.

Region Classification: OCHS is a member of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and competes in interscholastic sports with other high schools in Region 8-AAA.

2023-2024 OCHS BELL SCHEDULES

REGULAR DAILY SCHEDULE

1 st Block	8:15 – 9:45
2 nd Block	9:50 – 11:20
Warrior Period	11:25 – 11:50
3 rd Block	11:55 – 1:55
1 st Lunch	11:55 – 12:20
2 nd Lunch	12:25 – 12:50
3 rd Lunch	12:55 – 1:20
4 th Lunch	1:30 – 1:55
4 th Block	2:00 – 3:30

ADVISEMENT SCHEDULE

1 st Block	8:15 – 9:40
2 nd Block	9:45 – 11:10
WP	11:15 – 11:55
3 rd Block	12:00 – 2:00
1 st Lunch	12:00 – 12:25
2 nd Lunch	12:30 – 12:55
3 rd Lunch	1:00 – 1:25
4 th Lunch	1:35 – 2:00
4 th Block	2:05 – 3:30

TWO HOUR DELAY

1 st Block	10:15 – 11:20
2 nd Block	11:25 – 12:25
3 rd Block	12:30 – 2:20
1 st Lunch	12:30 – 12:50
2 nd Lunch	12:55 – 1:15
3 rd Lunch	1:20 – 1:40
4 th Lunch	1:45 – 2:05
4 th Block	2:25 – 3:30

FINAL EXAM BELL SCHEDULE

Announcements	8:15 – 8:20
1 st /3 rd Block Exams	8:20 – 9:50
2 nd /4 th Block Exams	9:55 – 11:25

At 11:25 students are dismissed or report to designated area

EXAM INFORMATION

Final Exam Day 1

Students will take 1st block and 2nd block exams

Final Exam Day 2

Students will take 3rd block and 4th block exams

Instructions about when A/B exams will take place will be distributed prior to exams.

LUNCH SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

Determined by 3rd Block class

1st Lunch	A and B Hall
2nd Lunch	C Hall, All PE and Health
3rd Lunch	D Hall
4th Lunch	CTAE, Fine Arts, Adaptive PE

Assigned lunches are subject to change

OCHS CONTACT INFORMATION 2022-2023

OCHS ADMINISTRATION

		<u>Phone Extension</u>
Principal, Dr. Kevin Yancey		1103
Assistant Principal, Alyssa House	CTAE	1106
Assistant Principal, Kelly Maffeo	Curriculum, Assessment, & Instruction	1104
Assistant Principal, Dr. Curt Miller	Athletic Director	3704

OCHS GUIDANCE

		<u>Phone Extension</u>
Counselor, Kevin Guthas	Supporting Student Last Names A-D	1113
Counselor, Andrea Givens	Supporting Student Last Names E-J	1116
Counselor, Megan Hoadley	Supporting Student Last Names K-P	1114
Counselor, Laken Cofer	Supporting Student Last Names Q-Z	1112
Registrar, Tricia Kopec		1117
Work Based Learning Coordinator, Lauren Kucera		3699
Social Worker, LeAnne Hale		1115

SUPPORT STAFF

Phone Extension

Administrative Secretary, Patty Wilkins	1102
Assistant Principal Secretary, Dawn Marais	1108
Attendance Secretary, Christa Payne	1111
School Nurse, Katie Cass	1110
ISS Room, Meg Andrews	3632
Athletic Trainer, Brittney Wenrich	3501

SUPPORT STAFF

Phone Extension

Front Receptionist, Kari Boykin	1101
CTAE Secretary, Celeste Hellums	3699
Bookkeeper, Mindy Jacobs	1107
Media Specialist, Jon Wilson	3700
Cafeteria Manager, Tammy Luther	1122
Custodial Supervisor, Lindsey Brock	1124

OTHER IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND EXTENSIONS

Field House / 706-769-3502	Band Room / Extension 3503	PE Office & Gym / Extension 3500
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BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jason Branch, Superintendent	Chair Kim Argo Tim Burgess	Vice Chair Amy Parrish Michael Ransom	Ryan Hammock
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DISTRICT CONTACT NUMBERS

Central Office	(706) 769-5130	Maintenance Office	(706) 769-3522
Transportation Office	(706) 769-3506		

