

OLD FORT  
STOCKADERS  
2023-2024

ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK

**Old Fort Elementary  
Bettsville Campus  
118 Washington St. P.O. Box 6  
Bettsville, OH 44815  
Telephone 419-986-5166  
Fax 419-986-6039**

Old Fort High School  
7635 N Co. Rd. 51  
Tiffin, OH  
44883  
Telephone 419-992-4291  
Fax 419-992-4259  
[www.oldfortschools.org](http://www.oldfortschools.org)



## WELCOME TO OLD FORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**Old Fort Schools Vision: "All Stockaders will be prepared with the skills and confidence to choose purposeful, productive paths."**

Dear Old Fort Parents,

On behalf of our staff at Old Fort Elementary, I would like to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year. We are looking forward to a year full of great things for your child. Teachers work hard to prepare for rigorous academics, so your student can reach his/her potential. Additionally, we strive to create an environment where each child feels safe, develops strong friendships and knows they are loved. We look forward to seeing strong leadership skills blossom in our kids as we grow in the Seven Habits.

We see our role with you as a partnership built on trust and open communication. We hope you will take time to read through this handbook to familiarize yourself with our policies and procedures here at the elementary. We will have a monthly building newsletter this year to help you stay better informed. Additionally, many teachers send home classroom newsletters as well. Feel free to email us when needed, and we will respond promptly. All staff email addresses follow the pattern: first initial last name @oldfortschools.org For example, my email address is [ksmith@oldfortschools.org](mailto:ksmith@oldfortschools.org) We would love to hear from you anytime. Additionally, you can always call the school office at 419-986-5166 and we will return your call at our earliest convenience.

As a district, you can stay connected by reading our district newsletter, the Kampus Keyhole, on our school website. You can "Like" us on Facebook, download our app, Old Fort Schools, and get connected to Class Dojo to stay up-to-date on all the latest happenings.

On behalf of our elementary staff, welcome back! Here's to a wonderful year for all Stockaders, big and small!

Your partner in education,

Mrs. Kristina R. Smith, Principal

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **ATTENDANCE:**

It is important that students attend school each day so that they are not ill. The Compulsory School Attendance Law (Ohio Revised Code 3321) requires all students to be in attendance for a full day of school. Parents are urged to make doctor and dentist appointments and attend to personal errands outside of school hours. Attendance is the responsibility of the student and the parent. Excessive absences will be reported to the County Sheriff's Department truant officer and/or the Department of Human Services as determined by the Old Fort Local School policy.

Each time a student is late to or absent from school, **it is the parent's responsibility to call the school before 8:00 AM** to provide an acceptable excuse for the student's absence. If no call is received we are required, as part of the Child Abduction Law, to call the student's home or the parent's workplace to confirm the student's absence.

Students who have been absent because of a contagious disease must bring a note from the doctor stating that there is no danger of spreading the disease.

The first bell will ring at 7:50 AM which means students should leave the cafeteria, gymnasium, etc. and report directly to their classrooms. Students who are not in their classrooms when the 8:00 AM bell rings will be considered tardy.

Students arriving after 8:00 AM but before 9:45 AM will be considered tardy. Students arriving after 9:45 AM or leaving before 2:00 PM will be counted one half-day absent.

Early dismissal of students is discouraged. The last few minutes of the day are important as the teacher is reminding students of homework and important information. Considerable disruption is caused when a teacher has to prepare one student to leave early. Please be considerate in this regard. If there is an emergency and you must have your child leave early, report directly to the office and your child will be called to the office for dismissal. Do not go to your child's classroom. Students will not be dismissed to anyone other than the custodial parent or guardian without permission of the parent or guardian. The adult must sign the log book in the office prior to the student leaving the building.

**Excused absence**—absence for which work can be made up; included are doctor and dentist appointments

**Unexcused absence**—absence for which work cannot be made up; included are hair appointments, parties, movies, shopping

**Family vacation**—Students will be excused if arrangements are made in advance, unless absence becomes excessive. Vacation requests need to be made in writing one week in advance. A Family Vacation Excused Absence Request form is available in the office. A maximum total of five (5) days per school year may be granted. No approval will be granted during mandated state testing. **This absence DOES count as excessive absence days.**

### **Absences**

A. At 38 hours absence, excused or unexcused, a letter of warning will be sent to the parents.

**Excessive absences are defined below as excessive or truant according to House Bill 410:**

B. At 65 hours absence, excused or unexcused, a second letter will be sent to the parents and a parent conference may be requested.

C. **At 65 hours absence (excused or unexcused) a doctor's excuse is required for each absence** or the student may be required to make up days after school. The building principal will have the final decision on determination of circumstances. Long-term illness will be considered.

After 65 hours of absence, a doctor's excuse or an excuse from the court will be required and the Attendance Intervention Team will be selected to meet with the parent(s) and student to implement an intervention plan and determine the need for community resources.

D. Absences with medical excuses do not count toward HB 410. Therefore, please always obtain a written excuse when attending a doctor's appointment.

**Habitual truancy, according to House Bill 410, is defined as follows:**

Absent 30 or more consecutive school hours without a legitimate excuse, absent 42 or more school hours in one month without a legitimate excuse, or absent 72 or more school hours in one year without a legitimate excuse.

When a student is deemed habitually truant, the Attendance Intervention Team will be selected to meet with the parent(s) and student. After the intervention plan has been submitted and implemented and the student does not make progress on the plan within 61 days or misses 30 or more consecutive school hours or 42 school hours in one month, the district will file a complaint with the Juvenile Court.

Mediation will be held at the school with a Magistrate or other representative of the Juvenile Court when absences become extreme and the parents have already received a letter regarding their child's absences based on the hours indicated in Absences Parts A-C above. Should mediation prove unsuccessful, the next step will be to file charges in Juvenile Court.

### **AWARDS**

An annual Awards Day Assembly will be held during the last week of school to recognize students for their participation in various clubs/activities during the school year, and their achievement in AR and First in Math. This assembly will be divided into grade level sections (K, 1st/2nd, 3rd/4th, and 5th/6th) in which each part will last approximately 45 minutes. Guests and parents of students being recognized are invited to attend.

An Honors Night will be held during the last month of school to recognize students who have met the requirements of demonstrating academic achievement. For all four quarters of the current school year, students in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 need to satisfy at least one of the following in any combination to attend the event:

\*Honors: All A's and B's in the four core subjects (math, ELA, science and social studies)

\*High Honors: All A's in the four core subjects (math, ELA, science and social studies)

The cut off for grades for the last quarter will be midterm. The exact date each year will be relayed to teachers, students and parents. Each student will be allowed a limited number of guests to attend the Honors Night.

### **BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL**

Please do not permit your child to enter the elementary building before 7:30 AM as there is no supervision before that time. Parents should say good-bye to their children at the front door and should not accompany them to their classrooms. Students are to go to the elementary gym upon arrival to school and wait in the designated area until 7:50 AM. At that time they will be dismissed by grade level to their assigned homerooms.

All students will dismiss at the 5th-6th grade doors toward the north end of the building. Students who ride the bus will board their assigned bus at this time, and teachers will escort students who walk or are picked up to the front of the building across from the main parking lot. Parents who transport their children to and from school are asked to wait on the sidewalk across the street from the front entrance. Parents should be at the school at 2:45 PM to pick their children up when they are dismissed. If parents are not able to be here at 2:45 PM, arrangements must be made for someone else to pick them up. Children will not be allowed to cross the street without school or adult personnel and will not be released to enter the parking lot on their own due to safety concerns.

No child is to leave the school for any reason unless permission has been secured from the office. (See early dismissal under attendance policy.)

Students who walk to and from school are to leave immediately upon dismissal at 2:45 PM.

Students are not permitted to stay after school unless they have a note from their parents that has been approved by school personnel. Students will be sent home in the usual way they normally go home if a note has not been received prior to dismissal time. Students who stay after school must be supervised by an adult. **Please make all phone-in dismissal changes before 1:45 PM to ensure that the arrangements can be conveyed to your child(ren).**

### **BUILDING OR EQUIPMENT DAMAGES**

Students are expected to take proper care of school equipment. Student desks and lockers may be checked periodically for damage, or possession of tobacco, drugs, or alcohol.

