

**DAYTON REGIONAL STEM SCHOOL**

**STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**AND**

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

**2024-2025**

It is the policy of DRSS not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex or disability in its educational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. All Dayton Regional STEM School Board approved policies can be accessed through the Dayton Regional STEM School website <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/dstem/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>

**DAYTON REGIONAL STEM SCHOOL  
2024-2025 APPROVED CALENDAR  
1/11/2024 APPROVED**

	M	T	W	TH	F	
<b>August</b>				1	2	8/5 - 8/7 New Staff Orientation
	5	6	7	8	9	8/8 - 8/13 Staff Inservice Days
	12	13	14	15	16	8/14 First Day of School
	19	20	21	22	23	8/29 Meet the Teacher Night
	26	27	28	29	30	8/30 - Plan E Day
<b>September</b>	2	3	4	5	6	9/2 Labor Day No School for Staff or Students
	9	10	11	12	13	
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	9/27 - Plan E Day (Team Meetings)
	30					
<b>October</b>		1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	10/10 End of First Quarter
	14	15	16	17	18	10/11 -10/14 Fall Break - No School for Staff or Students
	21	22	23	24	25	10/15 First day of Second Quarter
	28	29	30	31		10/28 - 10/31 Family/Teacher Conferences - Grade Level Specific
<b>November</b>					1	11/1 Conference Exchange Day - No School for Staff or Students
	4	5	6	7	8	11/11 Veterans Day - No School for Staff or Students
	11	12	13	14	15	11/25 Plan E Day (Team Meetings/Professional Development)
	18	19	20	21	22	11/26 Staff Inservice/PD - No School for Students
	25	26	27	28	29	11/27-11/29 - Thanksgiving Break - No School for Staff or Students
<b>December</b>	2	3	4	5	6	12/12 Winter Exhibition Night
	9	10	11	12	13	12/13 Plan E Day
	16	17	18	19	20	12/20 End of Second Quarter
	23	24	25	26	27	12/23 - 1/3 Winter Break - No School for Staff or Students
	30	31				
<b>January</b>			1	2	3	1/6 First Day of Third Quarter
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	1/17 Plan E Day (Team Meetings)
	20	21	22	23	24	1/20 Martin Luther King Jr Day - No School for Staff or Students
	27	28	29	30	31	
<b>February</b>	3	4	5	6	7	2/7 Plan E Day (Team Meetings)
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	2/17 Presidents Day - No School for Staff or Students
	24	25	26	27	28	
<b>March</b>	3	4	5	6	7	3/6 End of Third Quarter
	10	11	12	13	14	3/7 Staff Inservice - No School for Students
	17	18	19	20	21	3/10 - First day of Fourth Quarter
	24	25	26	27	28	3/17 - 3/20 Family Conferences - Grade Level Specific
	31					3/21 Conference Exchange Day - No School for Staff or Students
						3/24 - 3/28 Spring Break
<b>April</b>		1	2	3	4	
	7	8	9	10	11	4/7 Plan E Day (Team Meetings)
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	4/25 Staff Inservice - No School for Students
	28	29	30			
<b>May</b>				1	2	5/2 Plan E Day (Team Meetings)
	5	6	7	8	9	5/13 Last day of Fourth Quarter
	12	13	14	15	16	5/14 Staff Inservice - No School for Students
	19	20	21	22	23	5/15 - 5/29 STEMmeration
	26	27	28	29	30	5/26 Memorial Day - No School for Staff or Students
						5/29 Last Day of School - Exhibition Night
						5/30 Staff Inservice Day
<b>June</b>	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission/Vision Statement.....	6
<b>Section I: General Information.....</b>	<b>7</b>
1.1 Withdrawal/Transfer from DRSS.....	7
1.2 Schedule .....	7
1.3 Emergency Closings and notifications .....	7
1.4 Compulsory Attendance.....	8
1.5 Equal Education Opportunity .....	9
1.6 Students with Disabilities .....	9
1.7 Anti-Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing .....	9
1.8 Homeless Students .....	10
1.9 Student Records & Directory Information .....	10
1.10 Communication and Transmission of Records .....	11
1.11 Student Health and Well-Being.....	11
1.12 Fire, Tornado, and Safety Drills.....	13
1.13 Visitors .....	13
1.14 Searches of Cubbies, Vehicles, Personal Property and Electronic Items.....	13
1.15 Questioning Students at School.....	14
1.16 Use of School Equipment and Facilities .....	14
<b>Section II: Academics .....</b>	<b>15</b>
2.1 Personalized Learning Period.....	15
2.2 Courses of Study/Course Materials.....	15
2.3 Student Fees .....	15
2.4 Graduation Requirements.....	16
2.5 Grades.....	17
2.6 Work-Based Learning .....	17
2.7 Student Portfolios.....	17

2.8 Homework .....	17
2.9 Promotion and Retention.....	18
2.10 Acceleration.....	18
2.11 GPA .....	18
2.12 Honor Roll.....	18
2.13 Educational Options .....	18
2.14 College Credit Plus.....	18
2.15 Earning A Specialization .....	19
2.16 Early Graduation .....	20
2.17 Field Trips and STEMMersion.....	20
<b>Section III: Other Student Activities .....</b>	<b>21</b>
3.1 Extracurricular Activities.....	21
3.2 After School Clubs.....	21
3.3 Student Fundraising .....	21
3.4 Student Driving/Parking.....	21
<b>Section IV: Student Code of Conduct .....</b>	<b>23</b>
4.1 Student Right and Responsibilities .....	23
4.2 Consequences for Violating Student Code of Conduct .....	23
4.3 Attendance (Absences and Tardiness).....	23
4.4 School Lunch, Food, and Drink.....	26
4.5 Before/After School Time .....	26
4.6 Dress Code .....	27
4.7 Appropriate Use of Cubbies .....	29
4.8 Use of Electronic Devices .....	29
4.9 Technology Assistance Center .....	29
4.10 Student Network and Internet Accessible Use .....	31
4.11 Student Publications/Distribution of Materials .....	34

4.12 Detention.....	35
4.13 Vandalism and Theft.....	36
4.14 Threats .....	36
4.15 Assault/Fighting.....	36
4.16 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying .....	36
4.17 Extortion.....	37
4.18 Cheating, Plagiarism, and Honor Policy .....	37
4.19 Possession/Use of Drugs or Alcohol.....	37
4.20 Possession/Use of Tobacco.....	38
4.21 Possession/Use of a Weapon .....	38
4.22 Possession/Use of a Firearm.....	38
4.23 Possession/Use of Explosives, Bomb Threats and False Alarm Reports.....	38
4.24 Possession of Pornography/Sexting.....	38
4.25 Inappropriate Use of Social Media .....	39
<b>Section V: Transportation.....</b>	<b>40</b>
5.1 Bus Conduct.....	40
5.2 Videotapes on School Buses.....	40
5.3 Penalties for Infractions.....	40
5.4 Transportation of Students by Private Vehicle.....	40
5.5 Self-Transportation to School .....	40
<b>APPENDIX A: BOARD POLICY AGAINST DISCRIMINATION &amp; UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT..</b>	<b>.41</b>
<b>APPENDIX B: SUICIDE PREVENTION PLAN.....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>APPENDIX C: ACE CHARACTER EXPECTATIONS .....</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>APPENDIX D: STUDENT HAZING.....</b>	<b>52</b>

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

OUR MISSION is to prepare and inspire the next generation of leaders and innovators.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

OUR VISION is a vibrant learning community whose members are prepared to lead and serve.

### **MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION:**

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at the Dayton Regional STEM School (DRSS). This Student Handbook is a common set of expectations for students, staff, parents and visitors of our school. Please read through the content thoroughly as many common questions are addressed in the document. We also encourage you to provide feedback about this handbook by contacting us directly.

The content of the Student Handbook is reviewed by the Board of Trustees and is intended to be consistent with formally adopted Board of Trustees Policies. If there is an apparent contradiction between information in the Handbook and a formally adopted Board of Trustees Policy, the school administration will interpret the Handbook in a way that is consistent with policy. The Student Handbook is not a contract between the school and parents or students. It can be amended at any time at the discretion of the school. If changes are made to the Handbook during a school year, the administration will communicate those changes in ways that are designed to inform parents and students of the new or revised information.

Thank you for your continued support of our school community. We look forward to an outstanding 2024-2025 school year.

Sincerely,

Robin Fisher  
Superintendent/CAO  
[Robin.Fisher@daytonstemschool.org](mailto:Robin.Fisher@daytonstemschool.org)

Andrew Sears  
Middle School Principal  
[Andrew.Sears@daytonstemschool.org](mailto:Andrew.Sears@daytonstemschool.org)

Nick Pant  
High School Principal  
[Nick.Pant@daytonstemschool.org](mailto:Nick.Pant@daytonstemschool.org)

## **SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **1.1 WITHDRAWAL/TRANSFER FROM DRSS**

No student under the age of 18 can withdraw from school without written parental consent and in compliance with State law.

Parents must notify the school office about plans to transfer to another school. School records, including disciplinary (i.e., all suspensions and expulsion) and attendance will be transferred to the new school within 14 days of the parent's notice or request (5130<sup>1</sup>).

### **1.2 SCHEDULE**

The hours of the school day for the 2024-2025 school year will be: 8:15am until 3:15 pm (8210). Each day, students attend classes for eight periods. Student's individual schedules will be provided at the beginning of the school year. Schedule changes will not be permitted unless a unique circumstance exists. Requests for a schedule change should be made through the School Counselor.

The school building will open at 7:30 am. Any student who enters school prior to 8:00 am or stays after 3:30 pm must remain in assigned areas. For safety reasons, students will not be permitted to leave the premises once they enter the school building in the morning. Students must also abide by the handbook policy on Before/After School Time in Section IV (The Student Code of Conduct).

### **1.3 EMERGENCY CLOSINGS AND NOTIFICATIONS**

If on-site classes are cancelled due to inclement weather or other conditions, the school will notify students and parents via announcements on local television and radio stations, the school website, ONE CALL NOW and by email alert. If on-site classes are cancelled, students will check *Schoology* for their daily assignments. **Work assigned on Plan E Days must be completed in order to count for attendance. Those not completing their work will be considered "Absent."**

**Any student who does not have Internet access must notify the School Counselor in writing at the beginning of the school year or as soon as the family has lost its Internet service.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Numbers cited in parenthesis reference DRSS Policy numbers, which can be found online at: <https://go.boarddocs.com/oh/dstem/Board.nsf/Public?open&id=policies>

## 1.4 COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

State law requires all children between the ages of 6 and 18 to attend school until the state mandated requirements have been met. **Per HB 410, we now operate under a 65-hour absence policy meaning we no longer are permitted to count absences by days but rather by minutes/hours. DRSS is obligated to investigate and report violations of the state compulsory attendance law.** A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her parents if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school or is forced to not attend by their parent or guardian.

Frequent tardiness may also be addressed with disciplinary action by DRSS, which is covered in the Student Code of Conduct.

There are times that children are sick or have other legitimate reasons for being absent from school. Regardless of the age of the student (including those over the age of 18), if she or he is sick and will not be at school that day, or will be leaving early, parents are required to call the school office or send an email to [attendance@daytonstemschool.org](mailto:attendance@daytonstemschool.org) to inform the school of the absence within 120 minutes of the start of school day. (5200). If a student is absent from school for any reason and there has not been a parent phone call or email, the student must bring a note signed by the parent explaining the reason for their absence upon returning to school. If there is no parent phone call or email and the student does not bring a signed note within three days of the absence, the absence will be classified as unexcused.

