



Parent and Student Handbook

2024 - 2025

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Welcome!

FORZA, along with the OCCS Faculty and Staff recognize that each child is an individual; that all children are creative; that all children can learn; and that all children need to succeed! Therefore, FORZA/OCCS respects the individual needs of all children; fosters a caring and creative environment; and emphasizes the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each child.

FORZA Education Management LLC



OCCS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Mark McCabe
Brett Baugh
Helen Deitrich
Frank Zhou

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Charity Zawatski- Executive Director
Shannon Leahy – Assistant Principal
Roger Lewis – Assistant Principal

* Board Meetings are held as scheduled by the Board of Directors. Meeting days, dates and times are posted in the lobby and on monthly calendars at: www.oakcreekcharter.org

Section 1: School Information

1. A. About Oak Creek Charter

Oak Creek Charter School (OCCS) is a Florida not-for-profit corporation. OCCS has entered into a charter contract with the School Board of Lee County, Florida to operate a charter school in Lee County focused on fitness education. The Governing Board is the governing body for OCCS and has final authority to set policies and procedures and conduct oversight of OCCS. The Principal of OCCS is responsible for day-to-day operations and employment decisions.

1. B. School Hours

Main Office	7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Classroom Teachers	7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Students	7:50 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Tardy Bell	8:00 a.m.
Breakfast	7:30 a.m. - 7:50 a.m.
Dismissal Times	3:15 p.m.-3:50 p.m.

1. C. Contact Information

OCCS Telephone number: (239) 784-1539
OCCS Fax 239.263.4443
OCCS Website - www.oakcreekcharter.org
OCCS Education Management – (727) 642-9319
OCCS Education Management Website www.FORZAedu.com

1. D. Oak Creek Charter School Mission Statement

The **Mission** of Oak Creek Charter School of Bonita Springs is to prepare students of Lee County in grades K-8 for success in high school and beyond. To fulfill its mission, OCCS will utilize a rigorous curriculum combined with an ongoing assessment program. To the academic program, the school will add daily instruction in fitness and health and an integrated character education program.

1. E. Oak Creek Charter School Vision

The **Vision** of Oak Creek Charter School is to establish a system of excellence by fostering deep integration between public education and community resources. In order to both customize education and to provide much needed support and nurturing for students who are enrolled in school. Students in the target community will find the educational opportunities at OCCS geared toward the education of students and families interested in an academically rigorous curriculum combined with a strong health and fitness program. Through meticulously crafted weekly lessons and

targeted goals, our purposeful character development curriculum seeks to instill in our students the essential values and traits conducive to personal and academic success.

1. F. About the Handbook

This is the Parent and Student Handbook for Oak Creek Charter. It is the responsibility of each student and parent to read, understand, and abide by this handbook.

This handbook is to inform students and parents of the policies, procedures, and organizations of Oak Creek Charter. Throughout the *Parent/Student Handbook* the term, “parent(s)” includes legal guardian(s) or other persons standing in loco parentis. All policies in this handbook are subject to change by the OCCS school board or school administration. Parents and students will be notified when such changes occur and an updated handbook will be posted on our website at www.oakcreekcharter.org.

This Handbook complies with the terms of the charter contract, as well as applicable state and federal laws.

1. G. Fitness Based School

Oak Creek Charter is a fitness based school, which promotes a healthy lifestyle.

1. H. Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Student Records

The revised Family Rights and Privacy Act became a Federal law in November 1974.

This law intends to protect the accuracy and privacy of student educational records. Without your prior consent, only you and authorized individuals having legitimate educational interests will have access to your child's educational records. In special instances, you may waive this right of access to allow other agencies working with your child to have access to those records.

FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights concerning their children's education records. These rights transfer to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under Georgia law. These rights are:

- *The right to inspect and review the student's education records* within 45 days of the day the school receives an access request. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school Executive Director a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school will arrange for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
- *The right to request the amendment of the student's education records* that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school

to amend a record should write to the school Executive Director, clearly identify the part of the record they want to be changed and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- *The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.* FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions: school officials with legitimate educational interest; other schools to which a student is transferring; specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes; appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student; organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school; accrediting organizations; to comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena; appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and state and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, under specific State law. Upon request, our schools disclose education records without consent from officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
- * *Schools may also disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. The media permission form sent home at the beginning of each school year gives parents an opportunity to instruct the school not to share any directory information about their child or allows them to request that certain information not be shared. Please be sure to make your wishes regarding directory information known to your child's school. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. At OCCS, we notify you of these issues in our student handbooks.*

For more information on the federal **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**, visit the U.S. Department of Education's website at www.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html.

1. J. Jessica Lunsford Act

This law went into effect on September 1, 2005, requiring a Level 2 screening (fingerprinting and FBI background check) of any non-instructional school district personnel or contractual personnel who are permitted access on school grounds when students are present, as well as those who have direct contact with students or who have access to or control school funds.

“Contractual personnel” has been defined as any vendor, individual, or entity under contract with the school board.

Section 2: Parent Code of Conduct

At OCCS, parents must uphold standards of decency, courtesy, and respect. Creating an ideal environment for children's growth is a shared responsibility between school employees and parents. Parents must notify the school of any changes in contact information or emergencies. They should also align trips and personal affairs with school days to **prioritize attendance**. **Parents who violate the Parent Code of Conduct will not be permitted on OCCS property thereafter.**

2. A. Drug Free Zone

2. A. 1. Drug Use

OCCS is a drug-free Zone. While on OCCS's premises or related activities off OCCS's premises, no student or adult may use, possess, distribute, sell, or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs. The legal use of prescribed drugs on the property is only permitted if it does not impair an individual's ability to act in a safe manner, that does not endanger other individuals.

2. A. 2. Medical Marijuana Policy

The school is a drug-free zone. As such, the school does not allow its employees or visitors to consume marijuana before, during, or after school hours based upon a medical marijuana exception.

2. A. 3. Tobacco Use

In keeping with the intent of OCCS to provide a safe and healthy environment, and in compliance with the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act, smoking is prohibited anywhere on campus. This policy applies equally to all employees and visitors.

2. B. Abusive Language

No student, parent, or adult is permitted to curse or use other inappropriate language on school property at any time, whether in the presence of a child or not. Such language is considered offensive by many people and will not be tolerated. If a parent or adult feels frustrated or angry, it is more appropriate to express this frustration or anger using non-offensive language verbally. At **NO** time shall inappropriate language be directed toward staff members or students.