OCHS FACULTY & STAFF 2023-2024

CTAE	English	Fine Arts	Health/PE
Nutt, Casey	Hon, Derek	Doss, Drew	Graham, Zack
Bentley, Josh Collins, John Glaze Smith, Christie Kennedy, Carsyn Krissel, Heather Lee, Kelsey Manning, Philip Sayers, Bradley Kucera, Lauren (WBL)	Brimanson, Adam Carmichael, Kristyne Carpentier, Melanie Cown, Megan Elder, Katie Lawrence, Heather Mize, Amy Schneider, Natalie Welch, Kip	Carter, Bess Provost, Mark Williams, Katie	David, Katie Fowler, Drew Hall, Ben Hamby, Judson Kineard, Ryan Trivette, Brian
Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	World Languages
Hoffa, Renata	Strunk, Kelly	Ellis, Craig	Pirkle, Emily
Briscoe, Andy Forrester, Jake Forrester, Nicole Henderson, Ashley Hoyt, Faith Mooney, Blake Osborne, Adam Romano, Chris Swain, Sam Yeargin, Kayla	Asman, Amy Fleming, Haley Hill, Brandy McLain, Lindsey Miranda, Thomasina Myers, Harrison Yauck, Al	Brubaker, Joseph Burgess, Wyatt Elmore, Emily Gooch, Tom Hyde, Braden Landry, Randy Norton, James Oglesby, Mark Smith, Ryan Strickland, Jennifer	Christoforou-Panaou, Evanthia Douglas, Keri Paczkowski, Andrew Ruiz, Karen Valadez, Laura
Special Education (IRR)	SPED (Adaptive)	Office Staff	Custodians
Wehunt, Richard			Brock, Lindsey
Chappell, Kristin Faulkner, Phillip Graham, Kim Holloway, Mitch Holmes, Alex Ritchie, Rachel Setzer, Jacob Shelnutt, John Sorrells, Matt Tanner, Kyle	Greene, Tiffany Parapro- Pollard, Patty Severson, Allison Parapro- Sullivan, Jessica	Boykin, Kari Reception Cass, Katie School Nurse Hellums, Celeste CTAE Jacobs, Mindy Bookkeeper Kopeck, Tricia Registrar Marias, Dawn Athletics Payne, Christa Attendance Wilkins, Patty Principal	Adams, Eddie Daniel, Johnny Hayes, Lori Husk, Nancy Husk, Tim Olmedo, Nakima "Mimi" Smith, James
Media Specialist	ISS	Alternative School	School Nutrition
Wilson, Jon	Andrews, Meg	Mattison, Ken Parapro- TBD	Ashley, Kathi Coggins, Denise Luther, Tammy
TST	Administration	Counselors	School Social Worker
Soggins, Jon	Yancey, Dr. Kevin	Givens, Andrea	Hale, Leanne
	House, Alyssa Maffeo, Kelly Miller, Dr. Curt	Cofer, Laken Guthas, Kevin Hoadley, Megan	

OCONEE COUNTY SCHOOLS 2023-2024 CALENDAR

OCONEE COUNTY SCHOOLS | 2023-24 CALENDAR

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

4 Independence Day
(OCS Closed)

26-28 Pre-Planning
31

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

1 Pre-Planning

2 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

4 Labor Day
(OCS Closed)

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

6 Teacher Professional
Learning Day

9 Fall Break
(OCS Closed)

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

20 Thanksgiving Holiday
(Students/Teachers)

21-24 Thanksgiving Holidays
(OCS Closed)

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

18-22 Holiday Break
(Students/Teachers)

25-29 Holiday Break
(OCS Closed)

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

1 Holiday Break
(OCS Closed)

2 Teacher Workday

15 MLK Day
(OCS Closed)

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

19 Winter Break
(OCS Closed)

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

11 Teacher Professional
Learning Day
(Make-Up Day
if necessary)

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1-2 Spring Break
(Students/Teachers)

3-5 Spring Break
(OCS Closed)

MAY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

17 Last Day of School
Half-Day

20-21 Post-Planning

27 Memorial Day
(OCS Closed)

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

19 Juneteenth
(OCS Closed)

■ First/Last Days of School
 ■ Student /Teacher Holidays
 ■ Teacher Planning/Workdays
 ■ OCS Closed

WE ARE ONE!

OCHS STUDENT INFORMATION / ACADEMICS

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CLASSES

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are post-secondary level classes that are taught during the regular school day. A national exam is given in May at the end of the course. Based on exam scores, some postsecondary institutions either award postsecondary credit or allow a student to exempt certain courses. Regardless of the exam score, students are typically better prepared for college because of the exposure to the rigor of a college-level course.

Students are required to pay for AP exams, and these exams are approximately \$100.00 each. Students who enroll in an AP course are required to sign a contract and will not be allowed to drop an AP course once enrolled. Only the assistant principal of instruction may approve dropping an AP course due to unusual circumstances.

COURSE EXTENSION/CREDIT RECOVERY

Two opportunities are available for students to recover credit for failing course grades. To be eligible for *course extension*, a student must have earned a grade of 60-69 in the semester immediately preceding credit recovery instruction. For instructional extension in Georgia Milestone courses, students DO NOT take the Georgia Milestones again. Instructional extension programs are completed using our online instructional program, *Edgenuity*. Credit recovery for fall courses is available during the first weeks of spring semester in January, and recovery for spring courses is available through the Oconee County Schools summer school program.