Pupils will be charged for any or all intentional damage to the building or its contents. In addition, discipline will be issued in accordance with the severity of the damage. Accidental breakage should be reported to the office at once.

### **BUS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The safety of all pupils on our buses is of utmost importance! Every precaution must be taken to see that they arrive at their destination safely, efficiently, and economically. Bus driving is a difficult task and anything that happens on the bus to divert the driver's attention affects the safety of everyone on the bus. It is, therefore, absolutely necessary that students riding on the bus conduct themselves in the best manner possible. Your cooperation is earnestly solicited.

The Old Fort Board of Education, as part of the District's ongoing program to improve student discipline and ensure the health, welfare and safety of all those riding school transportation vehicles, shall utilize video cameras on a rotating basis on all school vehicles transporting students to and from curricular and extracurricular activities. Video cameras will be used to monitor student behavior and may be used as evidence in student disciplinary proceedings. The videotapes are student records subject to school district confidentiality, board policy, and administrative regulations. The video cameras will also be used as instructive aids to district bus drivers to improve individual bus discipline, when warranted.

All buses will unload by the playground at the south end of the building. **Upon arrival at school, students are to exit and proceed directly into the school building.**

The driver of the bus will have complete charge of the conduct of all students as they enter, leave, or ride his/her bus. Any persistent irregularity of any major act of improper conduct will result in referral to the principal for discipline.

Students will be expected to obey the following rules and regulations.

Each student must:

1. Not participate in any activity that draws the driver's attention away from safely operating the school bus.
2. Show respect to and obey the bus driver at all times.
3. Be at the bus stop on time. The driver has been instructed not to wait. The driver shall operate the bus on the approved time schedule and shall wait for students if ahead of schedule.
4. Always cross in front of the bus both when loading and unloading. Wait for the bus driver to signal it is safe to cross.
5. Stand at the residence side designated place of safety before the bus arrives and not approach the bus until it has come to a complete stop.
6. Not disembark from the bus and go to a mailbox. Ohio state law states a student must wait until after the bus leaves before going to the mailbox.
7. Must board or leave the bus only at designated locations unless there is both parental and administrative authorization to do otherwise.
8. Enter the bus in an orderly manner using the handrail to board the bus.
9. Remain seated and in the same seat at all times with all body parts inside the bus while the bus is in motion.
10. Sit in a position that will provide maximum protection by the barrier (no feet in the aisle or on the seats).
11. Carry onto the bus only items which can be held in the student's lap.
12. Maintain a clear pathway to the exit doors (no feet in the aisle).
13. Not eat or drink on the bus, except with a medical excuse that is on file in the office.
14. Keep noise to a minimum. **Absolute silence is required at all railroad crossings.**
15. Not use profane or obscene language or make improper gestures.
16. Not smoke, cause an open flame, fight, wrestle, use a flash camera, use a laser pointer, possess trading cards, possess buttons, etc. on the bus.
17. Not leave paper or litter on the floor or seats of the bus.
18. Not bring any animal on the school bus, except one intended for special needs assistance.
19. Not possess alcohol, tobacco, or drugs on the bus except prescription medication required for the student's welfare.
20. Not possess firearms, ammunition, weapons, explosives (including aerosol cans) or other dangerous materials or objects on the school bus.

21. Possess only audio equipment with headphones on the bus.
22. Walk to the busses when dismissed and not go into the high school without permission.
23. Have a bus pass signed by parent or guardian if not going on their regular bus.

### **BUS CONDUCT METHODS OF DISCIPLINE**

Students not following appropriate bus safety rules may receive:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense**—a written warning from the bus driver; a copy of the warning is given to the student's parents. The principal will determine disciplinary consequences as appropriate.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Offense**—a second written warning from the bus driver; a copy of the warning is given to the student's parents. The principal will determine disciplinary consequences as appropriate.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Offense** – a written warning from the bus driver; a copy of the warning is given to the student's parents. The principal will determine disciplinary consequences as appropriate, up to and possibly including removal from the bus for a period of time.

**School officials may tailor consequences to account for individual circumstances in each situation.**

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE**

In order for school records to be kept current, and in the event it is necessary to contact parents for emergency purposes, the school office must be notified of any change in student's address and phone number as soon as they occur. It is especially important that parents' work phone numbers and emergency phone numbers be kept up to date and current as well. Parents are to make changes in Final Forms as they occur.

### **CHILD CUSTODY**

Parents are to inform the school any time the custody of a child changes (S.B. 140 requires this). School officials will need to see and copy court orders pertaining to a child's custody upon registering for school or in the case of a change in custody.

Natural parents have the right to access their child's records, report cards, and to be present at scheduled conferences. A non-custodial parent may request and receive a copy of the child's records and progress.

### **CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS**

School personnel devote much time and give much thought to the best placement for each student. Many factors must be taken into consideration in the process and classroom assignments are based on the individual child's needs as well as the needs of the other students.

Some of the criteria used for classroom assignments are: 1) ability and performance, 2) social and emotional development, 3) learning disabilities, 4) personalities of students and teachers, 5) combinations of certain students, and 6) equal distribution of boys and girls per class.

With these numerous factors involved, it is not feasible to honor individual parent requests regarding student classroom assignments. Please do not request a specific teacher. We ask that you rely on our professional judgment in making proper class assignments for the benefit of all students. Parents with questions regarding placement procedures should contact the principal.

### **COMPUTER NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY AND AGREEMENT**

The Old Fort Local School District (OFLSD) is pleased to give all district employees, students and visitors access to interconnected computer systems within the District and to the Internet, the world-wide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities.

In order for the OFLSD to be able to continue to make its computer network and Internet access available, all district employees, students and visitors must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access. All district employees, students and visitors must understand that one individual's misuse of the network and Internet access may jeopardize the ability of all to enjoy such access. While teachers and staff members are responsible for supervision of network and Internet access, all district employees, students and visitors must cooperate in exercising and promoting responsible use of this access. Upon reviewing, signing, and returning this Policy and Agreement, students, district employees and visitors will be given access to the network and Internet access at School and will agree to follow the Policy. The OFLSD cannot provide access to any student, district employee or visitor who fails to sign and submit the Policy to the School as directed.

Listed below are the provisions of your agreement regarding computer network and Internet use. If you have any questions about these provisions, you should contact the District Technology Coordinator to respond to your questions. If any user violates this Policy and Agreement, the individual's access will be denied, if not already withdrawn and he/she may be subject to additional disciplinary action.

#### **I. Personal Responsibility**

By signing this Policy and Agreement, you are agreeing not only to follow the rules in this Policy and Agreement, but are agreeing to report any misuse of the network to the person designated by the School for such reporting. Misuse means any violations of this Policy or any other use that is not included in the Policy and has the effect of harming another or his/her property.

#### **II. Term of the Permitted Use**

As part of the educational process we understand that students, district employees and visitors should have access to educational material and by signing and returning this form, the students, district employees and visitors will be granted that access. Students will be asked to sign a new Policy and Agreement each year during which they are students at the OFLSD before they are given access.

#### **III. Purpose and Use**

The School District is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet for educational purposes **only**. If you have any doubt about whether a contemplated activity is educational, you may consult with the District Technology Coordinator or the person(s) supervising the activity to help you decide if a use is appropriate. No web browsing software, which bypasses the filtering system, can be installed on computers used or located within the OFLSD.

**Netiquette** All users must abide by rules of network etiquette, which include:

1. Use of appropriate language. No swearing, vulgarities, suggestive, obscene, belligerent or threatening language. Don't use language that is offensive to others, or make ethnic, sexual preference or gender-related slurs or jokes.
2. Be safe. In using the computer network and Internet, do not reveal personal information such as your home address and telephone number.
3. Uses that violate the law or encourage others to violate the law. Don't transmit offensive or harassing messages; offer for sale or use any substance the possession or use of which is prohibited by the OFLSD Handbooks: view, transmit or download pornographic materials or materials that encourage others to violate the law; intrude into the networks or computers of others; and download or transmit confidential, trade secret information, or copyrighted materials. Even if materials on networks are not marked with the copyright symbol, you should assume that all materials are protected unless there is explicit permission on the materials to use them.
4. Uses that cause harm to others or damage to their property. For example, don't engage in defamation (harming another's reputation by lies); employ another's password or some other user identifier that misleads message recipients into believing that someone other than you is communicating or otherwise using his/her access to the network or the Internet; upload worms, viruses, Trojan horses, time bombs, chain letters, or other harmful programming or vandalism. Don't disclose or share your password with others; don't impersonate another.
5. Uses that access controversial or offensive materials. It is understood that access is designed for educational purposes and precautions have been taken to eliminate controversial material. However, it is also recognized it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials, and every user must take responsibility for his/her use of the computer network and Internet and stay away from these sites.
6. Uses that are commercial transactions, product advertisement, or political lobbying.