2. C. Threats

Threats of any kind towards employees, children, other parents, or adults associated with OCCS, will not be tolerated and OCCS will not sit idly by while threats are made. All threats will be reported to the appropriate authorities and the perpetrator will be fully prosecuted under the law. While apologies for such behavior are appreciated, OCCS will not assume the risk of a repeated offense. While it is understood that parents will not always agree with the employees of OCCS or the parents of other OCCS students, it is expected that all disagreements be handled

calmly and respectfully. Confrontational interactions are not an appropriate means by which to communicate and are prohibited.

2. D. Physical/Verbal Punishment

OCCS does not support or condone corporal punishment of children, therefore such acts are not permitted anywhere on campus. Moreover, while verbal reprimands may be appropriate at times and made in the correct manner, it is not appropriate for parents to verbally abuse their children. Doing so may cause undue embarrassment or emotional distress. Parents are always welcome to discuss a behavior issue with the teacher(s) and seek advice and guidance regarding appropriate and effective disciplinary procedures.

Parents are not allowed to discipline students who are not their children, either physically or verbally. If a parent witness's inappropriate behavior or receives reports from their child, they should address concerns with teachers or school administrators. All children enrolled at OCCS have privacy rights and are further protected by our Confidentiality Policy. It's inappropriate for parents to approach other parents about their child's behavior; all concerns should be directed to school staff. Teachers and administrators cannot discuss other children with parents due to privacy policies.

2. E. Safety Policies

Parents are required to always follow safety procedures. These procedures are designed to protect the welfare and best interests of the employees, children, and associates of OCCS. Please be particularly mindful of OCCS entrance procedures. Please do not allow any individual to follow you inside the building. Immediately report any breaches to the principal, assistant principals, or the Regional Vice Presidents.

2. F. Parent Grievance Policy

If parents disagree with established rules of conduct, policies, or practices, they can express their concern through the problem resolution procedure.

If a situation occurs when parents believe that a decision affecting them is unjust or inequitable, they are encouraged to make use of the following steps. The parents may discontinue the procedure at any step.

- **Step 1.** Communicate with the classroom teacher via telephone, email, and or send a note discussing the concern. Email addresses are available at the front desk and on the school web page.
- **Step 2.** Schedule a Parent Teacher Conference with the classroom teacher to discuss the concern further if needed. At this meeting, establish next steps or goals and the process for follow up, as necessary. For unresolved concerns, please follow Step 3.
- **Step 3.** Schedule an appointment with the school administration.
- **Step 4.** Contact or schedule an appointment with FORZA Education Management.
- **Step 5.** Submit your concerns in writing to the Oak Creek Charter School Board of Directors and the concern will be discussed at the next Board Meeting. Please seal your concern in

an envelope and deliver it to the office manager. You can also attend the Board Meeting and address the Board during the Public Comment opportunity. Note: No individual Board Member can address your concerns per Florida State Law. The issue must be addressed by the full Board.

Parents have the option to request agenda items for the Board's consideration. Requests must be submitted in writing to the principal at least twenty-four hours prior to a Board Meeting. While not every issue may be resolved to complete satisfaction, open discussion fosters mutual understanding between parents and educators. This trust is vital for maintaining a robust home-school partnership.

2. G. Visitors

It will be our pleasure to have visitors on campus to see our beautiful facility, our students and staff engaged in learning activities, to participate in school activities, and to volunteer. However, visitors, including parents, are **NOT** permitted to go to their child's classroom unannounced during school hours, as this disrupts the classroom's educational process. For the safety and protection of all students, visitors (including parents) **Must** present a valid Florida Driver's License and be checked in by the Front Office. Cooperation will enable the school to provide a safe and orderly environment for all students, visitors, and staff.

2. H. Volunteer Program

Parents or guardians are required to volunteer at the school a minimum of 20 hours per year. Single-Parent households are required to volunteer a minimum of 10 hours per year. The main office will be tracking parent volunteer hours. Please sign in at the main office to receive credit for your hours.

Please remember that for your child to be re-enrolled in Oak Creek Charter School for the following school year, you must have all your volunteer hours completed before the last day of school.

It is Oak Creek Charter School goal to provide a safe environment for students and staff while encouraging parents or guardians to work as school volunteers. To achieve this, volunteers shall be screened based on (1) the level of direct contact they may have with students and (2) the types of duties they may perform. Outside agencies that provide volunteers who work with students are required to screen their volunteers at a level consistent with this policy and provide evidence of insurance pursuant to board policy and/or practices.

All volunteer applicants must complete an online Volunteer Application, submit their government ID to the front office at school, and receive approval before being assigned as a volunteer. In accordance with F.S. 943.043151, all school volunteers must be checked against the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Sexual Predator/Offender database. Oak Creek Charter School reserves the right to deny placement to an applicant volunteer based on any results not in accordance with Oak Creek Charter's standards or to revoke the volunteer's clearance based on subsequent

information. Oak Creek Charter School shall maintain all volunteer application materials and records in a confidential manner consistent with Chapter 119 (Public Records). All files and other records maintained pursuant to this policy shall be stored in a central location.

The "Volunteer Level" provides the minimum guidelines for determining the documentation and background check required. Each volunteer will be assigned to one of the following levels:

1. **Volunteer Level I:** A volunteer who has direct contact with students, within the presence of a school employee or is assigned duties such as an office assistant that may not directly involve students.
2. **Volunteer Level II:** A volunteer who has direct one on one contact with students outside of the presence of a school employee except as noted above.
Minimum Volunteer Level II screening requirements: Same as Level I (complete an online Volunteer Application, submit government ID to the front office at school plus fingerprints).

PLEASE NOTE

Volunteers requiring fingerprints must register for this process at www.fieldprintofflorida.com before the volunteer is able to serve in a Level II capacity.

Volunteers will need to use the field print code: The cost of fingerprinting is \$53.50 and must be paid online by debit or credit card at the time of registration.

****No children under the age of 18 are permitted to accompany a volunteer anytime in the school or during field trips.**

2. I. Volunteer School Chaplains

In accordance with House Bill 931, this bill allows charter schools to host Volunteer School Chaplains on their campuses. Chaplains are meant to provide programs and services to students to support mental health and wellness. Schools must be open to Chaplains from all religious backgrounds. In order for the school to have a Chaplain on campus, OCCS has adopted a policy that conforms to the requirements of the law.

Section 3- Student Guidelines

3. A. Student Rights and Responsibilities

This section intends to inform students of their freedom allowable under the law commensurate with the school's responsibility for student health, safety, and welfare. The rights and responsibilities presented reflect the opportunity for dialogue, debate, and discussion by our students for greater opportunities to serve themselves and society. Nowhere is it stated in this document, nor even implied, that the school should relinquish its authority and responsibility. Within every school, the Principal inevitably has the responsibility and authority for maintaining the orderly educational process.