### EXTENDED ABSENCE/VACATIONS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

It is recommended that parents **do not** take their student out of school for vacations. When a family vacation must be scheduled during the school year, the parents must submit the extended absence form at least two weeks prior to leaving. Approval of vacations will be dependent upon the student's scholastic status and attendance. Extended Absences/Vacation Form should be completed when the extended absences constitute 3 or more consecutive days. Students that miss 10 consecutive days will be withdrawn. Requests shall not be granted to students who have been absent 65 hours or more.

### EXTENDED ABSENCE Form

The Extended Absence Form must be completed and submitted to the student's principal before the approval process may begin. The [Extended Absence Form](#) can be accessed on the school's website, under parent resources.

Projects, presentations, or other assignments may not be available in advance or for makeup, even with an administrator's vacation approval. Depending on the situation, this could result in the student not receiving credit for work missed.



## **STEMmersion Attendance**

STEMmersion is an integral component of the unique educational experience found at DRSS and student participation is not optional. Each day of STEMmersion is considered a regular school day, therefore student attendance during each day of STEMmersion is mandatory. **Two or more absences during STEMmersion will result in a failing or lower grade unless administrative approval is given .** Please do not schedule activities such as vacations, camps, or trips during STEMmersion.

## **1.5 EQUAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY**

It is the policy of DRSS not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex or disability in providing education services, activities and programs, including vocational programs in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Any person who believes that discrimination has occurred on the basis of race, color, disability, religion, gender, or national origin, while at DRSS or a DRSS activity should contact the school's Compliance Officers, immediately:

**Pat Murakami**  
**Elementary Principal**  
patricia.murakami@daytonstemschool.org  
(937) 256-3777

**Andrew Sears**  
**Middle School Principal**  
[andrew.sears@daytonstemschool.org](mailto:andrew.sears@daytonstemschool.org)  
(937) 256-3777 #114

Complaints will be investigated according to the Board of Trustees Policy. Any student filing a complaint or participating in a school investigation will be protected from retaliation. The Compliance Officer can provide additional information concerning equal access to educational opportunity. (2260)

## **1.6 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibit discrimination against persons with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. This protection applies not just to students, but also to all individuals who have access to the school's programs and facilities. DRSS has specific responsibilities under the law, which include identifying, reviewing and, if the student is determined eligible, affording access to appropriate educational accommodation. A student can access special education and related services through the proper evaluation procedures. By law, parental involvement is required. The School Counselors have more information about the evaluation procedures, programs, and services (2460).

## **1.7 ANTI-BULLYING, HARASSMENT, AND HAZING**

Harassment, intimidation, hazing or bullying of any sort is strictly prohibited at DRSS and will not be tolerated. In compliance with federal law, DRSS has adopted a Policy Against Discrimination and Unlawful Harassment. A copy of the Policy is attached to this Handbook as Appendix A. The policy can also be found on the school's website. To access the policy online, simply hover over "[About Us](#)" tab, then click "[School Safety](#)" to access school policies. Please visit [Policy Number 5517.01](#)

This applies to students and teachers during all activities, including activities on school property, on a school bus, or while enroute to or from school, and those occurring off school property if the student or employee is at any school-sponsored, school-approved or school-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events where students are under the school's control, in a school vehicle, or where an employee is engaged in school business.

This policy also includes cyber bullying (such as social media postings, emails, text messages, phone calls, etc.).

DRSS encourages prompt reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation, regardless of the offender's identity or position. All DRSS employees are required to immediately report such incidents in writing to the school's Title IX Coordinator regardless of whether it is based on the employee's own observations, on information from the student, the student's parent, or a third party. All complaints of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation will be promptly and equitably investigated.

## **1.8 HOMELESS STUDENTS**

Homeless students must be provided with education in the same manner as other students. Homeless students are eligible to receive transportation services, participate in education programs for students with disabilities or limited English proficiency, participate in gifted and talented programs, and receive meals under school nutrition programs. Homeless students will not be denied enrollment based on lack of proof of residency. For additional information, please contact the DRSS Superintendent/CAO (5111.01).

## **1.9 STUDENT RECORDS & DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

DRSS maintains student records including both directory information and confidential information.

Directory information can be provided upon request to any individual (other than a for profit organization) without the written consent of the parent under the Family Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). "Directory information" is the student's name, photograph, address, age, field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, and participation in extracurricular activities and clubs.

The primary purpose of directory information is to allow DRSS to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications and through social media/internet. Examples include:

- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Extracurricular activity sheets (promotion of the events and activities and awards)

DRSS may also receive federal funds under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq.), and we are therefore required to disclose secondary (grades 7-12) student's name, address, and phone number to a military recruiter or institution of higher education, on their request, unless the school has been informed by the family that they do not want information released without prior written consent. (8330)

**If parents do not want DRSS to disclose directory information from their child’s education records without their prior written consent, DRSS must be notified in writing within 14 days of receipt of this Handbook.**

DRSS will forward education records on request to a public or private school or institution of higher education in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. DRSS will comply with a lawful subpoena for student education records, and will release educational records to a juvenile justice agency when so required.

- Parents and students have the right to inspect and review official records directly related to the student, and with certain exceptions, give written consent before any information may be released to outside agencies (8330). Records can be reviewed in administrative offices during regular office hours, from 8:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Originals cannot be removed but can be copied upon a written request from the parent.
- Parents and students can file a complaint if they believe their rights under Federal law have been violated (see Form 8330 F9 in NEOLA Policy)

### **1.10 COMMUNICATION AND TRANSMISSION OF RECORDS**

DRSS plans to communicate via email with families. Families are required to keep the school informed of any changes to their email addresses.

ONE CALL NOW is another method of communication that is used to keep parents informed. To receive **TEXT ALERTS: please text the word “alert” to 22300. (8400 and 8420)**

Parents who elect NOT to communicate with DRSS via email are required to notify the school in writing.

### **1.11 STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**

Student safety is the responsibility of both students and staff. Staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as evacuation procedures, fire and tornado drills, safety drills, and procedures for handling and reporting accidents. State law requires all students have an *Emergency Medical Authorization Form* completed and signed by the parent or guardian on file in the school office. Students with specific health care needs should deliver written notice about such needs, along with physician documentation to the office (3213, 4213).

#### **INJURY OR ILLNESS**

All injuries must be reported to a teacher or to the office. If the injury is minor, the student will be treated and may return to class. If medical attention is required, the office will follow the school’s emergency procedures and attempt to make contact with the parent. A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. A school official will determine whether the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission (5330 & 5430).

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law, including but not limited to poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, rubella, pertussis, tetanus, and mumps, Hepatitis B, varicella and influenza, or have an authorized exemption from state immunization requirements (5320).

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL AUTHORIZATION

A complete Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file with the school. This form can be found on FINAL FORMS and must be provided prior to students being enrolled, and must be updated at the beginning of each school year or whenever changes occur. Final Forms can be updated throughout the school year. (5341).

## USE OF MEDICATION

Students who need to take medication during the school day must have a “Medication Form” filed with the office. This includes prescribed and over-the-counter medication. All medication must be dropped off in the office by a parent or guardian and must be stored in the office. **No students may carry medication with them, except for pre-approved emergency rescue medication.**

## CONTROL OF CASUAL CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

DRSS’s Administration may remove or isolate a student who has been ill or exposed to a communicable disease as indicated by the local or State Health Departments (8450).

## CONTROL OF NON-CASUAL CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

When a non-casual contact communicable disease is suspected, the student’s health will be reviewed by a panel of experts, including the County Health Department. DRSS will protect the privacy of the student affected and those in contact with the affected student. Students and staff will be permitted to remain in school unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion (8453).

## CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

DRSS provides a safe educational environment for students and takes appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during participation in school related-activities (8453.02).

## Mental Health

Students who are dealing with a mental health crisis are encouraged to reach out to a school counselor, any staff member, or use the resources listed below:

- **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988**
- **[Stay Safe Speak Up](#)**: Which can be found on the DRSS website and Schoology

DRSS’s suicide prevention plan is included in Appendix B.

## **1.12 FIRE, TORNADO, AND SAFETY DRILLS**

DRSS complies with all fire, tornado, and safety drills as prescribed by the State. Teachers will supervise all safety drills and provide specific instructions for each drill to promote safety and preparedness (8210).

## **1.13 VISITORS**

The Dayton Regional STEM School is open to visitors, and anticipates that many parents, alumni, business partners and community representatives will visit the school throughout the year. For the safety and security of DRSS students and staff, all doors will be locked during the school day, and all visitors must enter through the door “A” and register with the office upon arrival. Visitors are required to sign in and wear a visitor’s badge while in the building. Students are not permitted to let anyone into the building other than through door “A”.

Anyone who needs to confer with a DRSS staff member should call for an appointment before coming to DRSS in order to schedule a mutually convenient meeting time. Students may not bring visitors to school. (9150)

## **1.14 SEARCHES OF CUBBIES, VEHICLES, PERSONAL PROPERTY AND ELECTRONIC ITEMS**

Cubbies and students’ desks are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student. Students should not have an expectation of privacy with respect to their cubbies as they can be searched at any time. Students will be held responsible for all contents within their cubbies and should not allow other students access to it. Students should only use the cubby that is assigned to them. If any contraband is found in their cubby, they will be disciplined accordingly if DRSS staff determines it necessary.

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that schools are safe and drug free, district officials may from time to time conduct searches. Such searches are conducted without a warrant and as permitted by law. The principal or other school administrator can search a student’s outer clothing, pockets, or property if she or he has a reasonable basis to suspect that the search will reveal evidence that the student has violated a school rule (possession of contraband, etc.). If reasonable cause exists to believe that a student is in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy, the principal or other school administrator may also search electronic items in the student’s possession. The scope of any search will be related to the suspected violation (5771).

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the permission of the student. A student has full responsibility for the security and contents of his or her vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others.

Local law enforcement officials may periodically bring trained dogs to sniff cubbies or around vehicles parked on school property or within 300 feet of school property. If the trained dog alerts to a cubby or vehicle, that alert provides a reasonable basis to search. Students will always be asked for permission to search their vehicle when a dog alerts or we have any reasonable basis, such as a reliable tip, to search the vehicle. If the student does not consent, parents and local law enforcement will be contacted and the matter will be handled by police.

School officials may search any electronic device that is property of the school. If it is determined that there is a violation of the Acceptable Use Policy, students may be subject to disciplinary action which may include:

- Detention
- Restorative Practices
- Restitution
- Loss of Privileges
- Suspension
- Expulsion

### **1.15 QUESTIONING STUDENTS AT SCHOOL**

School teachers and administrators have the right to question students about their own conduct at school and, in the investigation of alleged misconduct by other students, to question them about the conduct of others. School officials will not ordinarily contact the parents or guardians before questioning their child about his or her own conduct or about the conduct of other students, but certainly will contact the parent or guardian as provided in the Student Code of Conduct if the investigation shows that the student has violated school conduct rules.