#### **IV. Privacy**

Electronic transfer and storage of information is provided as a tool for your education. The OFLSD 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 all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. All such information files are and shall remain the property of the OFLSD and no user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

#### **V. Failure to Follow Policy and Breach of Agreement**

The use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. A user who violates this Policy and breaches his/her Agreement shall, at a minimum, have his/her access to the computer network and Internet terminated, which the OFLSD may refuse to reinstate for the remainder of the user's tenure in the OFLSD. A user breaches his/her Agreement not only by affirmatively violating the above Policy, but also by failing to report any violations by other users that come to the attention of the user. Further, a user violates this Policy and Agreement if he or she permits another to use his/her account or password to access the computer network and Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated. The OFLSD make other disciplinary action.

#### **VI. Warranties/Indemnification**

The OFLSD makes no warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied, in connection with its provision of access to and use of its computer networks and the Internet provided under this Policy and Agreement. It shall not be responsible for any claims, losses, damages or costs (including attorney's fees) of any kind suffered directly or indirectly by any user or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) arising out of the user's use of its computer networks or the Internet under this Policy and Agreement. By signing this Policy and Agreement, users are taking full responsibility for his/her use, and the parent(s) or guardian(s) are agreeing to indemnify and hold the School, OFLSD, Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association that provides the computer and Internet access opportunity to the OFLSD and all of their administrators, teachers and staff harmless from any and all loss, costs, claims or damages resulting from the user's access to its computer network and the Internet, including but not limited to any fees or charges incurred through purchases of goods or services by the user. The user and the user's parent(s) or guardian(s) agree to cooperate with the School in the event of the School's initiating an investigation of a user's use of his/her access to its computer network and the Internet, whether that use is on School computer or on another's outside the School District's network.

#### **VII. Updates**

Users and, if appropriate, the user's parent(s)/guardian(s) may be asked from time to time to provide new or additional registration information or to sign a new Policy and Agreement. For example, the policy may reflect developments in the law or technology.

Your signature on the form indicates that you agree to abide by the Acceptable Use Policy as described herein:

#### **User agreement:**

I have read, understand and agree to abide by the terms of the foregoing Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement. Should I commit any violation or in any way misuse my access to the Old Fort School District's computer network and the Internet, I understand and agree that my access privilege may be revoked and school disciplinary action may be taken against me.

It is further understood that as the parent or legal guardian of this student, I have read, understand and agree that my child or ward shall comply with the terms of the OFLSD's Acceptable Use Policy and Agreement for the students' access to the OFLSD'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 my child's or ward's responsibility for abiding by the Policy and Agreement. I am, therefore, signing this Policy and Agreement and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the School, the OFLSD and Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association that provides the opportunity to the OFLSD for computer network and Internet access against all claims, damages, losses and costs, of whatever kind, that may result from my child's or ward's use of his/her access to such networks or his/her violation of the foregoing Policy and Agreement. I hereby give permission for my child or ward to use the building-approved account to access the School District's computer network and the Internet.

#### **CELL PHONES/ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

School staff are responsible to create an environment that is conducive to learning and free from disruptions yet recognize that many students want the privilege of bringing electronic devices (cell phones, tablets, ipods, smart watches, etc.) to school. Students are permitted to bring electronic devices provided they do not disrupt the educational process in any way.

Upon entry to the building, electronic devices should be turned off and out of sight. Items should be stored in a bookbag and/or locker. Students are permitted to use electronic devices on buses. However, responsible use of such devices is expected. Improper use of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to: taking photos/videos of students or staff, posting photos/videos to social media, etc. Students using electronic devices inappropriately will be subject to disciplinary consequences, and a police report could be filed depending on the situation.

We recognize that situations occur during the school day that may necessitate communication between parents and students. However, communication between home and school should be made through school personnel only.

Failure to comply with the stated guidelines above will result in the device being confiscated by staff and sent to the office. The following disciplinary actions will be implemented:

**First Violation:** The electronic device will be held by the administrator and returned to the student at the end of school day.

**Second Violation:** The electronic device will be held by the administrator and returned only to a parent.

**Third Violation:** The electronic device will be held by the administrator and returned only to a parent at the end of the current quarter.

**Fourth Violation:** The electronic device will be held by the administrator and returned only to a parent at the end of the current semester.

### **DETENTION**

Detention is a consequence which is the result of a student's behavior or excessive late work. Detention type, dates, and times are assigned by the school staff. Detention types include: lunch detention, recess detention, lunch & recess detention, or after school detention.

For after school detentions a parent signature on the discipline notice is required to acknowledge the date of the detention and that transportation arrangements are the parent's responsibility. Detentions will be scheduled after school and will follow the guidelines set forth in the student handbook. After-school detentions will be served from 2:45-3:45 PM in the elementary building. A detention may be rescheduled for an emergency with a request made by the parent prior to the detention date. Failure to serve a detention may result in additional consequences

### **DRESS CODE AND APPEARANCE**

#### **General Guidelines:**

- Dress and appearance should be appropriate for the school setting.
- Students are encouraged to have a neat and clean appearance.
- Clothing, shoes and hairstyles should be conducive to the learning environment.
- If there are any questions as to the appropriateness of any type of clothing, hairstyle/coloring, and/or personal adornment, the building principal should be contacted in advance.
- The waiving of the dress code can be done by the administration only.
- All final decisions involving dress code lie with the building principal.
- In the event that a student has unacceptable dress or appearance, it is the responsibility of the family to make arrangements to immediately remedy the situation.
- When possible, students should bring a change of shoes when wearing snow boots to school.
- It is important that students dress appropriately during cold weather for recess (hat, gloves, winter coat, boots etc.)

#### **Acceptable** dress would include:

- Sweat pants, jeans, and shirts that are neat in appearance
  - Skirt and dress hems must come to top of knees while standing
  - Shorts that are at least mid-thigh in length while standing and fit properly at the waist or hips.
- Shoes and sandals that have a back or strap to cover the heel to ensure student safety
- Tank tops with straps at least two fingers wide with no undergarments showing
- Clothing worn so that no skin is showing between pants and shirts when standing or seated

#### **Unacceptable** dress would include: roller "skate" shoes no masks Ear piercings only? (not nose, lip, eyebrow piercings)

- Clothing and jewelry with obscene, profane, pro-drug/alcohol/tobacco, racial or sexual implications
- Pants with excessive holes
- Shoes containing roller skates.
- Any jewelry, shoes or clothing which may present a safety hazard
- Hats, head coverings, or bandanas without permission of the principal, this includes head coverings attached to clothing. (Example sweatshirt hoods may not be worn in the hallways or classrooms)
- Plunging necklines (Shirts must have a modest neckline or buttoned to a modest height.)
- Undergarments showing
- Shirts or dresses with spaghetti straps

**\*\* Many times a situation results in a "judgment call" by the school administration that shall remain the final arbiter.**

## **EMERGENCY PLANS**

Our staff is prepared to take prudent actions should any emergency arise during the school day. Fire, tornado, and other emergency evacuations drills are conducted periodically to give staff and students the opportunity to practice procedures. In the event of an actual emergency, it is in the best interest of both you and your child for you to refrain from driving to school to pick up your child. In addition to the danger involved in being in a car during certain emergencies, it is extremely disruptive to the emergency procedure being implemented to have persons unfamiliar with our plans "on the scene" as it may take away from the safe and reassuring environment we are attempting to provide all students during this time. Under these conditions, no students are to leave the premises without procedural releases.