To be eligible for *credit recovery*, a student has failed a course, and the failing grade is recorded on the student's transcript. The course failure either occurred in a semester other than the one immediately preceding, or the grade in the preceding semester was lower than 60. The failing grade is not replaced by the grade earned in the credit recovery program. Credit recovery programs are offered at the beginning of each semester and also through the Oconee County Schools summer school program. If applicable, credit recovery for Georgia Milestone courses does require students to take the Georgia Milestone at the completion of the course. For more information on credit or course recovery programs, please see a guidance counselor.

DUAL ENROLLMENT/POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS PROGRAMS

OCHS students who qualify may participate in dual enrollment programs with an accredited technical school or post-secondary options programs with colleges and universities. Both programs offer students opportunities to earn advanced college credit while still earning high school units. OCHS has partnerships with numerous schools that offer a wide range of opportunities that are **free** for students. For more information students should see their counselor.

CLASSROOM MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

A student who is absent (except students who are caught skipping) will be given one (1) day for each day he/she is absent to make up his/her work. Make-up work will not necessarily be the same work that students who were present were given. Students who skip will receive a 0 for any work graded during their absence.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Students are not allowed to change schedules without permission of his/her guidance counselor. All schedule changes must be approved by the Assistant Principal for Instruction.

Schedule changes will be considered when pertaining to one of three reasons: a specific course is needed for graduation, a specific course needs to be repeated for credit, or a student has already received credit for a course listed on the schedule.

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Through the Work Based Learning program, students work with experience while acquiring job-related training in a high school or post-secondary setting. Students experience a gradual progression of skills and wages through a structured program with recognized, portable credentials. Students interested in school-to-career opportunities need to see Ms. Lauren Kucera on K-hall for more information.

FINAL SUMMATIVE EXAMS

- All courses have a summative, end of the semester exam that counts as a large portion of their grade.
- Qualifying students will be given an exam exemption form prior to the end of each semester. This form must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian in order for a student to exempt and/or check out on exam days.
- No exams will be given prior to the scheduled exam time. Students must have a medical excuse (from a medical office) or other appropriate documentation to make up a final exam. This written notice must be given to the assistant principal of instruction and a time will then be scheduled for the student to take the exam at a later date.
- Students will not be permitted to leave school during an exam period. Do not schedule any appointments that would necessitate leaving school prior to the end of an exam. Parents may not check students out during the middle of an exam period.

FINAL EXAM EXEMPTIONS

Exam exemptions are a privilege provided the student meets the following criteria:

1. Has a 90 average or above in the course.
2. Does not have any out-of-school suspensions or in-school suspension (ISS) for the semester.
3. All fine/debts have been cleared.
4. No more than four tardies
5. Number of exemptions allowed per grade level will be noted on Exam Exemption Forms

GEORGIA VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Georgia Virtual School (GAVS) is an online program through which students can take courses and earn credit. Students work independently through the GAVS program and have an instructor who communicates with him/her in an online setting. Students are allowed to take GAVS courses during the school day at no cost **if the course is not offered at OCHS**. Students may enroll in GAVS courses outside of the school day to earn credit but will incur a cost for these programs. Students should see their guidance counselor for more information. Applications for GAVS courses must be submitted to the Assistant Principal for Instruction before June for the upcoming school year.

GRADING POLICY

Information about grading is a part of the course syllabus.

Credits are given in terms of Carnegie units. Semester courses run approximately 90 days and carry one (1) Carnegie unit of credit.

Numerical grades will be used on the report card and on permanent records.

Any grade below 70 is considered failing, and no credit will be issued for that course.

Grades for honors classes carry a 5% weight and grades for AP classes carry a 10% weight.

GRADING SCALE

A = 90% – 100%

B = 80% – 89%

C = 70% – 79%

Below 70% = F

GRADE PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

- 4 units to be placed in the 10th grade
- 12 units to be placed in the 11th grade
- 20 units to be placed in the 12th grade

A student who is placed in a specific grade level at the beginning of the school semester will remain in that grade level for the entire semester.

GRADUATION EXERCISES

Specific information regarding graduation and graduation activities will be distributed during the second semester. For complete details see our counseling department.

1. Seniors who choose to graduate early will not be considered as actively enrolled in school; therefore, they will not be eligible to participate in school events as a student. Participation in the graduation ceremony and the prom are the only exceptions.
2. Participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege. School officials have the discretion to restrict any student's

participation in the graduation ceremony due to disciplinary infractions or other justifiable reasons.