The Student Code of Conduct provides a complete explanation of the discipline processes and when a parent or guardian will be contacted. The investigation of possible violations of the Code of Conduct is not a criminal proceeding, and there is no such thing as “pleading the Fifth” or a student’s right not to incriminate him or herself in a school discipline investigation (5540).

Sometimes, law enforcement officials or investigators from Child Protective Services may ask to interview students at school. In the case of an investigator from law enforcement or a state agency who is conducting a child abuse or neglect investigation, DRSS officials are required by state law to permit the investigator to talk to the child at school.

### **1.16 USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES**

Students must receive teacher permission before using any equipment or materials. This includes all technology, 3D printers, laser cutters, vinyl cutters, etc. Students must seek permission from school personnel to use any other school equipment or facilities. No students are permitted to be in the innovation and manufacturing spaces without a teacher’s supervision. Students are responsible for the proper use and protection of any equipment or facility they are permitted to use. Possible consequences of misuse or unapproved use of school equipment may include financial and/or school approved disciplinary act.

## **SECTION II: ACADEMICS**

### **2.1 PERSONALIZED LEARNING PERIOD**

Each student will be assigned to a Personalized Learning Period (PLP) class at the beginning of the school year. The purpose of PLP is to foster and reinforce school culture, to oversee and support the creation of student portfolios, complete Work Based Learning (WBL) tasks and to provide academic assistance. Students will receive a grade for their PLP course.

Courses will appear on student report card as follows:

- 6<sup>th</sup> Personal Growth
- 7<sup>th</sup> Personal Growth
- 8<sup>th</sup> Personal Growth
- Professionalism 101
- Professionalism 102
- Professionalism 103
- Professionalism 104

### **2.2 COURSES OF STUDY/COURSE MATERIALS**

Students will be enrolled in a core curriculum at DRSS. All courses of study, texts and materials will be Board of Trustees approved (2210, 2240, 2510). Parents have the right to review instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum for their student (5780).

### **2.3 STUDENT FEES**

In accordance with State law, DRSS can charge fees for activities and materials used for instruction (6152, 6152.01).

**Fees for the 2024-2025 School Year are as follows:**

- \$225.00 for all students
- \$50.00-\$100.00 fee per occurrence for damage, neglect or loss of school issued computer/charger.
- \$25.00 for student parking, if applicable.

### High School Course Fees:

Student fees can be paid online via EZ School (for a nominal fee) which can be found on our website ([www.daytonstemschool.org](http://www.daytonstemschool.org)) or can be paid at the school office, with cash or check.

COURSE	FEE
Art & Materials Science	\$25.00
Architecture & Design	\$25.00
Ceramics	\$15.00
Operating Systems	\$10.00
Computer Programming	\$10.00
Computer Hardware	\$10.00
Introduction to Networking	\$10.00
Cyber Security	\$10.00
Game Design I, II, and III	\$10.00 each
Visual Communications	\$10.00
Principals of Engineering	\$10.00
Environmental Engineering	\$10.00
Engineering Design and Development	\$10.00
Fitness Evaluation and Assessment	\$10.00
Medical Interventions	\$25.00
Digital Electronics	\$10.00
Anatomy & Physiology	\$25.00

## 2.4 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to earn **24 credits** to graduate from the Dayton Regional STEM School (5460), including credits in the following areas:

Mathematics	4 Credits
Sciences	4 Credits
Language Arts	4 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits
Computer Science	1 Credits
Art	1 Credit
Wellness (Health)	1/2 Credit
Physical Education	1/2 Credit
Internship	1/2 Credit
Electives	5 1/2 Credits (*Note: 2 credits of foreign language is recommended or required for some selective universities)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24 Credits</b>

Students must also complete 250 hours of Work-Based Learning, see Section 2.6.

A student enrolled in special education may be exempted from state or nationally mandated assessments. This exemption will be determined by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team unless exempted according to State of Ohio rules/laws, each student must pass all portions of the State-mandated assessment test required for graduation.



## **2.5 GRADES**

Report cards will be distributed quarterly. Course credit is assigned upon completion of the course. Credit will *not* be awarded for courses marked as “Incomplete” or “Failed.”

### DRSS Grading Scale

A	89.5% or higher
B	79.5% to 89.4%
C	69.5% to 79.4%
F	0-69.4%

The DRSS grading scale will be: A, B, C or F. I (In Progress) designation will only be used on a case-by-case basis. Report cards will have numeric grades (grading scale above), alpha grades will appear on high school transcripts.

Please see an administrator for information on the grade appeal process.

## **2.6 WORK- BASED LEARNING**

Students are required to complete 250 hours of work-based learning prior to graduation. The hours will include a combination of experiences that support their career exploration journey (career fair, job shadowing, internship, volunteer experiences, experiential learning, etc.). School staff will work with students to make sure they are on track to meet this requirement.

## **2.7 STUDENT PORTFOLIOS**

All students in grades 6-12 are required to create, update, and present a portfolio of their work each year. Students’ PLP teachers will serve as their portfolio mentor throughout the school year. Digital portfolios at DRSS are used to assess students’ performance not only in academic subjects in which they are earning credit, but also on the qualities valued at the school:

***Persistence, Inquiry, Communication, Creativity, and Collaboration.***

## **2.8 HOMEWORK**

Student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including work assigned as homework. Homework is also an important component of the student’s preparation for classroom assessments (2330).

## **2.9 PROMOTION AND RETENTION**

Promotion to the next grade level will be contingent upon the student having accumulated the following number of credits by the beginning of that year:

Sophomore	6.0 Credits
Junior	12.0 Credits
Senior	18.0 Credits

In order to be promoted to the next grade level, students who do not have the requisite number of credits will need to perform credit recovery work before the beginning of the next school year.

## **2.10 ACCELERATION**

Students may qualify for acceleration based on a recommendation from teachers, administrators, parents or the student themselves. Decisions regarding acceleration will be determined through the acceleration assessment process approved by the Ohio Department of Education. Contact the Principal to recommend a student for grade acceleration. (5410).

## **2.11 GPA**

Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated by dividing the total points earned by the total credits attempted on a 4.0 scale. For each reporting period, the credits will be prorated (i.e. for quarter one, a 1 credit course will count as 0.25 credit). Point values are as follows: A=4.0; B=3.0; C=2.0; F=0. A “Pass” grade is not averaged into the GPA.

## **2.12 HONOR ROLL**

Students will be recognized for DRSS Honor Roll at the end of each quarter and for the school year. Students who earn a 4.0 will earn “High Honor Roll;” students with a 3.5 or above will earn the “Honor Roll” distinction.

## **2.13 EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS**

The Dayton Regional STEM School offers a Flex Credit option, which provides an alternative means by which students can achieve the goals of the district, as well as his/her personal educational goals. The Flex credit application is available through the school counselors.

## **2.14 COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS**

The Dayton Regional STEM School participates in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program. Each year, prior to March 1, DRSS will provide information regarding the CCP program to eligible students, and their parents. When possible, college level courses will be offered at DRSS to junior and senior students based on student interest and availability. Contact the school counselor for more information on college credit options. (AG2271)

Students who fail a first semester CCP course that is required for graduation from DRSS will be placed in a regular high school course for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

**Parents will be required to sign a waiver form if CCP placement is not recommended for the student.**

**The student's family will be required to pay DRSS for the CCP course if it is dropped after the college "drop date" or if a passing grade is not earned.**

## **2.15 EARNING A SPECIALIZATION**

Career Technical Education (CTE) provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge and training necessary to succeed in future careers and to become lifelong learners. The Dayton Regional STEM School offers courses in three career technical pathways and one foreign language pathway that allow a student to earn a specialization. Students at DRSS are exposed to all pathways through courses that are integrated into the core curriculum. In the junior and senior years of high school students may select courses in a particular pathway to continue their development in that career field. Students who complete four courses in a given pathway will receive a specialization in that content area. The pathways and associated courses are listed below.

### **Health Sciences**

- Biology – All 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students
- Wellness & Fitness – All 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Medical Interventions
- Healthcare Design & Development
- Fitness Evaluation & Assessment
- Health Sciences Experiential Learning
- Health Science Internship

### **Engineering**

- Engineering Science – All 9<sup>th</sup> Grade students
- Principles of Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Digital Electronics
- Robotics Engineering
- Engineering Design & Development
- CAMP Dossier Experiential Learning
- Engineering Internship

### **Foreign Language**

- Chinese 1 – Students can choose beginning in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- Chinese 2 or CCP Chinese 2
- Chinese 3 or CCP Chinese 3

## **Information Technology**

Principles of Computer Science -All 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
Computer Programming  
Computer Hardware  
Networking  
Visual Communications  
Game Design I/II/III  
Cyber Patriots  
TAC Experiential Learning  
IT / Computer Science Internship

### **2.16 EARLY GRADUATION**

The Dayton Regional STEM School does not permit early graduation from high school.

### **2.17 FIELD TRIPS and STEMMERSION**

Field trips, including overnight STEMMersion trips, are academic activities that are held off school grounds, and are integrated with the academic content that students are learning at DRSS. No minor student may participate in any school-sponsored trip without written parental consent and an Emergency Medical Authorization Form on file at DRSS. Medications normally administered at school will be administered on field trips. This Handbook and Student Code of Conduct applies on all field trips and out of school activities. (2340)

Students may be removed from field trips, including STEMMersion trips, if academics, attendance, behavior, or health issues arise during the current school year. DRSS will not be responsible for any financial losses if a trip is cancelled or a student is removed from the trip.

Guidelines for possible removal:

- Below a 2.5 GPA or any failing grades
- More than 5 unexcused absences
- Student receives an out of school suspension or chronic discipline issues
- Overall safety and well-being of all students considered
- Any unpaid school fees will disqualify a student from participation in overnight field trips

## **SECTION III: OTHER STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

### **3.1 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

DRSS offers school-related extracurricular activities and encourages students to participate in those that are of interest to them. Most activities are closely related to subjects taught in the curriculum; others, such as the Student Government Association and National Honor Society, help students build leadership skills.

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. Students must maintain a 2.5 GPA and have no failing grades in the quarter preceding their participation in any extracurricular activity, performance or competition.

### **3.2 AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

The following steps should be followed in order to start an after-school club at DRSS:

- Submit the DRSS Club application to the Superintendent/CAO
- Each proposal should include:
  - The names and signatures of five or more students that want to start and join the club; and
  - The names and signatures of potential sponsors/advisors for the club.

The Superintendent/CAO will work with the sponsor/advisor to determine how much time, money, and effort it will take to get the club going. Once the Superintendent/CAO and the sponsor/advisor have given approval, the sponsor/advisor and the interested students will be responsible for scheduling meetings, establishing mission and goals and determining activities (2430).

### **3.3 STUDENT FUNDRAISING**

Students participating in DRSS-sponsored activities may solicit funds from other students, staff members, and members of the community in accordance with school guidelines and prior approval from the Superintendent/CAO (5830). Students are not permitted to sell items at DRSS or on Schoology for personal profit or for other organizations' fundraising (i.e., candy sales, flower sales, etc.). Staff and students must fill out a fundraising application and submit it to the Dean of Students.

### **3.4 STUDENT DRIVING/PARKING**

Students over 16 with a valid driver's license may choose to drive to DRSS with parental permission. Driving to school is a privilege, not a right. No student will be permitted to drive a car to school without signing the parking Regulations and Agreement Form and application for student driving (on Final Forms). Please be aware that the completion of these forms does not guarantee parking privileges for the student. Forms are available on Final Forms or can be found on the school website: [www.daytonstemschool.org](http://www.daytonstemschool.org).