If staff and students would ever need to evacuate the building, we would walk to the American Legion. If we were unable to return to the school campus, students would be dismissed from the American Legion. In the case of a true emergency with early dismissal, you would be notified using the automated phone messaging system. These calls should still go through to cell phones, even if landlines are down. Please remember that only custodial parents, legal guardians or those listed as emergency contacts in Final Forms can sign-out a student in an early dismissal situation. You should know who you listed as emergency contacts in Final Forms and ensure that they are aware of any medical needs of your child. They must have a photo ID to sign-out your child. It is imperative that we have a way to contact you during the school day. Please keep your Final Forms information updated with any changes to home, cell or work phone numbers so that we always have up-to-date contact information for you.

## **FIELD TRIPS**

As part of our student's educational experiences, field trips are planned throughout the year. Field trip permission forms must be completed via Final Forms prior to student participation. Individual students may be excluded from class trips if their behavior is not respectable. The school reserves the right to deny individual student participation in a field trip due to the student's record of misconduct as it may be viewed as a detriment to the class participation and the benefit of others.

Field trips are educational experiences and not family outings. Only designated chaperones are permitted on school field trips. Parents who are volunteering to chaperone may not bring younger children on the trip. Due to limited bus space available and the requirements of the field trip site to be visited, only a certain number of chaperones may go on a trip. All chaperones must fill out an emergency medical authorization(EMA) prior to riding school transportation or drive separately.

## **GRADES**

Report cards will be issued at the close of each quarter of the school year. Grades will be periodically added throughout the quarter in a timely manner. The first mandatory conference period will be scheduled for all students in grades K-6. The second conference period will be arranged for students in K-6 by the teacher. The fourth nine-week period grade cards will be sent home with the students. A student may be invited to attend a portion of the scheduled conference.

Impromptu conferences during the day are not permitted as classroom instruction must not be interrupted. A conference with a teacher should be planned at least one full day in advance. Early Withdrawal/Late Entry Reports are issued to students who have attended school in our district for less than one nine-week period.

## **GRADE SCALES**

### **Major Subjects**

A 100 – 93	C 76 – 73
A- 92 – 90	C- 72 – 70
B+ 89 – 87	D+ 69 – 67
B 86 – 83	D 66 – 63
B- 82 – 80	D- 62 – 60
C+ 79 – 77	F 59 – 0

### **Minor Subjects**

O Outstanding
S+ Satisfactory+
S Satisfactory
S- Satisfactory-
N Needs Improvement
U Unsatisfactory

### **Kdg-Grade 2**

M Mastered
P Progressing
N Needs Improvement

## **GUIDANCE SERVICES**

School Counselors are available at both the elementary and junior high/high school to assist with any academic, social/emotional, or college/career concerns. The elementary counselor may be reached at 419-986-5166 and the junior high/high school counselor may be reached at 419-992-4291. Students may be seen by the elementary Mental Health

Therapist once consent has been given by the parents/guardians.

## **GYM CLASS**

All students in grades K-6 are required to wear tennis shoes and clothing suitable for physical activity to gym class. Keeping tennis shoes in a locker or classroom is ideal, but not required. Students who need to be excused from physical activity for medical reasons need a note from their parent. Notes will be honored one day at a time. Any restrictions beyond a week will require a note from a doctor. Deodorant is recommended for grades 4-6.

## **HEALTH ROOM**

Students who become ill or injured during school hours are sent to the office. Depending on the nature of the illness, a student may rest in the health room for a period of time or a parent may be notified to transport the student home; example: signs of contagious illness or student not improving and unable to return to class. Students who have a fever, cannot return to school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications. Students who vomit or have diarrhea cannot return until symptom free for 24 hours. If any of the following occur, please keep student home: fever, vomiting, diarrhea, live lice found or new infestation of nits found, new onset of suspicious rash, new onset of symptoms (frequent cough, sore throat, nasal congestion with color drainage, respiratory difficulties, student is fatigue or uncomfortable).



## **HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION**

If a student has a prolonged absence due to an accident or illness, arrangements can be made through the principal for home instruction. The superintendent and the Board of Education must give final approval.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework will be assigned by teachers to provide practice of a skill or review of material covered in class or to otherwise enhance the learning process. It is not intended as "busy work." Therefore, we encourage parents to see that the student has a place to work, proper books, papers, etc. to complete the assigned work. A general rule of thumb for the average time for homework assigned is:

Grade 1-10 minutes	Grade 4—40 minutes
Grade 2-20 minutes	Grade 5—50 minutes
Grade 3-30 minutes	Grade 6—60 minutes

Weekends are to be used for make-up and additional review, if necessary.

When a child is absent from school, homework assignments may be requested. We request that you call in the morning so the teacher will have ample time to prepare the assignments and gather books and materials. Homework may be sent home with a brother, sister or neighbor as requested or may be picked up at the office at the end of the day.

## **IMMUNIZATION & MEDICATION**

Ohio State Immunization Law requires that all school children be adequately immunized against the following diseases: Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus, Rubella, Measles and Mumps, Varicella and Hepatitis B. **Students who do not have minimum immunization will not be admitted to school.**

The Old Fort Board of Education strongly recommends that medication be administered at home. If this cannot be done, parents may come to school to administer medication to their children. If this is not possible then the following policy must be followed:

1. All medications, including cough drops, must be stored in the office and administered by office personnel. 2. **Prescription drugs and non-prescription medication** must be in the original container with all vital information, student's name, date, name of drug, and time intervals to be taken. Prescription medication must be accompanied with a form **signed by the doctor and the parent** (see O.R.C. 3313.713). Over-the-Counter medication must be accompanied by a form signed by the parent. These forms are available in the office or on Final Forms and completed forms are kept on file for the entire year. All medications must not be expired, and non-prescription medication must be for the appropriate age range, or a prescription is needed. If medication is for allergies/asthma/seizures/diabetes, then the appropriate "Action Plan" needs to be completed by a provider, please ask the nurse for these forms.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

In case of extreme weather conditions, school closings and delays will be announced using local media, the Old Fort Schools app, and the automated phone messaging system. If early dismissal must take effect due to weather, it will also be announced in the same manner. Please do not call the school for information on weather related closings or delays. If you would like to be included in the calling system, please sign-up on our district web site under "One Call Change Form".

## **LIBRARY BOOKS**

Each child is responsible for the library materials checked out in his/her name. The following scale will be used to assess lost or damaged materials. If all efforts to locate the book at school have been exhausted, the parents will be contacted to help locate the book at home. If the book is lost, a bill will be issued and sent from the treasurer's office. Another book may not be checked out until the previous book has been returned or paid for in full.

Lost or damaged books- total cost replacement based on current price of the book

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Students are responsible for their own possessions. Everything that can be marked (lunch boxes/bags, articles of clothing, etc.) should have the student's full name on it. All lost and found articles will be placed in the lost and found area. All money or jewelry will be claimed in the elementary office. If you have lost an item, please notify your teacher or the office immediately. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity at the end of each semester.

## **LUNCH/BREAKFAST PROGRAM**

Lunch will be served each day school is in session. Students have the option of buying a school lunch or packing a lunch. Milk and ala carte items are available for purchase. Parents and senior citizens have an open invitation to join us for lunch anytime. Parents are not to accompany their children onto the playground for recess.

The charge for a full lunch is \$2.50; \$0.40 for reduced. We encourage you to pay for lunches on a weekly or monthly basis. Students' accounts are entered in the Café Terminal system with each student having his/her "PIN" number. Students will be permitted to carry a small charge balance unless special permission is granted by the principal. Students exceeding this limit will be served an alternate lunch rather than a regular tray.

Free and reduced priced lunches are available to all students who qualify. A new lunch form must be completed for each new school year and updated as needed if the information changes. Applications are available in the office or downloaded from Final Forms. Applications must be returned to determine eligibility.

Good lunchroom manners are important. Students are responsible for removing their own trays and cleaning their own area. The throwing of or playing with food is prohibited. Running in the cafeteria will not be allowed. Trading food is not allowed.

Breakfast will be served from 7:40 AM until 7:55 AM at a price of \$1.50; reduced is \$ .30. Students who walk or are dropped off and wish to eat breakfast in the cafeteria should be at school by 7:45 AM. This time will be adjusted accordingly for bus riders if the bus is late. The cafeteria line will close at 7:55 AM and all students will be dismissed to classrooms at 8:00.

### **FOOD/DRINKS**

Students are permitted to have only water in their water bottles.

No food or drinks are allowed to be consumed in the hallways. Food and drinks may be allowed in the classroom with teacher permission only. Energy drinks are prohibited during school hours.

