



DIMENSIONS
A C A D E M Y

“Connecting Students to Their Future; Restoring Hope”

STUDENT HANDBOOK 2023-2024
(Secondary)

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2023-2024

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2023-2024 SCHOOL CALENDAR

FIRST SEMESTER

August 17	First Day of School
August 22	Opens House
	Parent Meeting 6:30 p.m
September 1 & 4-5	Labor Day
October 5-6	Fall Break
October 20	End of First Nine Weeks
October 23	Beginning of Second Nine Weeks
October 26	Parent/Teacher Conferences (Evening)
	Parent Meeting 6 p.m
October 27 4	Parent/Teacher Conferences (Morning)-No school
November 20 - 24	Thanksgiving Breaks
December 20	End of Second Nine Weeks
December 21-January 3	Winter Break

SECOND SEMESTER

January 3	Teacher Work Day/No School
January 5	Beginning Third Nine Weeks
January 15	M.L. King Jr. Days
February 19	President's Day**
March 14	Parent/Teacher Conferences (Evening)
	Parent Meeting 6 p.m
March 15	Parent/Teacher Conferences (Morning) – No School**
March 15	End of Third Nine Weeks
March 18-22	Spring Break
March 26	Beginning of Fourth Nine Weeks
May 21	Senior Celebration 7pm
May 23	Last Day of School

**Possible Snow Make-up Days

SCHEDULE 2023-2024

8:50 to 9:50	1st Period
9:55 to 10:55	2nd Period
11:00 to 12:00	3rd Period
12:00 to 12:25	Monday - Assembly Tue/Wed/Thur - Advisory Friday - D.E.A.R (stay in 3rd hour)
12:25 to 1:05	Lunch
1:05 to 2:10	4th Period
2:15 to 3:20	5th Period

GRADING PERIODS

- Q1** August 17 – October 20 (41 Days)
Q2 October 23 - December 20 (38 Days)
Q3 January 4 - March 15 (49 Days)
Q4 March 20 - May 23 (42 Days)

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

- October 26 (Evening) 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
October 27 (No School) 8:00 am to Noon
March 14 (Evening) 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
March 15 (No School) 8:00 am to Noon

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

- Monday, August 21, 2023 Open House 6:00pm-7:30pm Parent Meeting 6:30 pm
Thursday, October 26, 2023 Parent Meeting 6:00 pm
Thursday, March 14, 2023 Parent Meeting 6:00 pm

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Dimensions Academy strives to help students develop the life and academic skills necessary to be successful at school, home, and in the workplace. At Dimensions Academy we focus on the following expectations.

- **SAFETY**
- **RESPECT**
- **RESPONSIBILITY**

ATTENDANCE

ARRIVING LATE/LEAVING EARLY

A student who arrives late should report directly to Maryann Pierce. If they have a doctor's note or other documentation, they may turn it in at this time. Students who are late to class by more than 15 minutes will be counted absent (missing more than 15 minutes of any class is counted as an absence).

If a student must leave school before the end of the school day, they must check out with the secretary.

Parents need to contact the school for the student to check out early. Any student who leaves school without checking out through the office will be considered truant. If a student needs to check out for the afternoon, they need to check out before leaving for lunch.

ATTENDANCE POLICY/PROCEDURE

Regular attendance is essential for students to be successful. For every day a student is absent, the parent or guardian must notify the secretary (***during office hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.***) or leave a voicemail after hours. If parents do not notify the school of the absence, an attempt will be made by the school to contact the parent. When a student returns to school from an absence, they should check with the secretary to make sure the absence has been "Parent Confirmed" and cleared. Students may request a copy of their attendance from the secretary.

We recommend that parents view attendance online using Parent Portal.

CONFIRMED ABSENCES

Confirmed absences are absences that are confirmed by the parent or guardian with Dimensions. Absences for the following reasons will be marked "parent confirmed" when the parent notifies the school: *illness, accident, injury, medical and dental appointments, death in the family, religious holidays, and emergency situations*. These "Parent Confirmed" absences still count against the "District Chronic Absenteeism," but not the students' right to earn credit/grades.

We ask that you provide a doctor's note within a week (five school days) of a medical absence in order for the "Parent Confirmed" absence not to count against grade eligibility. Students will be excused for participating in school sponsored activities which do not count against the Attendance Policy. When students miss a class, they may make up missed work.

TARDY POLICY

Because it is important to instill the qualities of promptness and planning and to maximize classroom learning time, students are expected to be in the classroom and ready to work when class starts.