3. No student will be allowed to participate in the graduation exercise if he/she has not met all academic and other related requirements.
4. School officials may withhold issuance of a diploma until the student has met all financial and other such obligations

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

CORE SUBJECTS	ELECTIVE SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS
English/Language Arts 4 units required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ninth Grade Literature/Composition or Honors <input type="checkbox"/> Tenth Grade Literature/Composition or Honors <input type="checkbox"/> American Literature/Composition or Honors or AP <input type="checkbox"/> English Literature/Composition or Honors or AP 	Pathway Electives 3 units required Career, Technical, Agricultural Education and/or Modern Language/Latin and/or Fine Arts *
Mathematics 4 units required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Algebra or Accelerated Alg./Geometry A <input type="checkbox"/> Geometry or Accelerated Geo. B/Adv. Algebra <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Algebra or Accelerated Pre-Calculus <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Calculus or Other 	Academic Electives 3 units required
Science 4 units required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Biology or Honors <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Science or Physics or AP Physics <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry/Chem Honors, Earth Systems, Environmental Science, or AP course <input type="checkbox"/> Fourth Science Elective 	Other Electives 5 units required
Social Studies 4 units required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Government or Honors or AP <input type="checkbox"/> World History or Honors or AP <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. History or Honors or AP <input type="checkbox"/> Economics or AP 	Health/Personal Fitness 1 unit required .5 unit each

TOTAL UNITS REQUIRED = 28

All students are encouraged to earn two units of credit in the same modern language or Latin. Students planning to enter or transfer into a University System of Georgia institution or other post-secondary institution must take two units of the same modern language/Latin. Many out of state schools require or prefer 3 or more courses. Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education (DTAE) institutions (Technical College System of Georgia) do not require modern language/Latin for admissions.

DIPLOMA SEALS

Advanced Placement Seal: Completion of three Advanced Placement courses

CTAE Seal: Completion of three CTAE courses in the same program area

Fine Arts Seal: Completion of three Fine Arts courses in the same area

Modern Language/Latin Seal: Completion of three Modern Language/Latin courses in the same area

HOPE BASICS

HOPE GPA Requirements:

3.0 Academic only GPA earns a portion of tuition at an in-state public school

3.7 Academic only GPA *plus* a 1200 on the Critical Reading and Math or a 26 on the ACT earns the Zell Miller Scholarship, full tuition at an in-state public school.

HOPE Rigorous Course Information: Class of 2017 and beyond needs 4 rigorous courses to qualify for HOPE in addition to other requirements. HOPE Rigorous Courses are listed below:

AP English Language	AP English Literature	Advanced Algebra/Accelerated	Advanced Algebra
Precalculus/Accelerated Pre-Calculus	AP Precalculus	Calculus/AP Calculus	AP Statistics
AP Computer Science	AP Biology	Chemistry Honors or AP Chemistry	
AP Environmental Science	Scientific Research	AP Capstone	Physics or AP Physics
Human Anatomy (earned through taking <i>Essentials of Healthcare</i>)			AP Government
AP Comparative Government	AP Economics	AP World History	AP US History
AP European History	AP Psychology	AP Human Geography	
French II–V / AP French	Latin II–V or AP Latin	German II–V or AP German	Spanish II–V or AP Spanish
Any joint-enrolled academic courses counting as high school credit			

HONOR ROLL AND PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL

For the OCHS honor roll, a student will be recognized if he/she has earned a combined overall average of 90% or better in all subjects. For the Principal's Honor Roll, a student must earn a grade of 90 or above in all subjects.

HONOR GRADUATES

Students will be designated as honor graduates if they meet the requirements in one of the following categories:

- A. At the end of second semester of their senior year, students must have a cumulative weighted grade point average equal to or greater than **93.000** for all subjects to receive the honor designation of ***cum laude***. Students must have completed eight consecutive semesters (or the equivalent) of high school in a school or schools accredited by one of the accrediting agencies listed in the Board policy governing transfer of credits.
- B. At the end of second semester of their senior year, students must have a cumulative weighted grade point average equal to or greater than **95.000** for all subjects to receive the honor designation of ***magna cum laude***. Students must have completed eight consecutive semesters (or the equivalent) of high school in a school or schools accredited by one of the accrediting agencies listed in the Board policy governing transfer of credits.
- C. At the end of second semester of their senior year, students must have a cumulative weighted grade point average equal to or greater than **97.000** for all subjects to receive the honor designation of ***summa cum laude***. Students must have completed eight consecutive semesters (or the equivalent) of high school in a school or schools accredited by one of the accrediting agencies listed in the Board policy governing transfer of credits.

The first honor graduate (valedictorian) will be designated at the end of second semester only for scholarship/honors purposes. The second and third honor graduates will also be designated at this time. To be eligible to be named as first, second, or third honor graduates, a student must be enrolled in Oconee County Schools for his/her entire senior year. Students who complete high school graduation requirements at the end of the first semester of their senior year and elect not to enroll for the second semester will be eligible to participate in graduation exercises and will be eligible for designation as honor graduates, but will not be eligible for designation as first, second, or third honor graduates.