Student Responsibilities:

1. Attend all classes and be prompt.
2. Be prepared for class with appropriate working materials.
3. Be respectful of individuals' property and rights.
4. Conduct themselves in a safe and responsible manner.
5. Be well groomed, clean, and neat.
6. Be responsible for their own behavior, conduct, and the consequences of their actions.
 - a. Report to school authorities any problem, circumstance, or condition, including, but not limited to, illegal, dangerous, or unsafe behaviors involving them- selves or others, which affect, in any way, their health, safety, and/or security or the health, safety and/or security of others whether on or off campus.
 - b. Not ignore what they have seen, experienced, or witnessed and should adhere to the message: "See it, say it, Don't spread it, Report it!"
7. Abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the school, and/or individual classroom teacher.
8. Practice and encourage the school's adopted character traits and Blue Zone practices.
9. Students have the responsibility to exercise self-discipline in the classroom and on campus so that the rights of all are respected and the efforts of all can be directed toward the stimulation of learning.
10. Students have the responsibility to obey school regulations.

No student shall:

1. Occupy any school building or property with the intent to deprive others of its use or where the effect thereof is to deprive others of its use.
2. Block the doorway or corridor of any school building or property to deprive others of access thereto.
3. Prevent or attempt to prevent the convening or continued functioning of any class, meeting, assembly, or activity on the school grounds.
4. Prevent students from attending a class or school activity.
5. Block normal pedestrian or vehicular traffic on the school grounds.
6. Disrupt, make noise, or act in any other manner so as to interfere with the teacher's ability to conduct the class or any school activity.
7. Disrupt a class or any other function of the school.

3. B. Personal Property

- Students are to leave their toys, games, family heirlooms, sports equipment (such as basketballs or footballs), rollerblades, scooters, etc. at home. The school provides

everything needed for the classroom, physical education, and recess.

- Students should not bring large amounts of money to school.
- Under no circumstances should a child be allowed to bring knives, bullets, fireworks, spike bracelets, rubber bands, China stars, “peashooters,” BB guns, firearms (real or replicas), toy guns, chains, matches, lighters, or any other hazardous objects to school. Law enforcement officers will be called to investigate violations.

3.B. Attendance

If a child is to succeed in school, they must attend regularly. Each of the 180 days of the school year is important to your child’s success. Chapter 232.10, Florida Law, states “*Each parent of a child within the compulsory attendance age shall be responsible for such child’s school attendance as required under the provision of Florida School Law.*”

Poor attendance or excessive tardiness may result in failing grades. Students should be in their homerooms and seated by 7:50am. Students who arrive after 8:00am will be considered tardy.

It is the parents’ responsibility to **call the school office (239) 498-6864 between 7:30 am and 9:00 am** on the day the student will not be attending school. A note from a parent/guardian to explain an absence must be submitted to the office upon the student’s return. A doctor’s note is required if the student is absent three (3) or more consecutive days.

1. When a student accumulates **five** (5) days of absences, other than out-of-school suspensions, whether excused or unexcused, the principal or designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the parent or guardian by telephone to discuss the reasons for the absences and shall document such contact.
2. When a student accumulates **seven** (7) days of absences, other than out-of-school suspensions, whether excused or unexcused, a record of absences will promptly be mailed to the parent/guardian of the student. The letter/records of absences will include information about Truancy Court.
3. When a student is absent **ten** (10) or more days, whether excused or unexcused, a record of absences will promptly be mailed to the parent/guardian of the student. If appropriate- ate, a parent conference will be required and at the discretion of the principal or designees, the parent or guardian may be required to verify absences with appropriate documentation (e.g., doctor’s visits, etc.). A student found to be habitually truant will be referred to Truancy Court.

3. B. 1. Excused Absences

If a student is absent, a handwritten parental note or email will not be accepted. **A physician or medical provider must provide confirmation, such as a doctor’s note, to be considered excused.** A doctor’s note must be submitted at the office when the student returns to OCCS. If failure to present a note or contact does not occur, the absence will be recorded as

unexcused. Students are required to be in school unless the absence has been permitted or excused for one of the following reasons. (Please note that vacations are considered unexcused absences.) Any absence may be judged appropriate by the principal or vice principal, provided that a written request is made within the given notice before the absence. With an excused absence, students will have an equal number of days to complete the assigned work without penalty.

Illness of the student (if illness persists for three or more consecutive days or requires numerous nonconsecutive absences, a doctor's note will be requested)

1. Death in the family or major illness to an immediate family member
2. A required court appearance or subpoena by a law enforcement agency
3. Scheduled medical appointments, dental appointments, and absences for treatment of a medical diagnosis (It is encouraged to prevent and limit instructional loss if the student has medical appointments after school hours.)
4. An observance of an established religious holiday; documentation of the religious affiliation of the student may be required by OCCA.
5. Special events (weddings, public functions, competitions, funerals, exceptional cases of family need).
6. A family or student medical emergency (such as an emergency room or hospitalization).

3. B. 2. Unexcused Absences

1. Contribute to the success of the student.
2. Are caused by an out-of-school suspension. A student suspended from school is responsible for all work missed. The teacher will decide if the work missed will count as a "0" or will be made up for credit or partial credit.
3. The administration will notify the district of excessive, unexcused absences.
4. If absences continue, a formal referral letter for attendance will be made to the administration with supporting documentation of parent contact and non-medical absences stapled to the referral, and proper district and school procedures will follow.
5. When excessive unexcused absences become a concern, there are three (3) or more unexcused absences in a calendar month. For fifteen (15) or more unexcused absences in a 90- day period, the school administration will first confirm medical excuse notifications received and recorded for absences.
6. The administration will contact the parent regarding excessive absences. Excessive school absences will be considered truant or habitual truant if s/he has five (5) or more unexcused absence days within a calendar month or fifteen (15) or more unexcused absence days within a ninety (90) day calendar period. This will be reported and can be subject to judicial action.

PLANNED EXTENDED ABSENCES:

Parents are encouraged to schedule family trips during school vacations (refer to the school yearly calendar) to minimize disruption to their children's education. Missing school for a family vacation is strongly discouraged. It is strongly advised against pulling students out of school for vacations. In unavoidable circumstances where prolonged absence is necessary, written notification to the school will be needed at least a week prior to the first day a student is out. Teachers will provide makeup assignments either before or after the absence, based on what the teacher deems most beneficial for the student. Please be aware that vacations are classified as unexcused absences, and it's essential to adhere to the attendance guidelines outlined in the mandatory parent obligation when selecting our charter school.