There is a \$25.00 charge associated with the Parking Regulations and Agreement Form. Parking passes are required. Once all Final Forms are signed, students can receive a permit from Mr. Pant. All parking fees can be paid via EZ School, which can be found on our website.

### **STUDENT PARKING:**

- Students who drive to school and park in the student parking area are required to purchase and display an official current school year parking permit.
- Students are prohibited from parking in areas outside of the designated student parking area.
- Safe driving and following all traffic patterns must be observed on school property and all parking lots connected to DRSS property.
- The speed limit is 10 mph.
- Pedestrians must be given the right-of-way at all times.
- Full awareness and safety expectations are required at all times in the school parking lot.
- The school administration has the right to search and/or inspect vehicle(s) on school grounds when there is reasonable suspicion that the vehicle contains an item(s) described below:
  - Alcohol, drugs, tobacco products, weapons, knives, or other items which students are prohibited from having on school property.
- Any illegal or prohibited items found in a vehicle may be confiscated and will result in appropriate discipline of the student in accordance with applicable school policies and may result in prosecution.
- In performing a search/inspection of any vehicle, school administrators may utilize police officers and devices or animals trained in locating particular items.
- Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds in their vehicle during school hours unless prior permission is given by the principal. (Open lunch for juniors and seniors counts as principal permission)

### **POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATIONS:**

- Official warning
- Student-administrator conference
- Detention
- In-School Suspension
- Revocation of driving/parking privilege
- Out of school suspension
- Vehicle towed at student expense

## **SECTION IV: STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **4.1 STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

DRSS rules and procedures are designed to allow students to be educated in a safe and orderly environment. All students are expected to follow staff members' directions and obey all school rules (5200, 5500). The Dayton Regional STEM School uses video surveillance/electronic monitoring of school facilities (7440.01).

### **4.2 CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATING STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Each of the behaviors and/or types of misconduct described below are prohibited and may be subject to disciplinary action including, but not limited to:

- Student conference
- Restorative practices
- Parent/guardian notification or conference
- Restitution
- Loss of privileges
- Detention
- Suspension and/or expulsion from school

Any additional consequences that pertain to specific sections of this handbook will be listed within each category. Furthermore, any criminal acts committed at or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials and will result in a school disciplinary action as well. Certain criminal acts may result in expulsion from school. Before a student is suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed. As long as the in-school discipline is served entirely in the school setting, it will not require any notice or meeting, or be subject to appeal (5611).

### **4.3 ATTENDANCE (ABSENCES AND TARDINESS)**

The educational program offered by DRSS is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the school during the days and hours that the school is in session or during the attendance sessions to which students have been assigned. Students will be in class by 8:15 am each day. If they arrive after 8:15 am, they will be considered tardy and minutes will be counted towards their total hours absent.

## **Tardies:**

When a student accrues three (3) unexcused tardies to school or three (3) unexcused early dismissals from school within one quarter, the student will receive a documented warning. If the student accrues more than six (6) unexcused tardies to school within one quarter, a conference with the student will be scheduled with the administration.

## **CONSEQUENCES:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> tardy receives a documented warning
- Any tardy beyond 6 receives after school detention and parent contact.

Per HB 410, DRSS now operates under a **65-hour absence policy** meaning we no longer are permitted to count absences by days but rather by minutes/hours. Medical notes shall be required for every absence after the 65 hours of absence regardless whether those 65 hours are excused, unexcused, or a combination of both. The physician's written excuse or court documentation must be received within three days of the absence. Physician's excuses may only excuse absences or tardies to school for the specific date(s) the student was under direct medical care.

**Excessive Absence:** a student misses 38 or more hours of school in a single month, or 65 or more hours in one school year without a doctor's note.

Procedure for excessive absences:

- The district will notify the student's parent in writing within seven days of the triggering absence
- The student will follow the district's plan for absence intervention
- The student and family may be referred to community resources

**Habitual Truancy:** a student is absent from school without legitimate excuse for 30 or more consecutive hours, 42 or more hours in one school month, or 72 or more hours in school year.

Procedure for excessive absences:

1. Within seven days of the triggering absence, the school will do the following:
  - a. Select members of the AIT (Absence Intervention Team)
  - b. Make three meaningful attempts to secure the student's parent/guardian's participation on the AIT
  - c. Within ten days of the triggering absence, the student will be assigned to the AIT
  - d. Within fourteen days after the assignment of the team, the district will develop the student's Absence Intervention Plan
  - e. If the student does not make progress on the plan within 61 days OR continues to be absent without legitimate excuse while the plan is in effect, the district will file a complaint in Juvenile Court



## NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

When a student is tardy or not present at school, it is important that both the parent/guardian and school are aware of the tardy or absence. If the student will be absent, the parent/guardian must notify the school by 8:15am and provide an explanation of absence. Notification can be made by calling the school office (937) 256-3777, ext. 101 or emailing the office at [attendance@daytonstemschool.org](mailto:attendance@daytonstemschool.org). If prior notification is not possible, the parent/guardian should provide a written excuse within three school days after the student's absence. When no excuse is provided, the absence will be considered unexcused and identified as truant for the day.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES, TARDINESS, OR EARLY DISMISSAL (5200)

No student may leave the school prior to dismissal time without a parent or guardian either submitting a signed written request or coming to the school personally to request the release. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent without written permission from the custodial parent (5230).

Students may be excused from school for one or more of the following reasons and will be provided an opportunity to make-up missed schoolwork and/or tests:

- Personal illness (a written physician's excuse may be required)
- Medical appointment (with appropriate documentation)
- Illness in the family requiring the student's presence at home
- Death in the family
- Necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of the parent/guardian
- Observation of a significant religious holiday
- Other such good cause as determined by the Principal.

## MAKE-UP OF SCHOOL WORK

Work to be made up for excused absences will be determined by the individual teacher. As a guideline, students will be given a one-day grace period for each day of absence. **Students absent one day prior to a project due date or test, will still be expected to turn their project in on time and take their test the day they return.** This is due to the fact that they had advance notice of the deadline and had access to work online through teacher websites or Schoology. Work missed during an unexcused absence, should be submitted, but no credit will be earned.

Absence due to suspension will not be counted toward the student's total HB410 hours and they will be permitted to make up work for full credit while suspended.

## STEMMERSION ATTENDANCE

Two or more absences during STEMmersion will result in a lower or failing grade, unless an exception is granted by the superintendent.

#### **4.4 SCHOOL LUNCH, FOOD, AND DRINK**

The price for a standard lunch is \$4.25 and may be paid into the student's account via EZ School Payment or cash/check at the start of each day. No debit/credit cards can be used at the lunch line. Students and parents are expected to keep a positive balance in their accounts. Any student with a negative lunch balance will not be allowed to purchase "extra" entrees. Applications for the School's Free and Reduced-Price Meal program are distributed to all students. If you believe you qualify for the NSLP program, please complete the NSLP application and submit to the office. Qualification provides extra benefits such as fee waivers, ACT/SAT test waivers and college admission fee waivers. If a student does not receive an application form and believes they are eligible, contact Kevin McGhee at [kevin.mcghee@daytonstemschool.org](mailto:kevin.mcghee@daytonstemschool.org)

All students are entitled to purchase a lunch or they can pack and bring their own lunch. DRSS does not provide refrigerator space for students who bring their own lunch.

Students are permitted to choose their seat in the cafeteria and will be held accountable for cleaning up their lunch area after lunch. Once students are finished eating and cleaning their individual area, they are to remain in their seat until a staff member or administrator dismisses them.

**School laptops and gaming devices may not be used during lunch.**

All food and drinks must be consumed in the cafeteria or assigned eating area. **Therefore, no food items or drinks are permitted in classrooms, conference rooms or common areas unless it is a DRSS- sponsored event with Principal or teacher approval.** WATER in a bottle or closeable container is permitted outside of the cafeteria. Gum, hard candy and cough drops may be consumed in the classroom with the teacher's permission.

Students must report to the cafeteria to eat their lunch. Alternate lunch location requests will require an application process and a doctor's note.

#### **4.5 BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL TIME**

Students may arrive at DRSS as early as 7:30 am, but must report and remain in their assigned, supervised area until 8:00 am. Upon arrival students are to enter the building and remain in the building. Between 8:00 am and 8:15 am, students will report directly to their 1<sup>st</sup> period classroom. Students who are not picked up by 3:30 pm must report to the after-school program and will be charged the daily rate of \$10.00. Students may not be permitted to utilize the After School Program, if their balances exceed \$50.00 on a regular basis.

#### Guidelines for the ASP:

- Time is 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, daily
- Cost: \$50/week – payable online (EZ School) or in person at the school
- \$10.00/day – drop-in fee --payable online (EZ School) or in person at the school
- Students picked up after 5:30 will be charged \$10.00 in 15 minute increments.
- Chronic late pick-ups will be reviewed and reported to Administration and could result in student being removed from the ASP.
- ASP is a privilege that we offer to our parents and students. Inappropriate behavior, non-payment of fees and excessive late pickups will not be tolerated and this service can be terminated.
- All students must be picked up by 6:00 pm and will be charged \$10.00 every 15 minutes past 5:30.

The After School Program dedicated phone line (available from 3:30 – 6:00) is: **937-991-0159**

**Students staying after school waiting for transportation or participants in after-school activities are NOT permitted to leave the premises and then return. Once students leave, they are no longer the responsibility of DRSS and will not be permitted to re-enter DRSS.**

Students are required to leave DRSS immediately following their after-school activity. They must stay with a staff member or sign into the After School Program.

#### **4.6 DRESS CODE**

Students are expected to dress appropriately at school, while participating in online learning, and at school-sponsored events. Student attire should facilitate professional participation in learning as well as the health and safety of students and the adults that supervise them. This policy is intended to provide guidance for students, staff and parents.

**As a general guideline any dress that interferes with the educational process will be considered unacceptable.**

##### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Clothing must cover areas from one armpit across to the other armpit, down to approximately 4 inches in length on the upper thighs.
- Stomach or mid-drifts must be covered.
- Tops must have shoulder straps.
- Rips or tears in pants or shorts should be lower than the 4 inches indicated above.
- Shoes must be worn at all times and should be safe for the school environment (pajamas, bedroom shoes or slippers shall not be worn, except for school activities approved by the administration).
- See-through or mesh garments must not be worn without appropriate coverage underneath that meet the minimum requirements of the dress code.
- Headgear including hats, hoodies, costume wigs and caps are not allowed unless permitted for religious, medical, or other reason by school administration.
- Some courses may require specialized attire, such as safety gear and closed-toe shoes.

**Additional Requirements:**

- Clothing may not depict, imply, advertise, or advocate illegal, violent, or lewd conduct, weapons, or the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other controlled substances.
- Clothing may not depict or imply pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.
- Clothing may not display or imply vulgar, discriminatory, or obscene language or images.
- Clothing may not state, imply, or depict hate speech/imagery targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected classification.
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside the building, unless under physician's orders.
- Clothing and accessories that endanger student or staff safety may not be worn.
- No costumes, tails, fake ears, fishnet stockings, capes/flags, or theatrical or distracting makeup.