OCHS STUDENT INFORMATION / ATTENDANCE

CLASSWORK REQUESTS

Requests for homework due to extended absences (three consecutive days or more) should be made through the Guidance Department. Most school assignments can be found in Canvas, but students can coordinate with their counselor if needed.

COLLEGE VISITATIONS

1. Seniors and juniors are permitted two (2) college day visits per year during their junior and senior years.
2. The student's counselor must approve arrangements for college visits.
3. The student will be counted absent, but will be allowed to make up work if verification of the college visit is brought back by the student and presented to the Attendance Office when the student returns.

SIGN-IN PROCEDURES (FOLLOWING AN ABSENCE)

1. For an absence to be excused, a student is expected to present documentation to the Attendance Office by 8:15 am. within 48 hours following an absence. Documentation of absences should include the following: student's name, dates absent, parent/guardian signature, and reason. Please see the county section of this handbook for acceptable reasons.
2. Students reporting to school without documentation should report directly to the front office for a pass to class and absences will remain unexcused.

SIGN-OUT PROCEDURES

1. Students who need to sign out during the day must bring a note signed by their parent/guardian and present it to the Attendance Office by 8:15 am. Notes will be verified. If no one is available to verify the note, the student will not be allowed to leave.
2. Students may leave and return to school on the same day for reasons that would be considered "excused absences." Students are reminded that a parent note in this case counts as one of their allowed number of parent notes.
3. In an emergency situation, only an administrator may give permission for a student to leave school.
4. Students may not be checked out over the phone, by fax, or by email unless approved by an administrator.

PARENT EXCUSED ABSENCES

Each student is allowed 5 parent excused absences per year not related to illness. These absences are to be supported by a note from the parent/guardian, and must be received within **2 days** of the student's return to school in order to be accepted.

STATE DRIVING REGULATIONS | Attendance Sheets for Drivers License

1. Students must complete the request form in the Attendance Office.
2. Completed attendance sheets will be available for the students 24 hours after the request and may be picked up in the Attendance Office.
3. Students must make the request in person.

WITHDRAWALS AND TRANSFERS

1. Students who withdraw or transfer must see their counselor. This will require a parent/guardian to sign and submit an OCS withdrawal form. Withdrawal paperwork should be completed by the parent/guardian who registered the student.
2. The student is expected to return all books, Chromebook and charger, and other school property, pay all debts, and otherwise make sure his record is clear before he/she leaves OCHS.
3. All students who participate in athletics must meet GHSA transfer guidelines. See the athletic director to ensure you are aware of GHSA's transfer policies.

TARDIES

A student who is not inside the classroom when the tardy bell rings is considered tardy. Four unexcused tardies will result in the loss of exam exemption privileges for the semester in that course.

Tardy Procedures:

1. Teachers are required to close their classroom doors and not admit any student unless he/she has the proper note provided by an administrator or designee.

2. If a student arrives at his/her class after the door is locked, he/she must report to the attendance office where he/she will be given a note to get into class.
3. After the first ten minutes of the class period, students who are not in class or who have not requested a tardy note to class will be considered skipping (unless excused by an administrator).

Consequences:

1 tardy	Warning
2 tardies	Warning
3 tardies	Warning
4 tardies	Warning, Administrative Conference, and Parent Contact
<hr/>	
<i>You cannot exempt exams after 4 tardies</i>	
5 tardies	1 day Lunch Detention
6 tardies	1 day Lunch Detention
7 tardies	2 days of Lunch Detention
8 tardies	1 day of ISS
9 tardies	1 day of ISS and loss of driving privileges
10+ tardies	Required parent meeting before student can return to school

Tardies reset at the beginning of each semester.

AWOL (Absent Without Leave)

Students that are out of class without permission, are more than ten minutes late to class, and/or do not follow check in and check out procedures will be considered AWOL.

Skippping Class (Includes Warrior Period) Stayed on campus but is out of class without permission and/or skipped one or more classes.	1st Offense - 1 day ISS 2nd Offense - 3 days ISS 3rd Offense - 5 days ISS OR OSS (parent conference) All Others - OSS to Hearing
Skippping School/Leaving School Leaving campus during the school day without permission, checking in or out improperly	1st Offense - 3 days ISS, Loss of Parking Pass for 10 school days (driver and any passengers) 2nd Offense - 5 days ISS, Loss of Parking Pass for 30 school days 3rd Offense - OSS, Parking Pass permanently revoked for school year

OCHS STUDENT INFORMATION / DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE CODE OF CONDUCT / SCHOOL CODES

Please see the [Oconee County Schools System Information A-Z for the OCS Student Behavior Code](#).