The school will contact student services to refer the student who is exhibiting a pattern of non-attendance. If an initial meeting does not resolve the problem, a Child Study Team shall implement the following:

- A. Frequent attempts at communication between Oak Creek Charter School and the family.
- B. Attendance contacts.
- C. Evaluation for alternative education programs.

3.C. Tardiness

A student is tardy when the student arrives after the beginning of the school day or when the student is not in their assigned seat or station when the school day begins. Students should be in their homerooms and seated by **7:50 a.m.** Students who arrive after 8:00 a.m. MUST sign in at the Main Office. All late students must enter the front office and be issued a tardy pass. A student is considered tardy if they are absent at the time attendance is taken, provided the student is in attendance before the close of the day. It is extremely important that students arrive at school on time and ready to learn. When students arrive late, they miss valuable instructional time and disrupt the classroom. A student's excessive unexcused tardiness will be reported to the district.

1. Excused Tardiness:

A student will be considered excused ONLY if a parent/guardian personally escorts the child to the front desk and has a note to excuse tardiness. The reasons for excused tardiness are as follows:

1. Doctor's appointments with notes from the doctor, dentist, or medical facility.
2. The court notices a mandated student's appearance.
3. Extreme emergencies were approved by the administration.

Excused tardiness will not count toward the student's tardy record.

2. Unexcused Tardiness:

Alarm clock failures, car trouble, inclement weather conditions, anything considered to be the

“parent’s fault,” etc. will be considered unexcused. Unexcused tardiness will count toward the student’s attendance record. Your children must be in school and **on time** by state law.

Three unexcused tardies will constitute one absence.

The procedures for abiding by state law are as follows:

1. Upon accumulating three tardies, the administration will conduct a review to verify the presence of medical excuses or extreme emergencies approved by the administration for the recorded tardies.
2. Upon reaching three tardies, the administration will reach out to the parent through means such as a phone conference, email, teacher/parent conference, or letter to address the issue of excessive tardiness or early dismissals.

Students have the right to make up class work in case of an absence. Students shall not be suspended for "lateness," "tardiness," or truancy. Other forms of discipline should be applied to these violations. F.S. 1006.09(9).

3. D. Drop off and Dismissal

**Parents must maintain communication with their child’s classroom teacher notifying them how their child will go home on a regular basis. If your child follows a regular or irregular pattern, please make it clear in writing. Please try to keep a regular routine of dismissal procedure(s) for your child. If a change needs to be made in case of an emergency, please notify the office as soon as possible. If it is a last-minute emergency change, please call the office (239) 498-6864 no later than 2:30 p.m.

3. D. 1. Drop- Off

The safety of our children is our first priority. Please follow drop-off procedures very carefully to keep all of our children safe.

Students transported to school by parents may not arrive earlier than 7:30 AM. There will be no supervision until this time. In the “Car Rider Line,” please remember to be courteous to faculty and staff. Moreover, it is YOUR responsibility to be patient and vigilant of students as they are walking to their cars. Cell phone use is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** in the car line. Parents must be cautious while driving in the parking lot for everyone’s safety and music must be turned off.

Students are dropped off at the back of the building of the school, where parents will wish them well and send them to the cafeteria until class begins. Parents may not wait in the entrance with their children, as there is not space for everyone, and the time before school lends itself to social time for the children with their peers.

Cars may not be in the bus zone (in between school buildings) as that is only for loading and unloading the bus. Car riders are to arrive by 7:30 a.m. For the safety of children, traffic flow will be restricted to one lane at morning drop-off.

3. D. 2. Dismissal Procedure

Please be patient during the first few weeks of school during dismissal. It typically takes a few weeks for teachers and parents to get accustomed to the new dismissal procedures. We believe in safety first and want to ensure that students are being dismissed properly and safely.

Parents who need to pick up their students during the school day must report to the office—**not the classroom** and sign them out. The office will send it to the student. **Students will not be released after 2:30 p.m.** Please inform the office if you are planning to pick up your child early. **Students will ONLY be released to those listed by the parent on the child's emergency card. Picture identification will be required by anyone picking up a child.**

Please update the emergency card whenever information changes, as if someone arrives at the school to seek the release of a student and the person's name is not on the emergency contact card or the person does not have valid photo identification, the student will **not** be released.

To avoid having the school become involved in personal family conflicts, parents or guardians should submit to school authorities a copy of any legal documents that indicate who has legal access to the child and his or her records during school hours. In the absence of legal documentation, school officials will provide access only to those individuals whose names appear on the student's data or emergency card. Failure to provide the school with legal documentation outlining visitation rights will result in any parent listed on the birth certificate being permitted to pick up a child. Friends and strangers will be denied access to a student in the absence of verified parental consent.

All transportation changes require notification by a parent or guardian of the school and be directed to the office staff, who will notify the teacher.

PLEASE MAINTAIN SLOW SPEEDS DURING DISMISSAL TIMES

3. E. Car Riders:

1. Parents are to use the car line and proceed to the back of the school to drop off and pick up students by car.
2. Staff will assist students arriving and/or departing by car. Students designated as car riders will be loaded into their vehicles and dismissed through the car line.
3. Drivers are asked to display *the Placard i.e., car tag*, listing the student's name(s) on the front windshield. Drivers who do not have this placard properly displayed will be required to go to the office for an identification check (be sure to have your picture ID with you). Your child will be released once identification has been established.
4. **IMPORTANT:** Please note that those picking up their students in the car line may NOT arrive on campus prior to 2:45 P.M.

Furthermore, parents are reminded that they are not authorized to obstruct any local businesses during dismissal periods. Non-compliance with this directive may lead to enforcement actions by law enforcement, including potential ticketing, and/or the towing of vehicles by said businesses at the expense of the vehicle owners.

F. Walkers:

For your student to be dismissed as a walker it is necessary for a parent/guardian to complete the Walker Application. This application can be found on the transportation page of the Oak Creek Charter school packet.

- Walkers will be dismissed at 3:09 p.m.

3. G. Bus

Oak Creek Charter offers bus service on a limited basis. Parents must complete and submit a bus application to the Administration by the stated due date.

Buses will be dismissed at 3:09 pm.

A student who misses their assigned bus at dismissal shall promptly go to the office and report to the secretary. The student's parents will be contacted immediately to arrange transportation. If students are not picked up on time, they will be placed in After Care and the parents will be charged for said service.

Students must realize that the same higher standards of conduct are expected on the bus as in all other aspects of school life. Students are asked to sit facing the front of the bus and talk quietly. Students receiving bus referrals will be disciplined. Repeated referrals will result in suspension from the bus.

Student may only ride on their assigned bus; they may not change buses.