The administration reserves the right to determine what constitutes appropriate dress. Students who do not adhere to these guidelines will not be allowed to attend class. Parents will be called if appropriate clothing is not available or the student refuses dress-code appropriate clothing.

**Consequences:**

- First Offense: Student will be given a warning (documented) and have the opportunity to change.
- Second Offense: Student will be sent to the office, parent(s) will be called and a detention will be issued.
- Subsequent Offenses: Student will be sent home for the remainder of the day, parent(s) called and daily check in with administration.
- Continued dress code violations may result in suspension.

***Special Note:***

DRSS regularly interacts and works with business and community partners, and students are often involved as tour guides, and in job shadowing, internships and special days. During these activities specific dress code expectations may exceed those defined in the student handbook. Students will be notified in advance when a specific dress standard is expected. Business casual is the most common expectation for special circumstances. A general guideline for this requirement is listed below.

- Slacks, khaki pants, chinos, knee length skirts or dresses
- Button-up shirts, blouses, sweaters, or polo shirts
- Cardigans, blazers or jackets
- Closed-toe shoes, loafers, oxfords, pumps, flats or boots

Students that do not have access to business casual apparel should contact their school counselor or principal for assistance.

#### **4.7 APPROPRIATE USE OF CUBBIES**

Although a student and the school may have joint control of cubbies, the student never has exclusive control of this property. With respect to cubbies, the following rules and standards shall be recognized and applied:

- Student cubbies are the property of DRSS and Board of Trustees, which are provided solely as a convenience for students to use.
- Student cubbies are to be used only for the purpose of storing textbooks, school supplies, clothing and daily lunches.
- Students should not consider the cubby to which they have been assigned a private place.
- Students should not place notes, brochures, or any other items in another student's cubby.
- Students should only use their assigned cubby. Change requests can be made at the office.
- The school cannot be responsible for stolen and/or damaged books, materials and personal property from cubbies. Valuable items should not be stored in student cubbies.
- Students are responsible for promptly reporting any missing items to DRSS staff and administration.
- Writing or permanent attachments to the outside or inside of a cubby is prohibited, and any damage occurred through carelessness, kicking, slamming, etc., will be considered vandalism.

#### **4.8 USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Electronics devices such as cell phones, cameras, headphones and gaming systems may not be used in class or hallways unless permitted by a classroom teacher or administrator. When students have emergency situations and need to call home, they can ask their teacher, administrator or other staff member for permission to use their cell phone or go to the school office to use a phone. Cell phones may be used by students before 8:15 am and after 3:15 pm. At all times, electronic devices may only be used in a manner that is not disruptive to others or infringing on other people's privacy.

UAV's and RC vehicles are not allowed at any time unless approved by a teacher or administrator.

It is the student's responsibility to secure all personal electronics.

**DRSS is NOT responsible for lost or stolen personal property (5136)**

#### **4.9 TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE CENTER**

To support students as they prepare for an increasingly technological society, DRSS has created the Technology Assistance Center (TAC). The TAC supports DRSS technology equipment, applications, web services and more. The TAC office is located in Room 138.

##### **Requesting Support**

Students can request support by submitting a support ticket through the TAC support portal at <https://tac.daytonstemschool.org>. Support tickets should be submitted when a technology-related issue arises that hinders a student's ability to participate in school related

activities. Students can track the status of their support ticket by clicking the "Sign In" button in the upper right and selecting "Log in with DRSS Account." The support portal also answers frequently asked "how do I..." questions.

### **Student Accounts**

DRSS provides students with Microsoft for Education accounts. Students can access email, calendar, OneDrive, Office products, and more. Students can access their email by logging into <https://portal.office.com>. Students are reminded to keep their email conversations professional, polite, and academic. DRSS has partnered with Securely (<https://www.securely.com>) to monitor student emails for signs of harassment, bullying, and other inappropriate activities.

### **School-Issued Laptop**

DRSS provides students with a laptop to enhance the instructional and educational experience. Students access their school-issued laptops using their DRSS-issued Microsoft Account. Students should be aware that all activities on student computers are logged.

### **Loaner Equipment**

The TAC understands that students may forget their power adapter or computer at home, or their DRSS-issued device might be unusable. Students can receive a loaner power adapter or computer by logging a support request or visiting the TAC office in room 138.

### **Limited Laptop Warranty**

School-issued laptops are covered under a limited warranty that does not cover accidental or intentional damage of equipment. The TAC works with the district's warranty vendor to determine if the limited warranty covers the damage. **A \$50-\$100 technology damage fee will be placed on the student's EZ School account for each incident of loss or damage our vendor determines is accidental or deliberate.**

DRSS is required to purchase all replacement parts from our warranty vendor. DRSS cannot accept replacement parts purchased outside of our warranty vendor. **Students are responsible for all incidents of damage to their devices. Students should never let another student borrow their DRSS-issued computer or power adapter.**

### **Grace Period**

Students are provided the first four weeks of first quarter to report damage to their DRSS-issued device without incurring a technology damage fee. Students and parents are encouraged to thoroughly inspect the DRSS-issued laptop and power adapter for any signs of physical damage. Students must log any damage to their DRSS-issued laptop through the support portal to be exempted from the technology damage fee.

## **Student Printing**

Students can print to one of three school printers from their DRSS-issued laptop. Print requests can be accessed from any of the three student printers. Students will use their four-digit Student ID number, sometimes called their "lunch number," to access the printers. Student printers can be found in each of the three phases of the building.

## **Learning Management System**

To enhance the instructional experience and facilitate communication, DRSS utilizes Schoology as a central point of access for courses, announcements and clubs. Students are encouraged to access Schoology at least once per day. Students can access Schoology with their DRSS-issued Microsoft Account by logging into <https://drss.schoology.com>.

## **TAC Student Outreach**

Do you have an idea for a school project requiring special software or network access? Do you have a suggestion for improving the student side of the DRSS technology experience? The TAC welcomes student ideas and suggestions. Students are encouraged to share their ideas by submitting a support ticket or visiting the TAC office in room 138.

## **4.10 STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCESSIBLE USE**

DRSS has made an investment in computer technology for instruction purposes. These electronic instructional resources are for use at DRSS and for DRSS -related purposes. Student work may be displayed on the Board owned or district-affiliated servers.

Students and staff members are responsible for acceptable use of DRSS computers/network and the internet at all times. Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying guidelines may have their use privileges suspended or revoked, and disciplinary action taken against them. Users granted access to the internet through DRSS computers/network assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for uses of the internet not authorized by DRSS policy and its accompanying guidelines (7540). **More specific guidelines can be found in the Student Netbook, Network, and Internet Access Acceptable Use Policy, which must be signed and returned to the school office.**

### **Consequences:**

- Violations of this provision could result in suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

DRSS is pleased to provide internet services to its students. Students are encouraged to use the computers, network, and internet connection ("Network") for educational purpose. However, the Network has a limited educational purpose, and it has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. DRSS has the right to place restrictions on its use to assure that use of the Network is in accordance with its limited educational purpose.

Network users have no right or expectation to privacy when using the DRSS Network (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, emails, and records of their online activity while on the Network). This is true even when users are accessing the school's Network via personal and privately-owned smartphones, tablets, laptops, and other electronic devices.

Smooth operation of the DRSS Network relies upon users adhering to the following guidelines. The guidelines outlined below are not exhaustive, but are provided so that users are aware of their general responsibilities. In exchange for the use of the Network resources, either on-site or by remote access, the user understands and agrees to the following:

### **UNACCEPTABLE USES**

The following uses of the school's equipment or network are classified as **unacceptable**:

- Accessing social media for personal use from the DRSS network. However, students shall be permitted to access social media for educational use in accordance with their teacher's approved plan for such use.
- The creation of web-based email accounts on commercial services through the Network (e.g., Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo mail).
- Unauthorized use of copyrighted material, including violating DRSS software licensing agreements or installing any personal software on DRSS equipment without prior approval.
- Posting or distribution of messages that are obscene, vulgar, profane, sexually oriented, pornographic, highly offensive to others, highly threatening to others, or illegal.
- Personal political use to advocate for or against a candidate, office-holder, political party, or political position. Research or electronic communications regarding political issues or candidates is not a violation when the activity is to fulfill an assignment for course credit.
- Participating in chat rooms other than those sponsored and overseen by DRSS staff and administration.
- Tampering with anyone else's computer, files, or email.
- "Hacking," such as attempting unauthorized access to any computer whether within the school's network or outside the network or using proxy sites to circumvent the network's filtering system.
- Any use that would be unlawful under state or federal law.
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, or distribution of personal identification information regarding students or employees.
- Forgery of electronic mail messages or transmission of unsolicited junk email chain messages.
- Use that violates the student code of conduct.
- Use related to commercial activities or for commercial gain, including advertisement for purchase or sale of a product.
- Downloading to a school computer any photo, materials, or messages that are obscene, vulgar, profane, sexually oriented, pornographic, or highly offensive.
- Cyber bullying, which is intended to or which does adversely affect the safety and well-being of a student or disrupt the educational process.



Students who violate these unacceptable use expectations will have their computer use restricted and will incur consequences under the school's Student Code of Conduct.

### **USE OF INTERNET FILTERS AND MONITORING**

DRSS may periodically make determinations on whether other incidental non-educational uses of the Network are consistent with this Agreement. Pursuant to Federal law, DRSS has implemented technology protection measures, which protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act.

At the discretion of DRSS administration or Board of Trustees, the technology protection measures may be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. Any student who attempts to disable the technology protection measures will be subject to discipline.

The staff or administration may temporarily or permanently unblock access to sites containing appropriate materials, if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protective nature or guidelines of the technology protection measures.

The staff or administration will monitor the user's online activities, through direct observation and/or technological means, to ensure that users are not accessing such depictions or any other materials that are inappropriate for the educational setting. To the extent practical, steps shall also be taken to promote the safety and security of users when utilizing email, chat rooms, instant messaging and other forms of direct electronic communication.

Staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified below. Furthermore, staff members will monitor the online activities of students while at school. Monitoring may include, but is not limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions; or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

Pursuant to Federal law, students shall receive education about the following:

- Safety and security while using email, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- The dangers inherent with the online disclosure of personally identifiable information;
- The consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking") bullying and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students online; and
- Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors.

## **PRESERVATION OF RESOURCES AND PRIORITIES OF USE**

Computer resources are limited. Because space on disk drives and bandwidth across the lines which connect the Network (both internally and externally) are limited, neither programs nor information may be stored on the system without permission. Each student is permitted reasonable space to store email, web, and personal files. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to require the purging of files in order to regain disk space.

Students who require access to the Network for class, or instruction-related activities, have priority over other users. Students not using the Network for class-related activities may be "bumped" by any student requiring access for class- or instruction-related purpose.

**Non-educational game playing is not permitted at any time.**

## **NETWORK ETIQUETTE**

In addition to the unacceptable uses listed above, DRSS asks that students and staff abide by generally accepted rules of Network etiquette, which include but are not limited to:

- Be polite and use appropriate language.
- Do not obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users without express authorization.
- Do not misrepresent yourself or others on the Network.
- Do not reveal any personal information about yourself, other students, or school employees, including phone numbers, social security numbers, passwords, etc.
- Do not use the Network in any way that would disrupt the operation of the Network; abuse the software and/or hardware; or excessively consume limited computer, paper or telephone resources, such as through spamming, creating or forwarding mass emails, sending chain letters, or extensively using the Network for non-curriculum-related communications.
- Report to staff and administration any messages or other communications (either from other students or external sources) that you receive via the Network or other activities that violate the school's policies, the law, or that cause you concern.