CELL PHONES

The following are OCHS guidelines which are in addition to the OCS Acceptable Use guidelines found in the OCS System Pages included [in this handbook](#).

- Phones and other devices must be turned off and put away at all times during class, unless otherwise instructed by a teacher
- Using an electronic device for texting, playing games, or listening to music is strictly prohibited during class.
- Photographic images, videos, and/or audio taken on campus may not be transmitted to other devices or posted on public and/or social networks. These images/audio/video files are to be used for instructional purposes only and should be removed from the device when the assignment is completed.
- Consequences for cell phone and other electronic device infractions will require disciplinary actions from warning to suspension.

CONSEQUENCES

- 1st Offense: Warning
- 2nd Offense: Detention
- 3rd Offense: 3 Detentions
- 4+ Offenses: ISS/OSS progression

DRESS CODE

PURPOSE OF DRESS CODE

Oconee County High School is a working and learning environment. All students are encouraged to observe a standard of grooming and dress consistent with the importance of the school's mission of education. Consequently, this dress code is designed to enhance safety for all and to minimize distractions from the learning environment.

DRESS CODE EXPECTATIONS

Head Gear: Students may not wear hats or head coverings inside the school building.

Exceptions include head gear worn for religious purposes.

Undergarments: All undergarments should be completely covered.

Tops and Shirts: All parts of the shoulders, stomach, chest, and back must be fully covered. These garments must be long enough to provide such covering whether seated, standing, or in motion.

Pants, Skirts, Dresses, Shorts, and Skorts: The length of these items must be long enough to cover all undergarments whether seated, standing or in motion.

Shoes: Shoes that are for both indoor and outdoor wear must be worn on the feet at all times. House/bedroom shoes, slippers, shoes with cleats, shoes with wheels, etc., are not permitted.

Messages: Clothing or apparel that depict sexually suggestive expressions or actions, profanity, obscenity, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, or which degrade the integrity of individual groups, is not permitted.

CONSEQUENCES

Students who violate the OCHS dress code will be sent to an administrator. Students will change into appropriate clothing before returning to class or be sent to in-school suspension (ISS) for the day if no appropriate clothing is available.

DRESS CODE DISCIPLINE

Students will be expected to adhere to the dress code while on campus. Refusal to do so will be considered as insubordinate behavior and subject to the appropriate discipline for such infractions, including removal from the classroom setting. The school principal or his/her designee will have the final decision in determining whether a student's apparel is considered inappropriate.

More information regarding discipline can be found in the [county section of this handbook](#).

OCHS STUDENT INFORMATION / OTHER LOGISTICS

DISPLAY OF SIGNS

All posters, signs, announcements, etc., must be approved by the administration prior to posting or displaying. Posters, etc., should not be attached to painted walls or surfaces, windows, or any exit doors. Bulletin boards are provided throughout the building for displaying posters and other announcements.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

DEBTS: Financial restitution must be made for books that are lost or damaged, library fines, cafeteria charges, or other school related charges. Students must clear all fines and debts prior to purchasing Homecoming or Prom tickets, exempting exams, and graduating.

FUNDRAISING: Projects which involve fundraising must first be coordinated with a club sponsor and then cleared with the school principal and approved by the Board of Education. Receipts from these fundraising projects must be deposited with the school bookkeeper. Students who participate in fundraising projects are responsible for paying for or returning item(s) they are issued.

SELLING AT SCHOOL: Selling items at school such as candy, magazine subscriptions, note cards, etc., is not permitted unless the items are being sold as part of a school-approved fundraising project. No individual may sell items for personal profit. Selling may occur only before or after school, between class changes, and during lunch.

LOCKERS

Lockers are provided as a convenience for students and are considered property of OCHS. Some students may be asked to share lockers due to space limitations. Lockers are subject to be searched when deemed necessary.

LOST AND FOUND

All articles that are found should be turned in at the main office. Lost and found items remaining will be donated to Goodwill.

MEDIA CENTER

- The Media Center will be open from 7:50 a.m. until 3:40 p.m.
- Students using the media center during the school day need a hall pass signed by their teacher. A signed hall pass is also required during all lunch periods. A signed hall pass is not required before or after school.
- Books are checked out for a two-week period but can be renewed for another two weeks. 4. Overdue fines are five (5) cents **per book per school day**. All fines must be paid before any books can be checked out or renewed.
- Students are asked to check out no more than five (5) books at a time.
- Magazines and newspapers should not be taken from the media center.
- Students may print school-related documents only on the Media Center printer. Students may print only one copy of each item.
- A copy machine is available for student use at a cost of ten (10) cents per page.