SCHOOL BUS DISCIPLINE

1st offense	Verbal warning and parents will be contacted.
2nd offense	Not permitted to ride the bus for 1-3 days.
3rd offense	Not permitted to ride the bus for 3-5 days.
4th offense	Suspended from riding the school bus for the remainder of the year

NOTE: Late bus notices are sent out via our One Call System

3.H. Rainy Day Dismissal

Rainy Day Dismissal -Based on School Board Procedures, we use the 30-30 rule. This dictates that if lightning is within 3 miles of the school building, all students will need to remain indoors or be moved indoors even if dismissal has already begun. Lightning within 3 miles requires us to suspend releasing students for dismissal (car or bus) until the danger passes.

3. I. Early Checkout Procedure

Pre-approved and Emergency checkout procedure: We strongly discourage parents from picking their child up early during the school day. In the event a student must leave early, the parent must make the request person in the front office.

During school hours the front office will permit a child to leave school ONLY in the custody of a parent/ guardian or person listed on an emergency contact card with a valid photo ID.

All transportation changes require notification by a parent/guardian to the school and be directed to the Office Staff, who will notify the teacher.

Please be aware that students are not permitted to leave school after 2:30 PM.

3. I.1. Excused Early Checkout

Excused early dismissal may include the following:

1. Doctor/Dentist Appointment, with note provided.
2. Court appearance (subpoena required).

Excused early dismissals for doctor's appointments will need a note from the doctor. To receive an excused early dismissal, a doctor's note must be brought to school the next day, or when the student returns to school. A **doctor's notes will be accepted late.**

3. I .2. Unexcused Early Checkout

May include the following:

- Forgotten items (for instance, books, lunch, money, homework, projects).
- Violation of dress code (to obtain appropriate dress).
- The Oak Creek Charter Board has provided early dismissal days so that staff may engage in professional development activities. Teacher planning days and early dismissal days may not be the same as the Lee County School District. Please refer to the month-to-month calendar for scheduled early dismissal and teacher planning days.
- Students will be dismissed at 12:00 p.m. and After-School care will be available for those enrolled.

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to review the “going home” procedures with their children on these Early Dismissal days.

A parent conference will be required if a student exceeds a combination of 10 unexcused absences, tardies, or early dismissals to ensure improvement in student attendance. **3 unexcused tardies or early dismissals will constitute 1 absence**

3. J. Aftercare

After Care is offered from 3:50 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The cost for After Care is \$11.00 per day per student. Registration with a credit card/checking account withdrawal payment method is mandatory when signing up for the After Care Program. An upcharge of \$5.00 per student will be applied on early dismissal days.

All fees **MUST** be paid by **FRIDAY** of each week the services are rendered. Tuition is expected based on the student’s enrollment and will be billed weekly to the student’s account for the days of attendance. **A late payment fee of \$25 will be applied to student accounts on Monday for payments that are not made by 6:00 p.m. Friday of the previous week.** Fees can be paid with Master Card, Visa, Debit Card, Checking Account Withdraw, Money Order, or Personal Check. **NO CASH PLEASE!**

3. J.1 Overdue Balances:

Families that become overdue on balances will be subjected to consequences as listed below:

Aftercare – **BALANCES OVER \$100** per student. Students will be suspended from After Care until the balance is paid in full.

Field Trips – If the above balances are in place prior to the student’s field trip, the student **may not be permitted to attend until the balances are paid**

3.K. Dress Code

A higher standard of dress encourages greater respect for one another and results in a higher standard of behavior. Our dress code guidelines indicate appropriate school dress during normal school days for every student. The Oak Creek Charter School administration reserves the right to interpret these guidelines and/or make changes to them during the school year. Students are expected to follow these guidelines. Every student **MUST** wear a school uniform, if a student comes to school without the proper uniform, they will be kept/sent to the front office and remain there until a parent/guardian brings a proper uniform for the student.

Uniform Violations:

The student will call their parent from the office to obtain the correct uniform. The student will wait in the office for their parent to bring the correct uniform. Multiple violations of the uniform policy can result in disciplinary actions.

Our goal is to allow children the freedom to come to school, dressed comfortably and appropriately without unnecessary distractions so that they can focus on learning instead of the latest designer labels. School uniforms will include attractive polos, shorts, skorts, pants, and sweatshirts with the school-branded logo clearly visible. All uniform items will be available for purchase using the following link:

OCCS UNIFORMS CAN BE ORDERED AT

<https://www.oakcreekcharter.org/dress-code>

<p><u>SHIRTS</u></p>	<p>K – 8th students MUST wear the short or long sleeve school polo shirt with the OCCS logo in gray, marron, and green Monday – Thursday. Spirit shirts may be worn on Friday.</p> <p>These are the only shirts permitted to be worn in school. Shirts are to be tucked in at all times. All undershirts MUST be solid in black, navy</p>
<p><u>SWEATSHIRTS</u></p>	<p><u>ONLY OCCS</u> spirit sweatshirts will be worn inside the building in cooler temperatures (Available for purchase) at salleepromotions.com.</p> <p>K – 5th will wear gray 6 – 8th will wear green Hoods are not to be worn on any student’s head on campus at any time before, during, or after school. Other sweaters and outer jackets, coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens <u>must be removed upon entering the building</u>. In severe weather these may be used during outdoor activities as deemed appropriate.</p>

<p><u>BOTTOMS</u></p>	<p>BOYS - ONLY uniform pants or shorts in Khaki are acceptable. GIRLS – ONLY uniform pants, shorts, Capri pants, skirts, skorts, or jumpers in Khaki are acceptable.</p> <p>Garments must fit, so as not to be so tight that movement is hindered, or so loose as to sag down from the waistline.</p> <p>The following are NOT permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Jeans, denim, stretch, spandex, cargo or decorated pants or shorts *Athletic/sport-style shorts, sweat/warm-up style pants *Tights or leggings in any color *NO frayed edges or holes of any kind. <p>Absolutely no jeans or leggings will be allowed on any day (no matter the temperature), except on designated Jeans Days when the student may wear appropriate jeans (no rips, tears, or holes) if the student chooses to participate as a fundraiser.</p>
<p><u>BELTS</u></p>	<p>A belt must always be worn with any article of clothing as belt loops are part of the school uniform pant. If the bottom has no belt loop, no belt is required. It should be fitted around the waist so that excess length can be tucked in loops and not hanging. All bottoms with belt loops require a solid color belt in blue, brown, or black.</p>
<p><u>SHOES/ SOCKS</u></p>	<p><u>ONLY</u> traditional tennis shoes with laces or Velcro closures are permitted. No boots, dress shoes, flats, heels, sandals, flip flops, slippers, Crocs, pointed/cowboy boots, or wheeled sneakers.</p> <p>Socks must be solid white, khaki, brown, navy blue, or black.</p> <p>Socks must be worn daily and must be white or dark colored. Fishnet stockings or other inappropriate leg wear is not acceptable. Socks should be worn no higher than lower calf height.</p>
<p><u>P.E. ATTIRE and Taekwondp</u></p>	<p>All students will participate in physical education. Students are required to dress out for PE instruction in grades 4-8. Students are required to wear the PE uniform sold at the new vendor, Sallee at salleepromotions.com. Students are permitted to wear spirit shirts exclusively on Fridays or on the dates announced spirit days by the administration. Additionally, it is mandatory for students to wear appropriate sneakers on a daily basis to ensure their comfort and safety throughout the school day. It is imperative that footwear selected for participation in physical education classes is suitable to outdoor physical activities. Shoes that pose safety hazards, such as "skate tennis shoes," are strictly prohibited to maintain the well-being of our students during these activities.</p>