## **4.11 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS/DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS**

DRSS encourages the use of technology by students for both preparation and presentation of materials. However, all materials prepared and published as part of a school program are under the control and supervision of the staff and administration, which has final approval authority on all materials published or distributed in the name of the school, its programs, or its extracurricular activities. Students are not permitted to distribute non-school publications or materials in classrooms or hallways or on school-related websites that could in any way interfere with or disrupt the educational process (5722).

## **ADVERTISING OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

Students may not post announcements or advertisements for outside activities without receiving prior approval from the Principal or Superintendent/CAO (9700).

### **4.12 DETENTION**

**Students may be issued a detention(s) for a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.**

**Examples include but are not limited to:**

- Language: Disrespectful/Inappropriate/Profanity
- Littering
- Loitering
- Tardiness to class
- Public Display of Affection
- Dress Code Violation
- Insubordination
- Disrupting class
- Eating outside the cafeteria
- Roughhousing
- Running in the hallway
- Inappropriate use of an electronic device
- Other inappropriate behavior (at teacher discretion)

Detentions will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:20-4:20. Students will meet their detention teacher in the DRSS Quad, for middle school detention or outside the cafeteria entrance for high school detention.

The consequence of not attending detention is the issuing of an additional detention. Failure to attend either of those detentions will result in an In-School Suspension.

If a student has been issued multiple detentions, the following consequences will occur:

- Each detention after the 3<sup>rd</sup> occurrence will follow a progressive discipline structure which will include in-school suspensions and out of school suspensions.

### **4.13 VANDALISM AND THEFT**

Students are expected to treat each other's property, as well as the property of DRSS and staff, with respect. No student shall vandalize, take, acquire, or possess the property of DRSS students or others without consent of the owner. Students who vandalize or take others' or DRSS property will be expected to fix or replace the items, and/or be suspended and possibly recommended for expulsion. In some extreme cases, police may be notified.

#### **4.14 THREATS**

No student shall threaten another student, staff member, or guest(s) associated with DRSS. Any oral or written statement or otherwise expressed action that a staff member, student, or guest(s) associated with DRSS feels to be a threat will be considered a threat. Threats will result in suspension and possible expulsion.

#### **4.15 ASSAULT/FIGHTING**

Physical assault of a staff member, student, or guest(s) associated with DRSS, regardless of whether it causes injury, will not be tolerated. Assault will result in out-of-school suspension and possible expulsion. Fighting will result in out-of-school suspension.

#### **4.16 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING**

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying behavior by a student or staff member in the Dayton Regional STEM School, Inc. is strictly prohibited, and such conduct may result in disciplinary action, including suspension and/or expulsion from school. “Harassment, intimidation, or bullying”, in accordance with the R.C. 3313.666 means any intentional written, verbal, graphic or physical act including electronically transmitted acts (i.e., Internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant, or wireless hand-held device) either overt or covert, by a student or group of students toward other students, staff or visitors, including violence within a dating relationship, with the intent to harass, intimidate, injure, threaten, ridicule, or humiliate. Such behaviors are prohibited on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school sponsored activity, on school provided transportation, or at any official school bus stop that a reasonable person under the circumstance should know will have the effect of:

- Causing mental or physical harm to the other students including placing an individual in reasonable fear of physical harm and/or damaging of students’ personal property; and,
- Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for other students.

These situations include acts that include physical and emotional harm as well as cyber-bullying. Cases that are initiated outside of DRSS may be addressed when they are extended to school and “disrupt or interfere” with the educational process.

#### **Consequences:**

- Loss of privileges that fit the medium of the bullying behavior.
- School or community service
- Apology
- Counseling
- In School Suspension
- Suspension
- Expulsion

DRSS has laid out its Complaint Procedure step-by-step in the School's Policy Against Discrimination and Unlawful Harassment. A copy of the Policy is attached to this Handbook as Appendix A. The Policy can also be found online on the DRSS website. To access the policy online, simply click on the "Current Families" tab and then the "Safety Resources and Polices" link.

#### **4.17 EXTORTION**

Extortion is considered the use of threat, intimidation, force or deception to take or receive something from someone else. Extortion will result in out-of-school suspension and possible expulsion.

#### **4.18 CHEATING, PLAGIARISM AND HONOR POLICY**

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Stealing others' projects or work
- Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), without teacher approval
- Using the internet to find answers without a teacher's permission
- Copying other students' work
- Using references (cheat sheets, books, notes, etc.) during quizzes or tests, unless the teacher permits them
- Sharing answers: the person giving the answers is considered to be cheating as well as the person receiving answers
- Plagiarism (taking credit for work without citing references)
- Falsification of data or observations
- Transmitting information meant as an individual assignment to a group

Students found to cheat or plagiarize on an assignment will be given both a school and academic consequence based on teacher and administrative review. A suspension may be issued.

#### **4.19 POSSESSION/USE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL**

Possessing, using, transmitting or concealing, distributing, or being under the influence of any drugs or alcohol is not permitted on DRSS grounds or at any DRSS -sponsored event (5530). This includes, but is not limited to, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, narcotics, mood-altering drugs, counterfeit controlled substances, look-alikes, over the counter stimulants or depressants, anabolic steroids or drug-related paraphernalia. Should a student be suspected of drug or alcohol use an Administrator or the Counselor may request the student be evaluated.

The Dayton Regional STEM School is concerned about any student who is the victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which s/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

Consequences for possession or use of alcohol/drugs at DRSS will be expulsion from school for no more than eighty (80) days. Students may be considered, but not guaranteed, for re-enrollment for the following year.

#### **4.20 POSSESSION/USE OF TOBACCO**

Possession, consumption, distribution, purchase and use of any tobacco products are prohibited on DRSS grounds or at any DRSS -sponsored activity. This also includes any tobacco-related materials, such as matches, lighters, electronic cigarettes, vaporizing pens, cartridges and other devices that produce flames.

Consequences for the possession/use of tobacco will be suspension from school. Repeated violations may result in recommendation for expulsion.

#### **4.21 POSSESSION/USE OF A WEAPON**

A weapon is any device that may be used for offensive or defensive purposes, including but not limited to conventional objects such as guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Possession and/or use of a weapon may subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion.

The consequence for the possession/use of weapons will be suspension from school and recommendation for expulsion for no more than one (1) calendar year, as per Ohio Revised Code. (3217/4217/5772/7217)

#### **4.22 POSSESSION/USE OF A FIREARM**

Bringing a firearm (as defined in the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act of 1994) onto DRSS property or to any DRSS-sponsored event, regardless of where it occurs, will result in a mandatory one (1) year expulsion under Ohio law.

#### **4.23 POSSESSION/USE OF EXPLOSIVES, BOMB THREATS AND FALSE ALARM REPORTS**

A student shall not have on his/her person, have easy access to, transmit, conceal, use or threaten to use fireworks, smoke bombs, stink bombs, mace (chemical or pepper), explosives or other such devices capable of inflicting bodily injury or disrupting the educational process. Making bomb threats against DRSS, tampering/interfering with the fire alarm is prohibited.

Consequences will result in suspension and a possible recommendation for expulsion as per Ohio Revised Code.

#### **4.24 POSSESSION OF PORNOGRAPHY/SEXTING**

Possession or viewing of pornography may result in monitored use of technology at DRSS, surrendering of netbook/laptop, and suspension and possible expulsion.

“Sexting” is the act of sending sexually explicit texts or pictures of a sexual nature between cell phones, or other electronic media such as the Internet. Sexting by students that impacts the educational environment may result in suspension or a recommendation for expulsion, depending on the severity.

#### 4.25 INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

It is not always easy to determine if social media is school related or a personal issue. This translates into a greater level of responsibility and accountability for everyone. If social media use causes a disruption to the educational process, the school may become involved. This could include disciplinary action such as a parent conference, detention, In School Suspension, suspension or expulsion.

If you experience or observe any form of bullying or behavior that you think is potentially dangerous to you or others, please report the behavior immediately. You can tell a parent, DRSS staff, or a trusted adult. DRSS provides an **anonymous** service called **STAY SAFE/SPEAK UP** that will alert school administrators and counselors immediately 24 hours a day. You can utilize this service by calling (1-866-listen2me) or through the link on the DRSS website.

Although submitting anonymously is an option, investigations are more efficient and follow up with the submitter can occur when the submitter chooses to leave their name with filing the report. Regardless of the incident, the confidentiality of the submitter is always taken seriously.

#### **Social Media Guidelines for Students**

- Be aware of what you post online. Social media outlets are very public, even if they claim not to be. What you contribute leaves a *permanent digital footprint* for all to see. Do not post anything you wouldn't want friends, enemies, parents, teachers or a future employer to see. If you would not bring it to a college admissions or job interview, do not post it online.
- Your online behavior should reflect the core values of The Dayton Regional STEM School.
  - It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions, however, do it in a respectful way.
  - Make sure that criticism is constructive and not hurtful.
  - What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.
- All online behavior is expected to comply with the DRSS policies regarding harassment, discrimination and bullying.
- Be safe online. Never give out personal information, including, but not limited to, last names, phone numbers, addresses, exact birthdates and pictures. Do not share your password with anyone besides your teachers and parents
- If you come across inappropriate material that makes you feel uncomfortable, appears dangerous or is not respectful, tell your teacher or trusted adult right away or use STAY SAFE/SPEAK UP.
- Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions will be in violation of the DRSS Student Handbook and subject to appropriate consequences, which could include parent conference, detention, suspension or expulsion.

## **SECTION V: TRANSPORTATION**

### **5.1 BUS CONDUCT**

Students who are riding to and from school must follow all basic safety rules. This applies to buses owned by the student's district of residence as well as contracted transportation used during field trips. The bus driver may assign seating or direct students in any reasonable manner to maintain transportation safety. Students must comply with the safety rules established by their bus driver or supervising teacher. (5610)

### **5.2 VIDEOTAPES ON SCHOOL BUSES**

District of residence buses may have installed video cameras on their school buses to monitor student behavior. If a student misbehaves on a bus and his/her actions are recorded on a videotape, the tape will be submitted to the Principal and may be used as evidence of misbehavior.

### **5.3 PENALTIES FOR INFRACTIONS**

A student who misbehaves on the bus will be disciplined in accordance with the DRSS Student Discipline Code and may lose the privilege of riding on the bus.

### **5.4 TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE**

When transportation by school bus is either not available or feasible, there may be a need to provide transportation to students by private vehicle. However, no students will be permitted to ride in a private vehicle unless written consent is provided by each student's parent using Form 8660 F2 – Parental Consent for Transportation by Private Vehicle (found on the board policy site under "Forms"). Upon request, parents of participating students will be given the name of the driver, owner of the driver, and the description of the vehicle (8660).

### **5.5 SELF-TRANSPORTATION TO SCHOOL**

An approved student driver may not transport other students to a school-sponsored activity unless the parents of the approved student driver and the parents of the students(s) to be transported in the approved student driver's vehicle, provide written authorization for the student to drive or be transported and release the Board from liability using Form 5515 F2 – Permission Form for Alternative Student Transportation.