FULL PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to fully participate in all coursework and activities while at Dimensions Academy.

DRESS CODE

Dimensions Academy students are able to dress and style their hair for school in a manner that expresses their individuality without fear of unnecessary discipline or body shaming. Students dressed in compliance with the dress code can be free to learn and not face unnecessary barriers to school attendance; staff can focus on teaching and learning without the additional burden of dress code enforcement. Students have the right to be treated equitably and with dignity; these rights extend to application and enforcement of the district dress code. The guidelines included in the dress code are necessary to support the overall educational goals of the district and Dimensions Academy.

STUDENTS MAY WEAR

Hats, including religious headwear, hoodies, fitted pants, including leggings, yoga pants, “skinny jeans,” ripped jeans, as long as underwear is not exposed, tank tops, including spaghetti straps, halter tops, and strapless tops.

STUDENTS MUST WEAR SHOES

STUDENTS MAY NOT WEAR

- Clothing with violent language, images or language depicting weapons, drugs or drug paraphernalia, alcohol, nicotine products, illegal items, illegal activities, use of hate speech, threats, profanity, pornography images or language that creates a hostile or intimidating environment based on any protected class.
- Visible underwear. (Visible waistbands or straps on undergarments worn under clothing are not a violation).
- Undergarments may not be worn as clothing (this includes sports bras and tube tops).
- Bathing suits (except where required for participation in a course or school activity). Helmets, hats, or headwear that obscures the face (except where such is worn as a religious observance or for medical purposes).
- Clothing that intentionally shows private parts (nipples, genitals, buttocks); clothing must cover private parts in opaque (not able to be seen-through) material. Clothing or accessories that may endanger the student or others, such as spikes.
- Gang related clothing-colors or gang paraphernalia including, but not limited to, dress that is made from bandana fabric, or that represents any group or logo identified with a gang or gang behavior.

*****Additional modifications or exemptions to the dress code may be enacted as deemed necessary by the administration. Such modifications will be based on safety and/or other related factors.*****

DISCIPLINE OPTIONS

ON-CAMPUS LUNCH

Students receiving on-campus lunch will be required to report to the cafeteria at 12:25pm and must stay in the cafeteria for 20 minutes from the time they arrive.. They can then move around campus but are not allowed to leave campus at any time during lunch. They are also not allowed to have food delivered from off-site on days they have on-campus lunch.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

In-school suspension is an in-house program to which a student may be assigned for a short period of time in lieu of out-of-school suspension. It is designed to counteract many of the negative effects of out-of-school suspension. Instructional time can continue without interruption and special academic help can be provided.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Please refer to the Norman Public Schools Student/Parent Policy Guide.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

24/7 TOBACCO FREE SMOKING FREE ENVIRONMENT

Smoking, distribution, and use of tobacco or any device designed to deliver nicotine (i.e. electronic cigarettes or vapor products) is prohibited on district property. This prohibition includes school premises and school-owned vehicles. It is specifically directed that this ban on the use of tobacco products will be in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will apply to students, employees, visitors and anyone providing service to the school. Additionally, students are prohibited from possessing or distributing tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, vapor products, or simulated tobacco products(paraphernalia) in school buildings, on school grounds, in school-owned vehicles, and at all school-affiliated functions on or off school campus.

CELL PHONES/USAGE

The ethical use of cell phones and electronic communication devices is a needed skill in the 21st century. Students need to keep phones put away during class time. Failure to do so may result in confiscation of the phone, lunch detention, in-school suspension, and/or out-of-school suspension.

DRIVING/PARKING

- Students who are licensed may drive to school and need to obey all laws, rules, and drive safely at all times.
- Failure to abide by the following policy may result in loss of parking privileges.
- All students who drive a car or motorcycle to school must register to receive a parking permit. The parking permit must be visible.
- Both a car description and tag number are required for registration.
- Student parking spots are the spaces that are nearest to the north/front doors. Please do not park on the east side of the building or in the outer parking spots on the North end of the property, as these are reserved for faculty and staff.
- Be courteous and cautious. **Speed limit is 5 mph**
- Buses and pedestrians always have the right of way.
- Tire squealing, fast starts, “doughnuts,” or reckless driving will not be tolerated.
- No smoking/vaping in student parking lot.
- The number of passengers in a car should not exceed the number of seat belts in the car. Students are not to be transported in the back of an open pick-up truck.
- The school is not responsible for student vehicles and will not accept liability for damages or theft of any vehicle and/or its contents.