	Students in Grades K-8 will participate in Taekwondo. They are required to purchase the Taekwondo uniform, Dobok. Order forms will be provided.
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Any non-Oak Creek Charter attire being worn without permission will receive a verbal warning and said attire will be maintained in the main office and returned to the student at the end of the day. The administration will make the final judgment concerning the appropriateness of a student’s clothing and appearance.

3. L. Lost and Found

We kindly request that parents ensure their child's name is clearly labeled on personal belongings such as wallets, purses, coats, sweaters, lunchboxes, raincoats, etc. This measure is crucial, as many items tend to be misplaced and remain unclaimed. At the conclusion of each grading period, any unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable organization. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

3. M. Makeup/ Cologne

Students in grades K–5 are prohibited from wearing makeup; however, students are allowed to carry and use lip balm (chopsticks). If K–5 students are found wearing makeup, they will be directed by the staff to the restroom to remove it. Failure to comply will result in a referral to administration, and multiple offenses of this policy will result in disciplinary action. For students in grades 6–8, makeup is permitted as long as it does not cause any disruptions to the learning environment. **Heavy or dark makeup, as well as fake nails and eyelashes, are strictly forbidden.** Additionally, students are **not allowed** to wear perfume or cologne due to potential allergies and asthma among students and staff.

3. N. Hair

Hair must be neat and clean with no "unnatural" colors, including but not limited to, greens, blues, pinks, and fluorescent colors. Students will not be allowed to have mohawks, spikes, head symbol shavings, or any hair that is distracting to the educational setting will not be allowed. No headwear is allowed including, but not limited to hats, and bandanas. Hair bows, hairbands, etc., are allowed for girls. If there is a question, please ask. Decisions are at the discretion of the administration of OCCS.

3. O. General

- Students may not wear body piercings other than small earrings or studs in their ear lobes, for safety purposes (no large hoops). Nose rings and other facial piercings are not permitted.
- Parents of students in kindergarten are encouraged to leave a Ziploc bag labeled with the child’s name with a spare change of clothes in the classroom throughout the year for emergencies.

- Students are not permitted to wear anything offensive, immodest, or deemed inappropriate by the faculty.
- Clothing exposing the torso, midriff, or mid-chest area shall not be worn.
- Underwear shall not be visible.
- Head coverings shall not be worn in the building unless required for religious observance or health-related reasons.
- Hemlines shall be no shorter than fingertip length.
- All pants and shorts shall be secured at the waist.
- Garments and/or jewelry which display or suggest sexual, vulgar, drug, gang, weapons, or alcohol-related wording or graphics, or which provoke violence or disruption in the school, shall not be worn.
- Wallet chains shall not be worn.
- It is highly advised that all clothing should be marked/labeled with the student's name

Fundraising Days:

Throughout the year, we will allow students to participate in different spirit days as a way to fundraise. These days, students can dress out of uniform and in a certain way that matches the spirit of the event. At no time are students to wear anything offensive, immodest, or deemed inappropriate by the faculty. Students must dress in appropriate everyday clothing; however, no sandals, flip-flops, tank tops, or ripped jeans are allowed. Leggings must be covered at all times.

Jewelry:

Students, both boys and girls, may not wear body piercings other than earrings in the ear lobes as long as they do not cause a distraction to the learning environment. Only one earring per ear is permitted. For safety purposes, earrings must be studs or small hoop earrings, with tiny hoops no larger than an adult's pinky finger. Limited jewelry, such as watches, small bracelets, and thin necklaces and chains, is acceptable. However, necklaces and chains should be worn underneath the school uniform, **not** over the uniform shirt, for safety reasons. Additionally, students are requested to limit bracelets to one per wrist to avoid unnecessary noise and distractions.

If the appropriateness of attire is questioned, students will be referred to the office and required to change, and the parent/guardian may be contacted. Disciplinary actions will be taken when violations are repeated.

The general appearance of a student should reflect neatness and good personal hygiene. Any student who violates the grooming and hygiene policy will be sent home. Students may return to school when their appearance is appropriate.

OCCS employs only highly qualified teachers with the appropriate certification for the content area to which they are assigned. These professional educators and staff have a deep passion to positively impact students' lives. This will also be reflected in their attire and appearance, as everyone at OCCS will be dressed for success.

3. Q. Dress Code Consequences

Teachers will conduct dress code checks as students enter the classroom promptly at 8:00 a.m. It is expected that students adhere to the established dress code. Any student found not to be in compliance will be requested to change into appropriate attire. Parents or guardians will be notified to provide the necessary clothing if needed. Students will not be permitted to participate in class activities until they are dressed according to the dress code standards. Repeated violations of the dress code may result in a parent conference, suspension, or other administrative measures.

3. R. Lunch and Cafeteria Procedure

No order-out deliveries will be accepted for students' lunches or meals. Since we are trying to promote healthy eating habits, fast food will not be allowed to be brought to OCCS when a child forgets his or her lunch. In addition, we discourage sugary foods, candy, cookies, gum, and foods heavy in red dye.

Employees may not use lunchtime as time worked beyond their regular paid work hours or as compensatory time without prior approval from the administration.

Teachers must check the lunch schedule for the exact times that their students should arrive at the cafeteria and when they should be picked up. Lunchtimes may be adjusted for special events. However, on regular days, the scheduled lunchtime must be strictly adhered to. For the first month of school, the teacher is required to wait with the students who are receiving hot lunch and monitor them while they are being served. The lunch duty calendar will specify when each teacher is expected to be in the cafeteria for his or her turn for lunch duty.

The cafeteria rules are posted in varying locations in the cafeteria, and all students are expected to follow them.