**APPENDIX A**  
**DAYTON REGIONAL STEM SCHOOL POLICY**  
**AGAINST DISCRIMINATION AND UNLAWFUL HARASSMENT**

Dayton Regional STEM School (“DRSS”) is committed to ensuring that every member of the DRSS has the right to learn or work in a safe atmosphere that promotes equal opportunities and prohibits discriminatory practices, including harassment. DRSS relationships on campus are to be respectful and free of bias, prejudice, and harassment and all members of the DRSS community share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment by students, employees, or third parties.

**Definitions of Harassment**

**Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment of any kind is contrary to the culture of DRSS and will not be tolerated. Sexual harassment constitutes discrimination and is unlawful under federal, state and local laws. Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not so subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Depending on the circumstances, these behaviors may include, but are not limited to:

- Unwelcome sexual advancements, leering, sexual flirtations or propositions
- Unwelcome sexual slurs, epithets, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or sexual degrading descriptions.
- Graphic verbal comments about an individual’s body, or overly personal conversation
- Sexual jokes, stories, drawings, pictures or gestures, including digital media
- Spreading sexual rumors
- Teasing or sexual remarks about students enrolled in a predominantly single-sex class
- Touching an individual’s body or clothes in a sexual way, or in a way that may be construed as sexual
- Purposefully limiting a student’s access to educational tools
- Cornering or blocking of normal movements
- Displaying sexually suggestive objects in the educational environment
- Any act of retaliation against an individual who reports a violation of the school’s sexual harassment policy or who participates in the investigation of a sexual harassment complaint
- Request for sexual favors regardless of the seriousness of the request, i.e., to say “I was just joking” does not excuse the statement

Not all behavior with sexual connotations constitutes unlawful sexual harassment. Conduct must be sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent such that it adversely affects an individual’s education, or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment.

## **Non-sexual Harassment**

Harassment on the basis of any other protected characteristic is also strictly prohibited. Under this policy, harassment is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual because of:

- race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, disability, military service or veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions
- any other characteristic protected by law, and that:
- is sufficiently severe, pervasive or persistent such that it adversely affects an individual's education, or creates a hostile or abusive educational environment.

Harassing conduct includes, but it is not limited to: epithets, slurs, or negative stereotyping; threatening, intimidating or hostile acts; derogatory jokes; and written or graphic material that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual group.

## **Definitions of Sexual Violence**

Sexual violence is a criminal matter and includes, but is not limited to; rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual coercion; or “any sexual act directed against another person, forcible and/or against that person’s will; or not forcibly or against the person’s will where the victim is incapable of giving consent.” Victims of sexual violence are strongly encouraged to report the matter to law enforcement agents immediately. Victims should also file a Title IX complaint (Title IX of the Educations Amendments of 1972 prohibits discrimination and harassment based on sex), whether the incident occurred on or off campus, if the act of violence was perpetrated by a student or employee of DRSS. In all cases, victims of sexual violence will be directed to seek services from community crisis counseling providers.

## **Individuals and Conduct Covered**

These policies apply to all students and employees of DRSS community, as well as third parties such as persons providing contracted services or persons volunteering at or attending school activities. Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in all academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs of the school, whether those programs occur on campus, on a bus, or at another location away from campus. Individuals who violate these policies will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion (if a student), suspension or termination of employment (if an employee), or being banned from campus (if a third party). Law enforcement officials also will be notified when appropriate.

In accordance with its obligations under federal law, DRSS reserves the right to investigate reports of harassment occurring between students and other members of the school community, regardless of whether the alleged harassment occurred on or off school grounds; during or outside school hours; or using school-owned or personally-owned electronic devices (e.g., postings to digital media and electronic forums such as Twitter and Facebook or text messages).

## **Retaliation Is Prohibited**

DRSS encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination or harassment and will investigate such reports promptly. DRSS prohibits retaliation against any individual who reports discrimination or harassment or participates in an investigation of such reports.

Retaliation against an individual for reporting discrimination or harassment or for participation in an investigation of a claim of discrimination or harassment is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination, will subject an individual to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be investigated and corrective action taken promptly. Corrective action may include suspension, expulsion, and, in egregious situations, the involvement of law enforcement officials.

## **Complaint Procedures – Reporting an Incident of Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Violence or Retaliation**

Early reporting and intervention has proven to be the most effective method of resolving actual or perceived incidents of discrimination or harassment, so DRSS encourages prompt reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation, regardless of the offender's identity or position. All DRSS employees are required to immediately report such incidents in writing to the school's Title IX Coordinator regardless of whether it is based on the employee's own observations, on information from the student, the student's parent, or a third party. An employee who observes such acts is expected to intervene, unless circumstances would make such intervention dangerous. All complaints of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation will be promptly and equitably investigated. The Title IX Coordinators are and will be sufficiently qualified and trained to address all complaints throughout DRSS. Each Coordinator will update his or her training annually. However, in a case where the school's Title IX Coordinator is alleged to have engaged in an incident of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence or retaliation, such incidents should be reported to the Superintendent.

### **Informal Complaint Procedure**

As an initial step, as long as they feel comfortable doing so, individuals who believe they have been subject to discrimination or harassment are encouraged to promptly advise the alleged offender that his or her behavior is unwelcome and request that it be discontinued. In some cases, an offender may not realize his/her behavior is offensive and being perceived as harassment. This action alone may sometimes resolve the problem. The Title IX Coordinator is available to support an individual taking this initial step.

DRSS recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through informal or formal complaint procedures. If for any reason an individual does not wish to address the offender directly, or if addressing the offender does not successfully end the offensive conduct, the individual should notify, orally or in writing, the DRSS Title IX Coordinator or any other member of Leadership (identified at the end of this policy). Students may also report incidents to the school nurse or teacher. All reports will be filed with the school's Title IX Coordinator (or Superintendent if the complaint

involves a Title IX Coordinator), who will either facilitate an informal resolution or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

Prior to pursuing the matter through informal procedures, the school's Title IX Coordinator or the individual appointed by the Title IX Coordinator will provide a full disclosure of the allegation(s) made by the reporting party to the responding party, inform the parties' options for formal resolution, and provide an opportunity for both parties to voluntarily agree to participate in the informal resolution. An informal resolution may involve meeting with the alleged offender to discuss the unwelcome nature of the behavior, or, if both parties agree, facilitating a meeting between the complainant and the alleged offender to work out a mutual resolution. The informal complaint procedure is intended to stop inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through informal means. It is not a prerequisite to the filing of a formal complaint and may be terminated at any time by either party to move to the formal process.

The informal complaint procedure is not intended for victims of sexual violence. **Victims of sexual violence should NOT approach the offender under any circumstances in an attempt to resolve the matter, and should file a police report as soon as possible after the attack has occurred.** An individual who is a victim of sexual violence and has filed a police report may file a complaint under DRSS's formal complaint procedures.

### **Formal Complaint Procedure**

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint procedure, or if an individual elects to file a formal complaint initially, the following procedures will be followed:

An individual who believes he or she has been subject to discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation may file a formal complaint, orally or in writing, with the Title IX Coordinator. If a report is made to any other employee of DRSS, orally or in writing, about any complaint of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation, the employee must immediately report that information to the Title IX Coordinator. *A complaint form is available at the end of this policy.*

All allegations of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation will be investigated promptly. Members of the school's Leadership team and the Title IX Coordinator are responsible for investigating complaints. The Superintendent will designate the investigator unless the Superintendent has a conflict of interest in which case the School Board President shall make that designation. The investigators are and will be appropriately trained on Title IX requirements and be free of any conflicts of interest and biases for or against any party for each complaint investigation.

Typically, the investigation will begin with an interview of the alleged victim to obtain information regarding the identity(ies) of the alleged offender(s), the offensive conduct, the potential witnesses, and the desired resolution. The alleged victim will be offered an opportunity to submit any evidence that he or she believes is relevant to the investigation within 5 school days.

Within 5 school days of receiving the initial complaint, the alleged offender will be informed of the allegations and will be offered an opportunity to submit a written response to the allegations. The alleged offender's response and any supporting materials must be submitted within 5 school days. The

investigator will then review the relevant documents and conduct additional interviews as necessary to determine whether there has been a violation of this policy. For instance, the investigator may conduct interviews with the alleged offender, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the parties, and/or other individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have other relevant knowledge. During the investigation, the investigator will keep both parties apprised of the status of the investigation, to the extent permitted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. The investigator will not require the alleged victim to appear in the same room as the accused.

Upon receiving a complaint, the investigator will consider whether any interim measures should be taken to protect the reporting and responding parties prior to or during an investigation. For instance, the investigator may determine that it is necessary to restrict contact between the parties, change schedules, assign a hall monitor until the investigation is concluded or provide other similar accommodations.

Although it will be conducted as soon as reasonably possible, the investigation may require up to 60 days to complete. Within 7 school days of the completion of the investigation, the investigator will prepare a report that summarizes the evidence gathered, states whether there was a policy violation, and makes recommendations of what, if any, action should be taken. In determining whether there has been a violation of policy, an investigator will consider a variety of factors, including but not limited to: the nature of the conduct, the age and maturity of the parties, the frequency of the conduct, the relationship between the parties, and whether the conduct adversely affected the victim's education or environment. The determination will be based on the totality of the circumstances and will be based on the "preponderance of the evidence" (i.e., it is more likely than not that a policy violation occurred). The investigator's recommendations may include discipline of the alleged offender up to and including suspension or expulsion (if a student) or suspension or termination of employment (if an employee).

Both parties will then be provided written notice of the outcome of the investigation within 10 school days of the investigation's completion. The written notice will state whether DRSS found that the alleged conduct occurred, any individual remedies offered to the reporting party or any sanctions imposed on the responding party that directly related to the reporting party, and other steps the school has taken to eliminate the hostile environment, if the school found one to exist. If either party is dissatisfied with the outcome, he or she may appeal to the Superintendent by filing a written notice of appeal within 5 school days of the date of the written notice of the outcome of the investigation. The Superintendent will timely inform the non-appealing party that an appeal has been filed. Within 10 school days of receiving the notice of appeal, the Superintendent will review the report prepared by the investigator, the investigator's file, and any other documents or materials provided by the parties and affirm, reverse, or revise the determination and recommendations of the investigator. Both parties will receive a written appeal decision. To the extent the Superintendent determines the parties should be heard, the alleged victim will not be required to appear in the same hearing room as the accused. If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint or is not free of any conflicts of interest and biases for or against any party in the appeal, the Superintendent will be recused from the appeal and replaced by the Board President. The Board President will have the same duties, responsibilities, and powers that the Superintendent would have in administering the appeal. Where there has been a policy violation, DRSS will make every reasonable effort to stop any conduct in violation of these policies and prevent recurrence and will also take steps to remedy the effects of any violation. Any appropriate remedial measures will be determined on a case-by-case, individualized basis.

## Confidentiality and Recordkeeping

DRSS will make all reasonable efforts to protect the privacy of all parties involved in an investigation and to keep the complaint and investigation confidential. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. For example, some details or identities may need to be revealed in order to fully investigate the complaint.