INFINITE CAMPUS INFORMATION

This year we have transitioned from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus. Parents should have received information about Infinite Campus via email and from the school at back to school orientation. Please visit the front office with questions about Infinite Campus accounts.

SCHOOL CLINIC

The school clinic serves students and staff with medical needs. If a student needs medications while he/she is at school, his/her parents must complete the appropriate forms. The forms are on the OCHS web site under "medical release forms." All medications must be in the original containers. Prescription medications must be in the original prescription bottle with proper labeling. Any tablets that are to be divided must be divided at home. Medications must be brought in by a parent or by the student in a sealed envelope with parental signature. If students need to carry inhalers or injectable allergy medications, they must have the proper forms filled out and signed by their physician. Students are not allowed to carry any over the counter medications. **Students will not be admitted to the clinic unless they have a hall pass.**

VACCINATIONS

State law specifically requires immunization against polio, measles, mumps, diphtheria, whooping cough, rubella, and tetanus. The law states that no student may remain in school more than 30 calendar days without proper immunization records and a certificate of eye, ear, and dental examinations signed by a private practitioner or qualified representative of a local Department of Health on forms provided by the Department of Human Resources or the high school.

PROM

A student must be classified as a junior at the beginning of the school year (fall semester) in order to be eligible to buy a ticket for the prom that is held in the spring of that year.

Seniors who choose to graduate early are allowed to attend Prom.

- All fines and debts must be cleared in order to purchase a Prom ticket.
- Dates must be between the ages of 14 (enrolled in 9th grade) and under 21.

If placed in in-school-suspension, a student will not be able to attend the Prom unless his/her ISS is completed by 3:30 Friday afternoon prior to the Prom on Saturday.

Students in OSS at the opening of the school day on the Friday before the Prom will not be allowed to attend.

Students who have been expelled from Oconee County High School may not attend as dates of current students.

PARKING

More information about parking can be found on the OCHS website or contact Ms. Celeste Hellums in the K Hall CTAE Office. Here are some parking basics..

- Students who choose to drive to school do so at their own risk.
- Driving-related attendance problems cannot be excused.
- Parking permits are available to seniors, juniors and sophomores, if space is available. The link to the OCHS parking permit application can be found at the main school website under Resources. Students and parents should read the parking agreement carefully before signing it. Students may park in designated areas only.
- Illegal parking could result in disciplinary action and/or having your vehicle towed. Vehicles parked on campus are subject to search by school officials.
- Parking privileges can be revoked for the following reasons:
 - attendance problems and/or too many tardies
 - failing courses
 - discipline issues

STUDENT TELEPHONE MESSAGES

Telephone messages will be accepted ONLY from a parent/guardian. Classes will not be interrupted for messages. Students will be notified; however, the school is not responsible if a student does not check with the office for their messages.

BUS NOTES

Students may not ride a bus other than the bus they regularly ride, unless they provide a written request from a parent or guardian that is signed. This must be confirmed at the front office prior to 1st block.

DELIVERIES TO SCHOOL

Parents are discouraged from bringing items such as lunches, gym bags, and books to school to be delivered to students. Interruption of classes to deliver these items interferes with instruction. We do not deliver flowers, gifts, or fast food lunches to students. Federal lunch program prohibits delivery of fast foods during the school day.

LUNCH INFORMATION

	Full Price	Reduced Price
Breakfast	\$1.50	FREE
Lunch	\$2.75	FREE

In order to receive free/reduced school meals for the upcoming school year, eligible families will need to apply by [clicking here](#) to submit the application.

OCHS EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Oconee County Schools offers a variety of clubs and organizations for student participation. Parents may choose to decline for their child to participate in any club or organization available through Oconee County Schools by completing a form at the school or the signature page in the front section of the OCS District Pages. Written permission from a parent or guardian is required prior to a student's participation for clubs or organizations started during the school year.

Participation in extracurricular activities is an important part of a student's high school career. In addition to athletic opportunities, OCHS offers a variety of clubs and organizations that appeal to many different interests. Please see the chart below for more information about the student organizations available at OCHS.