The students must:

1. Enter and exit the cafeteria in a line that is quiet and orderly.
2. Stand in a single line while waiting for food.
3. Sit in the assigned area.
4. Not exchange food items.
5. Use a quiet, indoor voice.
6. Show good manners, courtesy, and consideration for other students and adults in the cafeteria.
7. **Always follow the instructions of the cafeteria monitors or other adults.**
8. Not leave the cafeteria during the lunch period without a written pass.
9. Do not remove food and beverages from the designated eating areas.
10. Leave the table and floor clean! Each student is required to dispose of trash from his or her table in the containers provided for trash when instructed to do so by monitors.

11. OCCS participates in the Federal Lunch Program, and the school must follow its guidelines. **Students are not permitted to exchange food!** No child should ever be forced to eat, but each student is required to take everything being offered. Encourage children to sample new foods.

While OCCS is not a peanut-free school, every effort will be made to accommodate all food allergies on an individual and classroom basis. Included in the cafeteria are special tables marked “allergy-free zones.”.

Food should never be withheld as a punishment. Carbonated and sugary drinks, candy, and glass containers should not be part of a student’s lunch. Teachers are not to spend their lunch period with students or parents in their classroom without preapproval by the administration.

Section 4: Academics

4. A. Grading Policies

Students will receive updates on their academic progress and have regular reviews from school staff. Grades will be given fairly and impartially, and students should have the chance to discuss them with their teachers. While conduct is not directly graded, it may affect academic grades, especially if it leads to missed work. Students are responsible for attending classes regularly, completing all assignments, and making up missed work. They must also refrain from cheating or plagiarism.

4. B. Accountability and Tracking

Oak Creek Charter’s Accountability Plan must provide the information needed to measure and track the school’s progress toward its goals, make program adjustments when needed, and report to parents, the community, and the Charter Authorizer on performance and progress.

It is the intent of Oak Creek Charter that all Kindergarten through 8th grade students become proficient in reading, writing, math, science, social science, and Physical Education classes each year at, or above their grade level. Moreover, the students will make progress towards Oak Creek Charter achievement standards in preparation to meet or exceed the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards.

In addition, all grade levels will achieve mastery of the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards as monitored by the FAST, SAT 10, and I-Ready Diagnostic assessments for reading and math. Pre-, Interim, and Post-tests will be used as a quarterly benchmark in monitoring each student’s learning gains throughout the school year. The results obtained, utilizing the above evaluative and monitoring tools, will generate the “**evidence of facts**” that will present the annual Oak Creek “**snapshot**” to the school community, Lee County, and the Florida Department of Education.

4. C. Report Cards

OCCS will use the Focus System for Attendance and Grade Reporting. Parent/Student Portal access will be made available for online tracking of student assignments.

This information will provide parents with a clear, concise, and well-defined report regarding their student’s current level of performance and continuous improvement over the school year. This will be viewed as one part of a larger accountability system for students and parents, based on performance and proficiency in the standards in each academic area.

Lee County/ Oak Creek Charter’s Grading Scale 6th- 8th Grades:

A+	98%	Excellent Progress
A	94%	
A-	90%	
B+	87%	Above Average Progress
B	83%	
B-	80%	
C+	88%	Satisfactory Progress
C	73%	
C-	70%	
D+	67%	Needs Improvement
D	63%	
D-	60%	
F	0-59%	Unsatisfactory Progress

Kindergarten Grading Scale

S – Satisfactory
 N – Needs Improvement
 U – Unsatisfactory

1st-5th Grades Grading Scale

A – 90-100% Excellent Progress
 B – 80-89% Above Average Progress
 C – 70-79% Satisfactory Progress
 N – 60-69% Needs Improvement
 U – 0-59% Unsatisfactory Progress

Assignment Percentages - K-2

5% Participation
35% Assessments/Projects
60% Classwork

Assignment Percentages - 3-5

10% Homework
5% Participation
30% Assessments/Projects
55% Classwork

Assignment Percentages - 6-8

10% Homework
5% Participation
30% Assessments/Projects
55% Classwork

Students may receive a “0” for homework/participation. When assigned, homework should not count more than 5-10% toward each student’s grade.

4.D. Homework

Homework will reinforce basic skills or expand on learned concepts, tailored to individual student needs. It's not for introducing new concepts or as punishment. The aim is to instill study habits early and allow students to share their learning with their parents. If a child struggles with homework, parents should communicate with the teacher. Regular feedback on assignments will be given to students and parents. A lack of completion may be noted in reports.

4. E. Homework Policy

This is a general outline of the time required and days suggested for homework. In addition to this, unfinished class work may also be sent home for completion. All students are encouraged to read nightly. **Please note that homework may be assigned on Fridays and during school breaks.**

Kindergarten – Second Grade: Students at these grade levels will not be assigned any homework. They will be encouraged to read at least 20 minutes per night.

Third-Eighth Grade: Students should have 30-60 minutes of homework graduating with grade levels, four to five nights per week (Monday-Friday). Reading for enjoyment may also be assigned many nights. Social studies or science activities may also be assigned.

4. F. Academic Honesty

4. F.1. Cheating

A. Types of cheating

1. During testing
 - a. Looking at another student's paper. Holding paper so that another student can read and/or copy.
 - b. Using "cheat sheets," or other concealed information.
 - c. Opening book to answers.
 - d. Giving another student or students answers or test questions.
 - e. Writing answers on desk.
 - f. Sharing information via cyber or electronic communication devices.
2. Homework Assignments
 - a. Copying another student's answers, papers, or assignments.
 - b. Submitting written report without having read complete assignment, i.e. reading a summary instead of a book
 - c. Plagiarism of any source including the Internet.
3. Altering or changing answers on class papers.
4. Passing answers or information to other students between classes.
5. Paying or bartering with others to do schoolwork.

B. Disciplinary action related to cheating

1st offense: failing grade on work and parents notified.

2nd offense: failing grade on work and conference with an administrator, parents, and teacher. Other penalties will be determined at the conference.

3rd offense: parents notified; possible loss of credit in the course, following an administrative hearing, consisting of parents, administration, management, and the student.

Engaging in cheating and plagiarism is considered academic dishonesty. Students found in violation of these standards may face suspension ranging from 1 to 5 days. Additionally, students may forfeit awards, privileges, and honors bestowed by the school on those who demonstrate integrity. Any student suspended for academic dishonesty is ineligible to participate in field trips and after-school activities, including sports, practices, and games, for the duration of their disciplinary period.

4. G. Special Services

Oak Creek Charter offers ESE, ELL, speech, language, and OT/PT services for any student who qualifies. Documentation from your family physician or any other Doctor must be submitted, coupled with implementing and completing the MTSS process before any special services can begin. Contact your student's teacher should you feel your child needs these services.