### **MUSIC PROGRAMS**

Music programs will be presented during the year. Students in the designated grades are expected to participate in the scheduled performances. Compliance with reasonable appropriate dress as decided on by faculty and administration is necessary. If your child is scheduled to, but will not participate, in the music program, advance notice is appreciated.

### **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**

Our PTO has been established to help the elementary teachers and students. Please call the elementary office for the names of the current officers. Membership is free and open to any elementary parent. We strongly urge you to become involved.

### **PARTIES/BIRTHDAY TREATS**

Classroom parties may occur during various holidays. If your child does not wish to participate due to religious reasons, he/she may be excused to the library during party time.

Birthday parties for students are not permitted; however, birthday treats for students may be shared with classmates during lunchtime at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Balloons, flowers, and other celebrations or decorations are not permitted at school. Invitations for private birthday parties that do not include the entire group of boys or girls should not be distributed at school. Student birthdays are announced with morning announcements.

### **PLAYGROUND RULES**

All students are to go out to recess at the time scheduled as long as weather and playground conditions are acceptable. Decisions on outdoor lunch recess will be based on the 20 degree mark. Teachers can choose to take classes outside for a brief recess(5-10 minutes) when weather conditions are below 20 degrees and favorable; and they have received permission from administration. Recess arrangements are announced as needed by the office staff. We expect students to be dressed for the weather each day and participate in playground activities.

Students who need to stay in for medical reasons need to bring a note from their parents. Notes will not be honored for more than one day at a time except in cases with unusual circumstances. If a prolonged absence from recess is necessary, a doctor's note is required. Students who do not go outside should remain seated in the appointed location. Your cooperation in limiting these exceptions is appreciated.

1. Students must have permission from the playground supervisor before leaving the playground.
2. Eat all food in the cafeteria. No food will be allowed on the playground.
3. There will be no tripping, fighting, or pushing.
4. Do not pick up or throw sticks, stones, dirt, snow, ice, mulch or other objects that might harm someone.
5. Return our playground equipment to the proper storage area.
6. Sit on the swings as intended. Do not twist the swings. Do not run/walk in front of or under a swing that is in use.
7. Mount the slide only by the steps. Slide down forward in a sitting position.
8. Walk across the paved areas for your own safety and the safety of others.
9. Assemble with your grade when the whistle is blown for us to end our play.
10. Do not use baseballs or golf balls.
11. Do not bring toys to school.
12. Do not lift or carry children around the playground.
13. Electronic devices are not permitted on the playground.
14. Do not play tag on the equipment.
15. Use our playground equipment properly. Do not climb on the top of the monkey bars.

### **SALES AND SOLICITATION**

Students are prohibited from transacting individual sales that are not approved by the Old Fort Board of Education.

### **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

Our school must maintain order since it is a vital prerequisite to learning. Even though the ultimate aim is self-discipline, the fact must be accepted that the authority of the teachers and principal is necessary as children are led slowly and gradually to the point where they can participate in the disciplining of themselves. It is our intent to give children freedom, but it is possible only when children have demonstrated that they can accept freedom by using it wisely.

Old Fort Elementary School maintains strong discipline. Students are expected to follow the rules of the school. If they "choose" not to follow the rules, they must serve the consequences. Each teacher must be allowed to teach and each student must be allowed to learn without interruptions. Students can expect to have a safe environment in the school, on the playground, and on the bus. Classroom rules are posted in each classroom and general rules are listed in our student/parent handbook. There should be no question as to what is expected of students.

Should it become necessary, interrogations and search of students during the school day and extracurricular activities may be conducted within the guidelines and policies of the Old Fort School District and the laws of the State of Ohio.

Corporal punishment will not be used as a means of correcting students in school. Loss of recess time or after school detention may be assigned to students who fail to follow rules. Suspension or expulsion will be given to serious or repeated violations according to the laws of the State of Ohio and the Old Fort School District.

All students have the right to know the framework of the procedures within which they are expected to assume a personal responsibility for their actions. They also have the right to know the disciplinary measures that will be taken when they fail to show this personal responsibility.

All situations will be investigated before a decision is made about the nature of the violation and the penalty to be administered. Parents have the appeal right for in-school suspension, out-of school suspension and expulsion. In an appeal the student has the right to legal counsel.

In a disciplinary action, a student will be offered the opportunity to respond to any and all charges against him or her during an informal hearing.

Due to the types and varieties of student discipline problems, the action taken by a teacher or administration must be left to the discretion of each person. Discretion, however, must be guided by code. The student conduct code shall be used by students, parents, teachers and administrators in clarifying said disciplinary actions. In all cases, the penalty will rest upon the severity of the violation. The administration reserves the right to discipline any student for any violation not listed in the school conduct code.

Violation of conduct rules by a student may result in but is not limited to disciplinary action(s) such as counseling, assignment of work, detention, rearrangement of class schedule, social probation, parental contact, removal from class, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to the juvenile authorities.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE CODE**

The code meets the intent of HB421 which requires each Board of Education to adopt a set of rules and regulations designed to maintain order and discipline necessary for effective learning. The Board of Education's primary concern is that students learn in an environment conducive to learning. Students in a school system have the responsibility to act in such a way as not to interfere with the rights of others to receive the proper educational opportunity. By accepting the right to participate in school programs on and off school property, the students shall also accept the responsibility to conduct themselves according to the rules, regulations, and provisions governing the operation of these programs. Students are subject to the discipline code while attending athletic events, all other school functions, while on field trips and to and from field trips.

The Student Discipline Code describes: (1) the types of conduct that will lead to certain disciplinary action, and (2) the procedures to be employed in removals, suspensions, and expulsions of students. The Student Discipline Code shall be made available to all students and posted in a central location within each school building.

### **METHODS OF DISCIPLINE**

The building principal is charged with the proper enforcement of discipline in the total school setting.

The principal has the discretionary authority to use or authorize other certified personnel to use the following disciplinary measures to correct pupil behavior:

Assign detention; deny privileges; in-school suspension; suspension from school and/or extracurricular activities; recommend to the superintendent for expulsion; refer for citation to Juvenile Court; arrange pupil or parental conferences; removal from class, extra-curricular activities, or the premises; call juvenile authorities and/or notify police; emergency removal; prescribe other disciplinary measures; referral to Seneca County attendance officer; community or school service.

A violation of any of the following rules may result in disciplinary action as prescribed above.

**Rule 1 *Disruption of School*** A student shall not, by use of violence, force, coercion, threat, harassment or intimidation, cause the disruption or obstruction of the educational process, including all curricular and extracurricular activities. Some examples of disruption would include unusual dress and appearance, fighting, bomb threats, arson, the setting off of fire alarms, strikes or walk outs, continuously and intentionally making noise or acting in any manner so as to interfere seriously with the teacher's ability to conduct his/her class. This may result in a suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 2 *Fighting*** Any student starting or participating in a fight may be suspended from school and will not be allowed to make up missed work. When a student is suspended for fighting, charges may be filed. This may result in suspension up to ten (10) days and a possible recommendation for expulsion.

**Rule 3 *Aggressive Physical Contact*** Any student placing his/her hands or feet on another student or teacher for any reason may be subject to a form of suspension.

**Rule 4 *Harassment- Intimidation- Hazing- and/or Threatening Statements/Bullying*** The school believes that every individual deserves to be able to come to school without fear of demeaning remarks or actions. Harassment of other students or members of staff, or any other individuals is not permitted. This includes any speech or action that creates a hostile, intimidating, threatening or offensive learning environment. **This includes situations brought to school from websites or social media.** This may result in a suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 5 *Narcotics, Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs*** The school has a Drug Free zone that extends 1,000 feet beyond the school boundaries as well as to any school activity and transportation. This means that any activity – sale, use, trafficking, manufacturing, possession, and distribution of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, drug paraphernalia, or look alike drugs are prohibited. This would also include the use of nonalcoholic beers and wines and the misuse of prescribed or non-prescribed drugs. Students are not permitted to attend school or school-sponsored events and activities under the influence of any narcotics, drugs, or alcohol.