FIRE/TORNADO/INTRUDER DRILLS

Fire, tornado, and intruder drills will occur periodically throughout the school year. This is for student safety and welfare and should be taken seriously. A fire or tornado signal during a drill will come over the intercom. An intruder drill signal will be a staff making an announcement. When the fire signal is given, students should exit the building in a quiet and orderly manner. Specific exit instructions will be given by teachers and posted in each room. Once outside the building, students must remain with their class in a designated area until instructed to return to the building. Tornado drill instructions will also be given by teachers and posted in each room.

LIBRARY/INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

The mission of the Norman Public School Library Program is to create lifelong readers who are effective and efficient consumers of information and knowledge.

To accomplish this mission:

- Librarians work collaboratively with teachers and others to integrate information literacy skills with classroom content.
- Library programs provide intellectual and physical access to materials in a variety of formats.
- A partnership is essential to the success of this mission. It requires the active involvement and support of the administration, teachers, and school community.

This comes from POLICY 5002 INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES (Revised 1/25/10; 5/10/2010; 6/18/12; 6/10/13)

Using Technological and Internet-based Instructional Resources

Norman Public Schools recognizes the advantages and opportunities associated with using internet-based instructional resources. The District also acknowledges that misuse of such resources can be harmful to students and their educational endeavors. All individuals using the computer-based resources of Norman Public Schools will be expected to do so responsibly and legally. Each student who uses the internet must sign an agreement to follow the Norman Public Schools rules for internet use. Students will be asked to sign a new agreement each school year before they are given access to the Internet. Students, and if appropriate, students' parents/guardians, may be asked from time to time to sign a new policy, for example, to reflect developments in the law or technology. Such new policy must be signed before internet use is continued.

A. Internet Uses and Behavior

The District provides access to its computer network and the internet for educational purposes only. Students should consult their teacher or librarian if they question the appropriateness of an internet activity, site, or resource. The District recognizes that online based instruction can expand course offerings not currently available in the District, for recovery of credit, or in certain cases to fulfill graduation requirements. Credit will be granted only for courses that have been approved by the District and for students who have met requirements outlined in regulation. Prerequisites for online courses are the same as for regular courses. The Principal or designee shall determine the appropriateness of course/s for each student.

B. Netiquette

1. All students must abide by rules of network etiquette, which include the following:

- Being polite.
- Using appropriate language.

No swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene, belligerent, or threatening language. Avoid language that is offensive to other users. Distributing jokes, stories, or other material which is based upon slurs or stereotypes relating to race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, or sexual orientation is prohibited.

2. Asking permission.

- Forwarding email or materials without permission of the sender is prohibited. Being considerate when sending attachments. Be sure that a file is not too large to be accommodated by the recipient's system and is in a format that the recipient can open.

C. Unacceptable Uses of the Internet

The following are among the uses considered unacceptable and a violation of this policy.

1. Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. Students may not:
 - plagiarize works found on the Internet;
 - transmit offensive or harassing messages;
 - offer for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by the District's Student Discipline Policy;
 - view, transmit or download pornographic materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law; intrude into the networks or computers of others; or, download or transmit confidential, trade secret information, or copyright materials. students should assume that all materials are copyrighted unless explicit permission is given to use them.
2. **Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property.**
 - engaging in defamation (harming another's reputation by lies) using another's password or some other user
 - identifier that misleads message recipients into believing that someone other than the student is communicating or otherwise using his/her access to the network or the Internet; uploading a worm, virus, "Trojan horse," "time bomb" or other harmful form of programming or vandalism; participate in "hacking" activities or any form of unauthorized access other computers, networks, or information systems.
3. **Uses that jeopardize the security of student access and of the computer network or other networks on the Internet.**
 - Disclosing or sharing their password with others;
 - impersonating another student or member of the District Staff.
 - Uses that are commercial transactions.
 - a. selling or buying anything over the Internet.
 - b. Disclosing private information about themselves or others, including credit card numbers and social security numbers.
 - c. Uses for the purposes of campaigning and/or lobbying.

D. Internet Safety

Students and their parents/guardians are advised that access to the electronic network may include the potential for access to materials inappropriate for school-aged pupils. Every student must take responsibility for his or her use of the computer network and Internet and avoid these sites. Parents of minors are the best guides concerning inappropriate materials. If a student finds that other students are visiting offensive or harmful sites, he or she should report such use to the appropriate staff member.