Club Name	Club Advisors	Club Name	Club Advisors
Academic Teams	Andrew Paczkowski	Mock Trial	Randy Landry
Ampersand	Adam Brimanson	Math Team	Chris Romano
Art Club	Bess Carter	Miracle Club	Kevin Guthas
Band	Mark Provost	Model UN	Mark Oglesby
Beta Club	Natalie Schneider	National Honor Society	Renata Hoffa/Jennifer Strickland
Chess Club	Andrew Paczkowski	Ocean Science Bowl Team	Amy Asman
Chorus	Katie Williams	LEO Club	Kevin Guthas
DECA	Josh Bentley	Relay for Life	Patty Wilkins
Drama Club	Drew Doss	Robotics	Bradley Sayers
FBLA	Philip Manning/Heather Krissel	Science Olympiad & Science Fair	Kelly Strunk/Lindsey McLain
FCA	Alex Holmes	Show Choir	Katie Williams
FCCLA	Christie Glaze	Spanish Club	Laura Valdez/Karen Ruiz
FFA	Carsyn Kennedy/John Collins	Student Council	Melanie Carpentier/Laken Cofer
French Club	Evi Christoforou	Teen Oconee	Patty Wilkins
German Club	Emily Pirkle	Tri-M	Katie Williams
Hero Club		TSA	Bradley Sayers
HOSA	Kelsey Lee/Casey Nutt	Yearbook	Katie Elder
Interact	Laken Cofer	Young Democrats	Jennifer Strickland
Latin Club	Andrew Paczkowski	Young Republicans	Kevin Guthas
Literary	Drew Doss/Katie Williams		

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The Athletic Department strives for excellence with a comprehensive program of team and individual sports opportunities. The following sports are available at OCHS.

FALL SPORTS	WINTER SPORTS	SPRING SPORTS
Cheerleading- Competition Head Coach: Chelsey Yancey	Basketball Boys Head Coach: Ryan Smith Girls Head Coach: Katie David	Baseball Head Coach: Brian Trivette
Cheerleading- Spirit Head Coach: Chelsey Yancey	Dance Head Coach: Tiffany Greene	Bass Fishing Head Coach: Blake Mooney
Cross Country Head Coach: Jake Forrester	Swimming and Diving Head Coach: Emily Elmore	Golf Boys Head Coach: Randy Landry Girls Head Coach: Kayla Yeargin
Fast Pitch Softball: Head Coach: Zack Graham	Wrestling Head Coach: Al Yauck	Gymnastics Head Coach: Tonya Day
Flag Football Head Coach: Blake Mooney	Sideline Cheer Head Coach: Kim Graham	Lacrosse Boys Head Coach: Michael Bake Girls Head Coach: Katie McNutt
Football Head Coach: Ben Hall		Slow Pitch Softball Head Coach: Zack Graham
Volleyball Head Coach: Mark Oglesby		Soccer Boys Head Coach: Chris Romano Girls Head Coach: Judson Hamby
		Tennis Head Coach: James Blose
		Track and Field Head Coach: Drew Fowler

STUDENT ATHLETE EXPECTATIONS

Coaches are provided a handbook that describes the various training rules and guidelines for the various sports. The respective coach of participants in individual sports will discuss this information. Violation of training rules or other disciplinary problems will be handled as appropriate. OCHS participates at the Georgia High School Association 8-AAA level.

The Athletic Department expects excellence in all of our athletes and their behavior both on and off the playing field. We believe that athletics play a major role in the development of our young people. We do not condone the violation of various training rules or the violation of our athletic code of conduct, which each athlete must sign prior to participation. Our expectation is that these rules and conduct codes are followed. However, we do realize that violations may occur both during the season and during the off season. As an athletic staff, we will develop and communicate our discipline policy through the sport in which the student participates at the beginning of each season.

ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

- A student must be in attendance for at least a half day in order to participate in a practice or a game. (Time traveling to an event during the school day is not counted for this purpose)

- A student may not participate in a practice or a game on a day that he/she has served out-of-school (OSS) or in-school suspension, unless the in-school suspension assignment is completed by 3:30. Out-of-school suspension is effective from the time the disposition is assessed until the beginning of the first day that the student is back in school.
- A student who goes on a field trip is not considered absent.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for high school competition, students must satisfy the following requirements:

All Ninth Graders are eligible first semester. Second semester 9th grade participants must have earned 2.5 units in the previous semester.

Rising 10th graders must accumulate 2.5 units in the previous grading period; must have passed 5 units in previous school year.

Rising 11th graders must accumulate 2.5 units in the previous grading period; must have passed 12 units entering the third year of high school.

Rising 12th graders must have accumulated 2.5 units in the previous grading period; must have passed 20 units entering the fourth year of high school.

*** One unit equals one full semester class. A half unit equals one nine-week class. Eligibility is established at the end of each semester.*

ATHLETIC PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

- All students who participate in competitive interscholastic athletics shall have an annual physical examination prior to participation in any tryout, practice or conditioning, whichever comes first.
- The physical examination form shall indicate approval for participation and be signed by a doctor of medicine, a doctor of osteopathy, or a physician's assistant.
- The GHSA approved physical examination form, which is available in the OCHS Athletic Office, should be used to include the date that the exam was performed, the student's name and the physician's signature.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Students are required to behave at all extracurricular activities in a manner which exhibits the spirit of good sportsmanship. Taunting, abusive or obscene language or any action directed toward the opposing team, coaches, spectators, and/or officials which is contrary to the ideals of good sportsmanship will not be tolerated and could result in school disciplinary action.