Many drug abuse offenses are felonies and students violating the above rule are subject to the following consequences:

- Suspension from school for ten (10) days with recommendation for expulsion
- Parental notification and referral for an alcohol/drug assessment, and/or recommendation for expulsion
- Police notification

Students suspected of being under the influence are subject to the following consequences:

- Suspension from three (3) to ten (10) days
- Parental notification and referral for alcohol/drug assessment, and/or recommendation for expulsion
- Suspension days may be waived by agreement of school administration and parents, upon proof of completed intervention procedure

**Rule 6 *Possession of a Weapon – Explosives*** A weapon includes conventional objects like guns, firearms, pellet guns, knives, club-type implements or ammunition of any type. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon or an object converted from its original use to an object used to threaten or injure another. This

includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, chairs, laser pointers, jewelry, and so on. Criminal charges may be filed for this violation. Possession of a weapon may lead to expulsion.

Under Federal law, a firearm is defined as any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device. A destructive device includes but is not limited to any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter ounce, mine, or other similar device. This also includes fireworks. A knife is defined as any cutting instrument consisting of at least one sharp blade. This will result in a ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion. Police report filed.

**THE SUPERINTENDENT MAY EXPEL A STUDENT FOR AN ENTIRE CALENDAR YEAR FOR THE USE OF OR POSSESSION OF WEAPONS AT SCHOOL, ON SCHOOL PROPERTY OR AT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES. THIS ALSO INCLUDES STUDENTS WHO INFLICT SERIOUS PHYSICAL HARM TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY AT SCHOOL, ON SCHOOL PROPERTY OR AT A SCHOOL ACTIVITY.**

**Rule 7 Insubordination** A student shall not disregard or refuse to obey reasonable directions given by school personnel during any period of time when the student is properly under the authority of school personnel. Repeated violation of any rule, directive, or discipline procedure shall constitute insubordination. This may result in a suspension or expulsion.

**Rule 8 Assault/Attempted Assault Physically assaulting or attempting to assault a staff member/student/person associated with the district. Includes written or verbal threats about a staff member/student/person associated with the district.** Physical assault or attempting an assault on a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District which may or may not cause injury will not be tolerated. Any statement or non contact action that a staff member, student, or other person associated with the District feels to be a threat will be considered a verbal assault as will profanity directed toward a staff member in a threatening tone. Injury to a staff member may result in charges being filed and subject the student to expulsion. This may result in a ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion and a police report may be filed.

**Rule 9 Possession of Tobacco Products** Student smoking and possession of tobacco products is prohibited before school, during school, and after school in the building, on the grounds, on the busses, and in any area that a student waits at dismissal time.

Any student who violates the above rule will be dealt with as follows:

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| First Offense:  | Three (3) day in-school assignment.                                  |
| Second Offense: | Five (5) day in-school assignment.                                   |
| Third Offense   | Ten (10) day out-of-school suspension, recommendation for expulsion. |

A student is in violation of the smoking policy if any of the following exists:

1. A student is seen with a tobacco product in his/her mouth.
2. A student is seen throwing any tobacco product.
3. Smoke is seen coming from a student's mouth or nose.
4. Any tobacco product is seen in a student's hand.
5. Any tobacco product found on a student's person, book bag or locker.

**Rule 10 Truancy and Tardiness** Truancy is declared when a student is absent from school or any portion thereof without school authorization and parent consent. Repeated violations of tardiness shall be considered as violation of Rule #7. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 11 Extortion** Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force or deception to take or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 12 Falsification of School Work, Cheating** Falsification and cheating on one's school work and forgery will result in a "0" on class work and may result in detention, suspension or expulsion.

**Rule 13 Refusing to Accept Discipline** The School may use informal discipline to prevent the student from being removed from school. When a student refuses to accept the usual discipline for an infraction, the refusal can result in a sterner action. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 14 Theft – Unauthorized Possession of School or Personal Property** A student shall not take or acquire the property of others without their consent. This could also include property of the school. Students will be subject to a suspension for up to ten (10) days and a police report may be filed. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 15 Student Disorder Demonstration** Students will not be denied their rights to freedom of expression. However, the disruption of any school activity will not be allowed and the expression may not infringe on the rights of others. If a student or students feel there is need to organize some form of demonstration, they are encouraged to contact the Principal to discuss the proper way to plan such an activity. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 16 Aiding or Abetting Violation of School Rules** If a student assists another student in violating any school rule, they will be disciplined. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 17 Possession of Electronic Equipment** Using a cellular telephone or other ECD in an unauthorized manner or in violation of the policy, will result in the following disciplinary action:

**First Violation:** The electronic device will be held by the administrator and returned to the student at the end of school day.

**Second Violation:** The electronic device will be held by the administrator and returned only to a parent.

**Third Violation:** The electronic device will be held by the administrator and returned only to a parent at the end of the current quarter.

**Fourth Violation:** The electronic device will be held by the administrator and returned only to a parent at the end of the current semester.

Referral to law enforcement will be made if the violation involves an illegal activity (e.g. child pornography). A student is responsible for the use of their cellular telephone or ECD, even if the device is used by another student. Contents of cell phones may be searched if there exists reasonable suspicion that it may have been used in an activity prohibited by the Code of Conduct. In addition, students are not allowed to wear and listen to radios, tape players, CD players, portable TV's, headphones in the classroom or school building unless authorized by a teacher or administrator. This may also include cameras and video recorders not approved by school personnel. Laser pointers are prohibited. The property will be confiscated.

**Rule 18 False Alarms and False Reports** A false emergency alarm or report endangers the safety forces that are responding, the citizens of the community and the persons in the building. What may seem like a prank is a dangerous stunt that is against the law. This includes any communication that implies a threat to one's person or property that has a connection to school, or the process of schooling. Police will be notified. This may result in a ten (10) day suspension and a recommendation for expulsion. This is a federal offense.

**Rule 19 Trespassing** Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the school to restrict access on school property. When a student has been removed, suspended, expelled, or permanently excluded, the student is not allowed on school property without authorization of the Principal. This may result in expulsion.

**Rule 20 Attempting to or Purposely Setting a Fire** Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony. This may result in a ten (10) day suspension with recommendation for expulsion.

**Rule 21 Damage to School Property** A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to school property including building, grounds, equipment, or material. Marking, defacing, or damaging school property is forbidden. Violators of this rule will be required to pay for repair or replacement according to the laws of the State of Ohio and may face disciplinary action. If the student is a minor, his/her parents/guardians are, by law, financially responsible. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 22 Damage to Private Property** A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to private property on school premises, or at any of the school activities on or off school grounds. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 23 Open Flames, Lighters, Matches** A student shall not have in his/her possession a lighter, matches, or any flammable materials or not light a lighter or match in the school building, on the school bus, or on the school grounds. This may result in suspension of up to ten (10) days with possible recommendation for expulsion.

**Rule 24 Violation of Bus Rules** Please refer to Bus Rules and Regulations. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion from school or bus privileges.

**Rule 25 Profanity** A student shall not use any form of profanity in the school building, on school grounds, at school activities or the school bus. This would include, but not be limited to, obscene gestures, signs, letters, pictures, etc. This shall include obscene or inappropriate words or pictures on clothing. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 26 Gross Misconduct** A student's conduct in the classroom, school building, property, and during extra-curricular activities are of utmost importance to the process of education. A student's behavior shall not interfere with the ability of school district personnel to perform the job of teaching or obstruct another student's right to a free and appropriate education. A student shall not intentionally or unintentionally display misconduct in classrooms, hallways, cafeteria, restrooms, busses, grounds, parking lots, or on school property. Some examples of misconduct are insubordination, generating loud and unauthorized noise, running, profanity, inducing panic by word or action, aggressive behavior directed at students, staff, or property, or continuously buying and/or selling sponsored items on school property. This also includes any communication that implies a threat to one's person or property that has a connection to school, or the process of schooling. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 27 Endangerment** A student shall not engage in any activity or action that may result in the endangerment of another person's health and/or safety. Such actions include but are not limited to: throwing objects, tripping another student, placing a sharp object on a chair, spitting at another person, etc. Endangerment may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

**Rule 28 Disregard for Student Code of Conduct** Disregard for the Student Code of Conduct, as evidenced by repetitive violations of school rules and/or policy, could result in suspension with possible recommendation for expulsion.