Students should be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, students should not reveal personal information such as home address or telephone number. Students should not use their real last name or any other information that might allow a person to locate them without first obtaining the permission of a supervising teacher. Students should not arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they "meet" on the computer network or Internet without their parent's permission. Students should never agree to meet a person they have only communicated with on the Internet in a secluded place or in a private setting.

The District-provided Internet access utilizes filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (1) obscene, (2) child pornography, or (3) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technological means, to ensure that students are not accessing such depictions or any other material, which is inappropriate for minors.

Internet filtering software or other technology based protection systems may be disabled by a supervising teacher or school administrator, as necessary, for purposes of bona fide research or other educational projects being conducted by students age seventeen (17) and older.

The term "harmful to minors" is defined by the Communications Act of 1934 (47 USC Section 254 [h][7]), as meaning any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

E. Privacy

Network and Internet access is provided as a tool for educational purposes. The District reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review and store at any time and without prior notice any and all usage of the computer network and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the District and no student shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

F. Compliance

A student who violates the District's internet policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

FOOD AND DRINK

No cafeteria or outside food or drink, except for water, should be brought upstairs or into classrooms. Students may bring a refillable water bottle with them to classes. Snacks provided by Dimensions may be eaten in the College and Career Room and in classrooms with the teacher's permission.

PARENT AND STUDENT PORTAL

Norman Public Schools is making it possible for parents and students to view student's grades, assignments, attendance, and school information online. Parents and students can register by going to the website at www.norman.k12.ok.us/ and clicking on the Parent/Student Portal link under Main Menu. Click on Parent Portal Activation Key Request for first time users.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Please be advised that the school will not be responsible for theft or loss of personal property. Each student is responsible for securing his or her own property.

STUDENTS ARRIVING IN THE MORNING

Once students arrive in the morning they need to stay on campus.

STUDENT INTERNET AGREEMENT

"I understand and agree that I will comply with the terms of the District's Internet and Internet Safety for the Computer Network Policy for the student's access to the District's computer network and the Internet. I understand that access is being provided to the students for educational purposes only. However, I also understand that it is impossible for the school to restrict access to all offensive and controversial materials and understand it is my responsibility for abiding by the policy. "

SEMESTER

Each 9 weeks is a new semester at Dimensions Academy. A full-time student is enrolled in 5 classes which gives students the opportunity to complete 2.5 credits each 9 weeks.

Grade Classification	Credits Required	How to earn credits at Dimensions High School			
Freshman	0-4.5	Term 1 (1st 9 weeks)	Term 2 (2nd 9 weeks)	Term 3 (3rd 9 weeks)	Term 4 (4th 9 weeks)
Sophomore	5-10.5	5 classes = 2.5 credits	5 classes = 2.5 credits	5 classes = 2.5 credits	5 classes = 2.5 credits
Junior	11-16.5	August to December = 5 credits		January to May = 5 credits	
Senior	17-23	1 year at Dimensions = 10 credits			

SUPERVISION

Students are expected to stay in areas where there is staff supervision.

TEXTBOOKS

Students need to return their textbooks and library books to Norman High or Norman North before enrolling at Dimensions Academy.

THEFT

Any student who steals personal or school property will be subject to school-assigned consequences and will be responsible for payment for damages and loss of property that cannot be recovered. A student who is found in possession of a reported stolen item is guilty of theft. Any "found" item should be immediately turned into the office.

TRANSCRIPTS

Students who are needing an official transcript need to request one from the registrar at their home high school.

VISITORS

Visitors to campus must check in with the receptionist at the front entrance. They must wear a visitor's badge if they go beyond the front office area. Visitors to the campus must abide by the same rules of conduct that are expected of the students. Students wanting to have lunch with a visitor, including a family member, need to do so off campus.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Baby Steps (Teen Parents)	405.360.2717
Bridges (Independent Living)	405-579.9280
Central Ok Community Mental Health	405.360.5100
Cleveland County Health-Guidance	405.321.4048
Crossroads Youth and Family	405.321.0240
Emergency Youth Shelter	405.321.0240
Health for Friends	405.329.4161
Kaleidoscope (Grief Support)	405.306.0052
National Suicide Hotline	1.800.273.8255
Norman Crimestoppers	405.366.STOP
Oklahoma Child Abuse Hotline	1.800.522.3511
OKC Heartline (Resources)	2-1-1
Parents Helping Parents	405.278.1221
PFLAG	405.360.4497
The Virtue Center (Addiction Counseling)	405.321.0022
Women's Resource Center	405.364.9424
Youth Mobile Crisis Response	833.885.CARE

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