DRSS will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the reporting party's request for confidentiality, as long as doing so does not prevent the school from responding effectively to the alleged discrimination, harassment, sexual violence or retaliation. In accordance with its regular recordkeeping practices, DRSS will maintain records of all complaints of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence, or retaliation.

## False Claims of Sexual Harassment, Retaliation, and/or Discrimination

To ensure fairness, DRSS reserves the right to discipline a student who intentionally makes a false accusation of harassment, sexual violence, retaliation, and/or discrimination. A complaint will not be considered false solely because it cannot be corroborated, but will be based upon all of the facts and circumstances. Disciplinary action for intentionally making false claims may include suspension or expulsion.

## Conclusion

DRSS has developed this and related policies to ensure that everyone can learn and work in an environment free from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. Towards that end, it will make every reasonable effort to ensure that the entire DRSS community is familiar with these policies and aware that any complaint in violation of such policies will be investigated and resolved appropriately. In addition to any individuals previously mentioned in this policy, complaints of discrimination, harassment, sexual violence or retaliation may be submitted to any of the following staff members:

Title IX Coordinator Elementary School Principal Pat Murakami <a href="mailto:Patricia.murakami@daytonstemschool.org">Patricia.murakami@daytonstemschool.org</a> 937-256-3777	Title IX Coordinator MS Principal Andrew Sears <a href="mailto:Andrew.sears@daytonstemschool.org">Andrew.sears@daytonstemschool.org</a> 937-256-3777	Superintendent Robin Fisher <a href="mailto:Robin.fisher@daytonstemschool.org">Robin.fisher@daytonstemschool.org</a> 937-256-3777
HS Counselor Steve Federinko <a href="mailto:Steven.federinko@daytonstemschool.org">Steven.federinko@daytonstemschool.org</a> 937-256-3777	HS Counselor Sarah Hubbs <a href="mailto:Sarah.Hubbs@daytonstemschool.org">Sarah.Hubbs@daytonstemschool.org</a> 937-256-3777	HS Principal Nick Pant <a href="mailto:Nick.Pant@daytonstemschool.org">Nick.Pant@daytonstemschool.org</a> 937-256-3777
MS Counselor Kate Kramer <a href="mailto:Kate.kramer@daytonstemschool.org">Kate.kramer@daytonstemschool.org</a> 937-256-3777	MS Counselor Caryn Spence <a href="mailto:Caryn.spence@daytonstemschool.org">Caryn.spence@daytonstemschool.org</a> 937-256-3777	School Board President David Goldstein <a href="mailto:David.goldstein@wright.edu">David.goldstein@wright.edu</a> 937-256-3777

## APPENDIX B

# Dayton Regional STEM School Suicide Prevention & Intervention Policy 2024-2025

## Table of Contents

### 1. Purpose

### 2. Scope and Distribution

Implementation

### 3. Prevention

Staff Professional Development

Youth Suicide Prevention Education for Students

Publication and Distribution

### 4. Assessment and Referral

Suicidality Without Parent Present

Suicidality With Parent Knowledge/Presence

For At-Risk Students Not Demonstrating Signs of Current Suicidality

### 5. School Transition Procedure

## DRSS Suicide Prevention and Intervention Policy

Modeled from

IEM Schools Suicide Prevention and Intervention Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of the policy will be to protect the health and wellbeing of all students by having procedures in place to prevent, assess the risk of, intervene in, and respond to suicide.

The school recognizes that:

- a. Physical, behavioral, and emotional health is an integral component of a student's educational outcomes.
- b. Suicide is a leading cause of death among young people
- c. Our organization has an ethical responsibility to take a proactive approach in preventing deaths by suicide, and
- d. The school has a role in providing an environment which is sensitive to individual and societal factors that place youth at greater risk for suicide and one which helps to foster youth development

The policy is meant to be paired with other procedures and support systems for the emotional and behavioral health of students more broadly. To ensure the safety of our students and be able to respond to a student in crisis, the school will contact the Crisis Response Team.

## Scope and Distribution

The scope of this policy will include all classes taught by our school personnel (in person or online), group educational activities, team meetings, or any other interactions with students and our school staff.

The policy will be distributed annually to all school employees and the links to it will be included in the Student and Staff Handbooks and on the school website. Each of these sources will include crisis numbers and steps to take if a student is exhibiting signs of suicidality.

## Implementation

The Dayton Regional STEM School Superintendent/CAO will be responsible for planning and overseeing this policy in conjunction with the Crisis Response Team.

## Prevention

### Staff Professional Development

Policies and procedures will be written and provided to all staff by the first week of school each year. Staff will complete an online training module annually.

This training will include how to respond to crisis situations within the context of our school:

- High risk groups
- Risk factors
- Warning signs
- Protective factors
- How to talk to children in an age appropriate way for middle and high school students
- When to treat as a crisis and call 911 or ask a parent to take to the emergency room
- When to seek help from the Crisis Response Team
- Who to refer to
- How to document the process

### Youth Suicide Prevention Education for Students



DRSS will provide grade-appropriate mental health curriculum options for grades 6-12. Suicide prevention units will be created and made available to all middle and high school students that could be included in a variety of life skills and special interest courses.

- The importance of safe and healthy choices and coping strategies
- How to recognize risk factors and warning signs of mental disorders and suicide in oneself and others
- Help-seeking strategies for oneself or others, including how to engage school resources and refer friends for help.

Parents will be provided with the opportunity to opt out of suicide prevention curriculum if desired.

## Publications and Distribution

This policy will be distributed annually to parents and students in the Student Handbook and on the website.

The school website will provide links for:

- 24-hour crisis hotlines
- Links to resources giving specific information for mental health needs
- Steps to take if a student is exhibiting alarming warning signs or suicide (i.e. agitation, intoxication, suicide threat with a plan, access to means, etc.)
- Socioemotional resources
- How to contact the school counselors and how to access community resources

## Assessment & Referral

### Suicidality Without Parent Present:

When a student is identified by a staff person as potentially suicidal (i.e. verbalizes suicidality, presents overt warning signs, or a student self-refers) and no parent is present, a credentialed school counselor will assist the student and adult staff member who is with the student. The school counselor will be listed on the school website along with contact information.

The steps delineated in the [Protocol for Responding to Students Risk of Suicide](#) will be followed.

### Suicidality With Parent Knowledge/Presence

If parent or guardian is present or if a parent expresses a suicide risk concern to a school employee about a potential suicide risk:

1. School staff will advise parents to continuously supervise the student and restrict access to lethal means to ensure their safety.
2. Parents will also be informed that the school counselor will be calling them to help with resources and referrals. They will call and email the family to provide them with the following:
  - Crisis phone numbers
  - Suicide Safety Parent Information Packet and mental health resources
  - Referral for outside agencies for suicide risk screening
3. Staff will ask the student's parent or guardian for written permission to discuss the student's mental health with outside care, when appropriate.
4. Hard copies of signed documents will remain confidential.

### **For At-Risk Students Not Demonstrating Signs of Current Suicidality:**

If a student is showing signs of significant risk for suicide but not voicing suicidality, the teacher or staff member will reach out to a school counselor, and they will assess the situation. The concern may come from actions or statements showing that they are at risk and/or from evidence in student work (essays/poems/art/etc.).

If a parent has concerns about their student at home, they can reach out to their school counselor and he or she will provide the family with a suicide information packet and information about health resources.

## **School Transition Procedure**

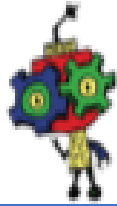
For students returning to school or enrolling in our school after a known mental health crisis (e.g., suicide attempt or psychiatric hospitalization), a school counselor will meet with the student's parent or guardian, and if appropriate, meet with the student to discuss enrollment or school transition and appropriate next steps to ensure the student's readiness for return to schoolwork.

1. The parent will be advised to seek outside mental health assistance and will be given referral resources to continue mental health treatment
2. Counselors will work with the students and parent or guardian to develop a school safety plan if necessary

APPENDIX C



# Dayton Regional STEM School ACE CHARACTER EXPECTATIONS



	Hallway	Collaboration Spaces	Bathrooms	Cafeteria
Kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be friendly</li> <li>Put down devices and engage</li> <li>Keep hands to yourself</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor your volume</li> <li>Use active listening</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be mindful of your surroundings</li> <li>Speak kindly</li> <li>Make room for others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage in conversations</li> <li>Be a friend</li> <li>Invite someone new to sit with you</li> </ul>
Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be considerate of personal space and belongings</li> <li>Keep backpacks off the wall</li> <li>Avoid blocking others' cubbies &amp; walkways</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the space as intended</li> <li>Share space with others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean up after yourself</li> <li>Respect everyone's privacy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep microwave times under 3 mins</li> <li>Thank the cafeteria staff</li> </ul>
Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use indoor voices</li> <li>Walk on the right side of the hallway</li> <li>Keep our spaces clean</li> <li>Honor the throw away system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave it better than you found it</li> <li>Embody our 3 qualities                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication</li> <li>Creativity</li> <li>Collaboration</li> <li>Persistence</li> <li>Inquiry</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wash your hands</li> <li>Dispose of trash properly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honor the zero waste throw away system</li> <li>Clean your space before you leave</li> </ul>

**APPENDIX D**  
**DAYTON REGIONAL STEM SCHOOL POLICY 5516**  
**STUDENT HAZING**

Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with and disruptive to the educational process, and prohibited at any time in school facilities, on school property, and/or off school property if the misconduct is connected to or associated with Board-sponsored activities (e.g., extracurricular teams, clubs, or groups) or incidents that have occurred on school property. No administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of the District shall encourage, permit, authorize, condone, or tolerate any hazing activities. The preceding prohibition includes recklessly permitting the hazing of any person associated with the District. Additionally, no student shall plan, encourage, or engage in any hazing. Hazing is defined as doing any act or coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into any class, team, or organization or any act to continue or reinstate membership in or affiliation with any class, team, or organization that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing mental or physical harm to any person, including coercing another to consume alcohol or a drug of abuse. No person shall recklessly participate in the hazing of another. Permission, consent, or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to hazing shall not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy. Administrators, employees, faculty members, teachers, of the District shall be alerted to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include hazing. If hazing or planned hazing is discovered, the students involved shall be informed by the discoverer of the prohibitions contained in this policy and shall be ordered to end all hazing activities or planned activities immediately. All hazing incidents shall be reported immediately to the Superintendent/CAO. Additionally, no administrator, employee, faculty member, teacher, consultant, alumnus, or volunteer of the District who is acting in an official and professional capacity shall recklessly fail to immediately report the knowledge of hazing to a law enforcement agency in the county in which the victim of hazing resides or in which the hazing is occurring or has occurred. Students, administrators, employees, faculty members, and teachers who fail to abide by this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law. Likewise, consultants, alumni, and volunteers associated with the District who fail to abide by this policy may be prohibited from continuing their involvement and/or participation in activities associated with the District and may be held personally liable for civil and criminal penalties in accordance with law.

The Superintendent/CAO shall distribute this policy to all students, Board employees, consultants, and volunteers, and shall incorporate it into building, staff, and student handbooks. It shall also be posted on the District's website. This policy shall be the subject of discussion at employee staff meetings or in-service programs. Board employees, consultants, alumni, and volunteers shall not intentionally remain ignorant of hazing or potential hazing activities.

(Revised and Approved by Board, December 2021)