**Rule 29 Skateboarding is not permitted on school property.**

**Rule 30 Tampering with Food/Drink** A student shall not tamper with any other person's food or drink. Tampering shall refer to altering, adding a foreign substance, placing a foreign object in, or contaminating food or drink in any manner. Tampering may result in injury/illness or having the potential to cause injury or illness. This may result in suspension and/or expulsion.

#### **IN-SCHOOL REASSIGNMENT (I.S.R.)**

The I.S.R. is an alternative to out-of-school suspension. The I.S.R. will allow a student to do work and receive credit. Their assignment is based upon their agreement on the guidelines listed below.

1. The I.S.R. room is located in an elementary room where the student is monitored.
2. Hours for the I.S.R. are the same as a regular school day: 8:00 A.M. to 2:45 P.M.
3. Students are responsible for bringing all books and materials to the I.S.R. room for the duration of their reassignment. Students may bring appropriate reading material that can be used when school assignments are completed.
4. Students are to remain in the room, in their seat, quietly working on school assignments.
5. Lunch: Students will eat lunch in the I.S.R. room. They may bring their own lunch from home or purchase a lunch through the school cafeteria.
6. Students will use the restroom as the supervisor designates.
7. Teachers will send students' work to the office for the I.S.R. Students are responsible for returning finished work to their teachers. Teachers will give appropriate credit for work completed. The student will receive no credit for work not completed.

8. While in attendance, each student shall observe the Student Discipline Code and the rules for the I.S.R. classroom. Any violations while attending the I.S.R. classroom will lead to further disciplinary consequences.
9. Students are not allowed on any other school property during the reassignment period. If a student must be on school property during the reassignment, the I.S.R. supervisor will make the arrangements.
10. Absence/Tardy: Any student absent from the I.S.R. will make up the day missed upon return unless other arrangements are made by the administrator.
11. Tests may be sent to the I.S.R. teacher to administer. Tests not sent by the classroom teacher will be made up following the I.S.R.
12. Assigned days not served at the end of the school year may be carried over to the next school year.
13. There will be no extra-curricular activities for students assigned to I.S.R. for the day in which the I.S.R. is served.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION**

**The superintendent, principal, or designee may suspend a student from school for not more than ten (10) days. No student shall be suspended unless prior to the suspension such superintendent or principal:**

1. Give the pupil written notice of the intention to suspend and the reason for the intended suspension.
2. Provides the student an opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the superintendent, principal, or designee and to challenge the reason for the intended suspension or otherwise to explain his/her actions. (It should be noted that the informal hearing is not an adversary hearing and the student has no right to counsel.)
3. If the student is to be suspended, he/she will be told of the suspension and its length.
4. The superintendent or principal shall, within twenty-four (24) hours after the time of the student's suspension, notify in writing the parent, guardian or custodian of the student and the treasurer of the Board of Education of such suspension. The notice shall include:
  - a. the reason for the suspension.
  - b. the right of the student or his/her parent, guardian or custodian to appeal such action to the board of education or its designee.
  - c. the right to be represented in all such appeal proceedings.
  - d. the right to a hearing before the Board of Education or its designee in order to be heard against such suspension.
  - e. the right to request that such hearing be held in executive session.
5. A student who is suspended shall be permitted to complete any classroom assignments missed because of the suspension, and receive at least partial credit for a completed assignment. Grade reductions on account of the student's suspension are permitted; however, no student may receive a failing grade on a completed assignment solely on account of his/her suspension. The grade for a completed classroom assignment missed because of a suspension will be reduced by ten percent (10%).

#### **REMOVAL FROM CLASS, BUILDING, BUS OR SCHOOL GROUNDS**

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, then an administrator or district employee may remove the student from class. This also includes all areas of the school building and school grounds. The student is then to report to the office, where school administrators or their designee will monitor the situation. Students may then be removed from the premises by order of school administration or their designee by way of suspension or emergency removal. The removal may be accomplished by the student's parent/guardian or representative of said parent/guardian. Removal may also be made by law enforcement officials to facilities under their jurisdiction.

Students who have been suspended shall not be eligible to participate in any school function for the duration of such disciplinary action and not be allowed on school property except for in-school reassignment. At the principal's discretion, students suspended from school may receive credit for assignments missed.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR EXPULSION**

Only the superintendent may expel. Due-process shall be afforded the student by the building administrator before such administrator recommends expulsion to the superintendent.

Prior to the intended expulsion, the superintendent must enact the following procedures:

1. Gives the pupil and his/her parents, guardian or custodian written notice of the intention to expel. That notice will include reasons for the intended expulsion and must advise the pupil and his/her parent, guardian, custodian or other representative of their right to appear in person before the superintendent or his designee to challenge the reasons for the expulsion. That notification must carry the time and place of the hearing which must take place not earlier than three (3) days and no later than five (5) days after the notice is sent. The superintendent may grant an extension of time, upon request, provided all parties involved are notified.
2. Conduct a hearing when practical under appropriate guidelines of hearing procedures within the above stated period.
3. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the expulsion, the superintendent must notify the parent, guardian, custodian and the clerk of the Board of Education of the action to expel the pupil. The notice must include the reasons for the expulsion and the right of the parent or custodian to appeal to the Board of Education or its designee and the right to be represented at the appeal and to request the hearing to be held in executive session.

#### **APPEAL TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A student and his/her parent or guardian may appeal his/her expulsion or suspension by a superintendent or principal to the Board of Education or its designee. Such student or his/her parent, guardian or custodian may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and shall be granted a hearing against such suspension or expulsion.

**STUDENT Leadership Team**

The students in grades 3-6 may participate in the elementary Student Leadership Team. The offices will be filled by the students (one per homeroom) who fill out a required application and possible interview with a committee. Students elected to hold an office in the Student Leadership Team must maintain a "C" or better grade in all subjects. Students may be removed based on excessive tardies and/or absences and repeated inappropriate behaviors and/or disciplinary referrals. Each case will be determined on an individual basis. Meetings will be held during lunch/recess. Some before and after school activities will also be required.

**STUDENT RECORDS**

Students' records are confidential and are protected by the "Privacy Act." A student's permanent record is available to parents within 24 hours of written request. The records include academic information, attendance records, standardized test scores and health records. This information will not be made available to out-of-school authorities without the permission of the parents unless a subpoena is issued by the court.

Directory information (names, addresses and phone numbers) will be made available upon request. Parents who object to information and/or pictures being released to school newsletters, local newspapers, scholarship committees, etc. should contact the elementary office via Final Forms.

**SUPPLY FEE**

There will be a supply fee for each student enrolled in grades K-6. There will be a charge for the band instrument rental and field trip admission fees. There is an additional \$40 technology fee for 6th grade students.(refer to District 1:1 Technology Initiative) Fees are due by the end of September. Please contact the office for a payment plan.

All supply fees must be paid and all library, textbooks, and Chromebooks must be returned or, if damaged, paid for, before the final report card will be released.

**SUPPLY LIST**

Your child will be expected to maintain standard school supplies needed for school. A list of these supplies is provided prior to the start of the school year and available on the school website. Parents/guardians have the opportunity to purchase school supplies through 1st Day School Supplies prior to the end of the previous school year.

**TEXTBOOKS & CHROMEBOOKS**

The Old Fort Board of Education provides all basic textbooks and Chromebooks at no cost to the children of our school. Textbooks and Chromebooks will be issued at the beginning of the year and returned at the end of the year. Lost or damaged books, Chromebooks, and chargers will be assessed a fine.

**VISITORS**

To be sure that we have the safest environment for our students, all visitors to the school must be buzzed in at the main door and sign in at the office before going into the building. This would include any community members or visiting parents that would go outside the main office for official business. Classroom visits should be arranged with the teacher at least 24 hours in advance.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Any member of the community who wishes to donate time in the elementary school is welcome. If you would like to give your time on a regularly scheduled basis, please notify the elementary office and we will work out a schedule with you.

Our elementary library is staffed with adult volunteers. All regularly scheduled volunteers are required to have a BCI clearance and orientation before working with students.

**WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE**

Parents should notify the school office as soon as possible if it becomes necessary to withdraw a student from our school. All withdrawals from school shall be handled through the office of the principal. Notice of such withdrawal shall be made by the parents or guardians in person or in writing. Proper forms must be completed, library books, chromebooks, and textbooks returned, and fees paid before a student's report card will be issued to the student.

**Old Fort Local Schools**  
**1:1 Technology Initiative**  
**Policies and Procedures Handbook**  
  
**Grades 6-12**

**Introduction**

- Old Fort Local Schools Technology Mission Statement

*Old Fort Local School District values the use of a blended learning environment to personalize the educational experience for our students. Student-centered instruction, technology integration, collaboration, innovation, and creativity is the focus for developing 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, critical thinkers, problem solvers, and lifelong learners.*

- 1:1 Chromebook Initiative for grades 6-12

Old Fort Local Schools is implementing a 1:1 Chromebook Initiative. For this initiative, 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be provided a Chromebook by the school district. (In the 2021-2022 school year, 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be given 1:1 Chromebooks. Every proceeding year, 1:1 Chromebooks will be given to the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade class.

**Technology Protection Fund Agreement**

- Fee
  - The total fee cost is \$40 per school year for students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Partial semesters are not refundable.
  - Effective Dates
    - August of each calendar year
- Coverage and Benefit
  - Coverage is 24 hours a day.
  - A student with a damaged/lost/stolen device will be given a replacement, but may not be permitted to take the device home.
  - Student Movement out of District
    - Student is expected to return device within five (5) days of graduation or withdraw from District. A student who does graduate has the opportunity to purchase their device for \$10, beginning with the Class of 2024. The student must have paid the fee for four out of the six years to be able to purchase the Chromebook.
  - DAMAGE/LOSS/THEFT
    - Device damage – The fund will cover expenses for the first incident.
      - Repeated incidents of damage to the device within a two year period may result in a graduated deductible amount as follows:
        - 1<sup>st</sup> Incident: covered
        - 2<sup>nd</sup> Incident: \$50
        - 3<sup>rd</sup> Incident: Full cost of damage
    - Charger damage – If damage to the charger occurs due to normal wear and tear, rendering it useless, (the small wire tends to break down) one replacement will be given to the student during the school year. The bad charger must be returned to receive the replacement. Students needing additional replacements throughout the school year will incur a replacement charger. The student or a parent or guardian can choose to replace the



charger on their own, but it must match the same Chromebook brand charger initially given with the device.

- Case damage – The cases that Old Fort Local Schools supplies for the device are very durable. If any incidental damage occurs to the case, it is most likely covered under warranty and should be turned in for replacement.
- Devices returned to the district with a damaged case or charger at the end of each school year or when a student moves out of district will be handled in the same way as the above bullets.
  - The fund will cover expenses if this is the first incident.
  - Charger loss – If the charger is lost (one or both parts), the student will be charged for its replacement. The student or parent/guardian can choose to replace the charger on their own, but must be approved by district.
  - Case loss – If the case is lost, the student will be charged for its replacement. The student or parent or guardian can choose to replace the case on their own, but it must be an identical case to that which was lost.
  - Device loss – If the device is lost, the student will be charged for its replacement.
  - Devices returned to the district with a missing case or charger at the end of each school year or when a student moves out of district will cause a fee for replacement.
- Theft –
  - A police report must be submitted to the school or the incident will be considered a “loss” and the above rules will apply.

### **General Information**

- Acceptable Use and Care

Students must follow the Old Fort Board Adopted Policy “Acceptable User Agreement” at all times when using school equipment.

**Devices must remain in the case at all times.** The student should take a high level of care when placing the device in a backpack with books and other items. It should never be packed too tightly.

Students should always be sure that the school issued protective case is fully closed when transporting their device from class to class and to and from school.

For security reasons, devices should not be left in vehicles other than during transport to or from school. It is expected that the device will be secured out of sight (in the trunk or other storage compartment) while in a vehicle.

Students are encouraged to help each other in learning to operate their devices. However, such help should be provided with voices, not hands. Students should operate their own device at all times.

It is recommended that devices be used while sitting on a flat stable surface such as a table. Students should take a high level of care when using their devices while standing or walking. Devices can be fragile, and if dropped may break.

Students should protect their device from extreme heat or cold, and should not leave them in vehicles during extreme temperatures.

Devices should be protected from the weather, water, liquids, food, and pets. Students should never eat or drink while using their devices, or use their devices near others who are eating or drinking

Due to the nature of the screen, the device, when in direct heat and sunlight, will become very hot. Students should take care to remove the device from direct sunlight to protect from overheating. The device will cease to work if overheated.

Heavy objects should never be placed or stacked on top of the device. This includes books, musical instruments, sports equipment, etc.

Students should use care when plugging in their power cord. Never place the power cord in a position that may be a trip hazard or cause damage to the device.

Device batteries may or may not last a full day depending on the amount and type of usage. Students may need to find an outlet during the day to recharge their batteries. Teachers are not expected to make special accommodations or give special consideration during class for students with devices that are not adequately charged. It will be the teacher's decision how to handle charging in individual classrooms.

Any inappropriate or careless use of a device should be reported to a teacher or other staff member immediately.

- Safety and Privacy
  - The Old Fort Local School District Acceptable User Agreement Policy applies to inappropriate usage regardless of location where the Internet is being used.

### **Student Responsibility**

Your device is an important learning tool and is to be used for educational purposes. In order to take your device home each day, you must be willing to accept the following responsibilities.

- I will follow the policies and procedures of the District, including the Acceptable User Agreement policy, and abide by all local, state, and federal laws when using the device at home, school, and any other locations.
- I will not download, install, or use any software or tools of any kind on the device, without prior consent from the District.
- I will not attempt to remove programs, management, or other profiles, or any files from the device, or attempt to alter any items in the system settings or on any application on the device.
- I will keep my device in my school-issued protective case at all times.
- I will not lend or permit anyone to access or use the device, including my friends or siblings; it will stay in my possession
- I will keep all accounts and passwords assigned to me secure, and will not share these with any other students.
- I will recharge the device battery each night.
- I will bring the device to school every day.
- I will report to the school any problems with the device
- I will not attempt to repair the device or have the device repaired, nor will I attempt to clean the device with anything other than as directed by the District.

- I agree that email or any other computer communication will be used only for appropriate, legitimate, and responsible communication.
- I agree to return the device, case, and ORIGINAL charger to school when requested or upon graduation from the District. Failure to return all items loaned to me in an acceptable condition will result in a fine for their replacement.
- I will not share personal information about others or myself while using the Internet unless required for a school assignment or activity. This includes name, age, address, phone number, or school name. I agree to be responsible, accurate, and careful when it is necessary to give personal information.
- I will protect my device from extreme heat or cold, and will not leave the device in a vehicle during extreme temperatures. For security reasons, during transport to and from school, I will secure my device out of sight while in a vehicle.
- I will provide my device for inspection if the District requires.

### **Parent/Guardian Responsibility**

The success of this program is predicated on the partnership between the District and the home, and we ask that you share in the responsibility of supervision of the technology issued to your students. Your child has been issued a device, charger, and case to enhance and personalize his/her education during the school year. It is essential that the following guidelines be followed to ensure the safe, efficient, and ethical operation of this device.

- I will supervise my child's use of the device.
- I will discuss our family's values and expectations regarding the use of the Internet and email at home.
- I will supervise my child's use of the Internet and email.
- I will report to the school and problems with the device.
- I will not attempt to repair the device or have the device repaired, nor will I attempt to clean the device with anything other than as directed by the District.
- I will not download, install, or use any software or tools of any kind on the device, without prior consent from the District.
- I will not attempt to remove programs, management or other profiles, or any files (other than my student's productivity or classroom files) from the device, or attempt to alter any items in the system settings or on any application on the device without prior consent from the District.
- I will make sure my child charges the battery nightly.
- I understand that my child is expected to bring the device to school each day as a part of the essential tools necessary for the educational process.
- I agree to return the device, case, and ORIGINAL charger to school when requested or upon my child's withdrawal or upon graduation from the District. Failure to return all items loaned to my child in an acceptable condition will result in a fine for their replacement.

**Old Fort Local Schools**  
**1:1 Technology Initiative**  
**Policies and Procedures Handbook**

**Technology Fund Protection Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Student's name), agree to the policies and procedures outlined above in the 1:1 Technology Initiative. I agree to pay the Technology Fund Protection Agreement.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian's name), agree to the policies and procedures outlined above in the 1:1 Technology Initiative. I agree to pay the Technology Fund Protection Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/Guardian Signature**