4. H. Character Education

Character Education is one way to enhance every child's self-concept, improve behavior, enhance learning gains, reduce tardiness, absences, and misconduct that results in student suspensions. In addition, Character Education will increase a sense of purpose, citizenship, responsibility, and community. OCCS School Administration will oversee the Character Education curriculum and will disseminate the information that needs to be addressed by teachers to their students.

4. I. Conferences

Parents are required to contact their child's teacher when they wish to arrange a conference. Please send a note, email, or call the teacher directly and indicate two or three dates and times that are convenient for you. At least one-day notice should be given to the school unless it is an emergency. There will be at least **two scheduled conference nights during** the school year. Parents will visit the school to meet with one or more teachers and said conferences will be scheduled in advance. All conferences will have a strict time limit.

4. J. Textbooks

Students are responsible for the proper care of textbooks issued to them by subject area teachers. Textbooks must be returned to the same teacher at the end of the school year or upon withdrawal. If a textbook is lost, destroyed, or unnecessarily damaged, the student must pay the full purchase price, unless the book has been in use for more than a year, in which case a replacement fee will be determined. Theft or other circumstances do not excuse non-payment. Refunds will be issued if lost books are found and returned. Invoices will be sent to parents for payment, and non-payment may affect a student's ability to graduate or attend events.

4. K. Tutoring Program

Oak Creek Charter will offer an After-School free tutoring program for students in the Fall and Spring. The classroom teacher will refer students to the tutoring program. One teacher per grade level (Gr. 3 – 5) will be tutoring. Middle school teachers will tutor if it is necessary. The program will be from 3:30 – 4:45 on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Parents/Guardians of students selected for tutoring will be notified by their child's teacher. **If the students are unable to participate, they must meet with the Administration to discuss the mandatory nature of tutoring.**

4. L. Pledge of Allegiance 1003.44 (1)

Each school board may adopt rules to require, in all the schools of the district, programs of a patriotic nature to encourage greater respect for the government of the United States and its national anthem and flag, subject always to other existing pertinent laws of the United States or of the state. When the national anthem is played, students and all citizens should stand at attention, men removing the headdress, except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes. The Pledge of Allegiance statement, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all," shall be rendered by students standing with the right hand over the heart.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag shall be recited at the beginning of the day in each public elementary, middle, and high school in the state. Each student shall be informed by posting a notice in a conspicuous place that the student has the right not to participate in reciting the pledge. When the pledge is given, citizens should show full respect to the flag by standing at attention,

men removing their headdress, except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes. A student has the right not to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, but the student must stand.

4. M. School Parties

Any classroom parties, or any other parties on campus, **MUST** be approved by the school administration. Soda **may not** be served in the school at any time - only water, milk, or fruit juice are acceptable drinks. Approved parties may **ONLY** take place during the last thirty minutes of the school day, as per Federal Lunch Program guidelines. Any snacks brought to school from home should be healthy and purchased from a store. Any snack purchased for a party must come in with a student or left at the front desk. **NO PARTY DECORATIONS ARE PERMITTED.**

4. N. Student Birthdays

Birthday parties are not held at school. Classroom teachers will acknowledge a student's birthday in a variety of ways IF family beliefs allow. Parents are permitted to bring in a store-bought treat to recognize their child's birthday. The timing of this will also be restricted to the final thirty minutes of the school day. **Invitations for home parties must be distributed to the entire class,** so as not to interfere with our academic program, or to cause hurt feelings. Please do not have flowers or balloons delivered to your child at school. They will not be delivered to the classroom as doing so would disrupt the academic focus of our work. Additionally, items of this nature are not permitted on buses.

4. O. School Pictures/ Yearbooks

School pictures are taken twice a year with scheduled make-up days following each session. Information will be sent home for parents to complete and return if they wish to order said pictures. For Fall Picture Day, students are required to wear the normal dress code. During our Spring Picture Day, students may dress out of uniform. School yearbooks will be sold in the spring with a cost to be announced. Information will be sent home regarding yearbook sales.

4. P. School Supplies

Each grade will distribute a list of the necessary school supplies for the class. Said list can also be found on the website: www.oakcreekcharter.org. Some items will be used for the entire class community, and some may be for your child. It is not necessary to label all supplies. Please make sure that your child is prepared for class each day with several sharpened pencils, crayons, and anything else requested by the teacher. Additional supplies can be donated to the PTO, which will count toward mandatory volunteer service hours. The school provides everything needed for physical education and recess. **Therefore, students should leave their toys, games, radios, sports equipment, etc., at home. This will prevent items from becoming lost/broken or causing disruption to the school setting.**

4. Q. Club Activities

Details regarding clubs and organizations will be disseminated to all parents once schedules have been finalized. Students are encouraged to participate in any club offered for their grade level. Extensive research underscores the positive impact of club involvement and extracurricular activities on student development. Moreover, additional clubs may be introduced during the school year, subject to student interest and the availability of faculty sponsorship and parental support. Prior to a student's participation in any club or activity, a completed permission form signed by a parent or guardian is mandatory.

4. R. Team Sports

Oak Creek Charter will be offering a “team sports” program for students in grades 6-8. Our students will have the opportunity to participate in several sports throughout the year. Practices will be held after school from 3:50 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. If your child is not enrolled in the After Care School program, he/she must be picked up **promptly before 4:50 p.m.**, to avoid After Care School care charges. Those students enrolled in the After Care School program will be supervised until 6:00 PM. All students must be in good academic and behavioral standing before they can participate in any team sports activity or club. Students are expected to exhibit good sportsmanship and teamwork to take part in OCCS’ team sports programs.

4. S. Field Trips

The Oak Creek Charter School Board believes that field trips, both in and out of the county, can be an integral part of the learning process in many areas of education. For purposes of this policy, a field trip shall be defined as an approved trip away from the school site. The field trips are for educational purposes and are aligned with Florida B.E.S.T. Standards and the School’s vision and mission.

1. An Authorization for Trip Form signed by the parent must be on file at the school for each K-8 student for him/her to make the trip.
2. Students may be denied the privilege of participating in field trips, and social and/or extracurricular activities if said student(s) have been disruptive and have violated the student code of conduct or fail to conform to school rules and regulations. The final decision on whether the student may participate shall be made by the administration with documentation and input from pertinent staff. If the student(s) remains on campus during an assigned field trip, the teacher is responsible for planning for the student to be supervised in another classroom. The teacher will also provide work for said student(s).
3. **ONLY** approved Level 2 Volunteers may attend and assist in the supervision on field trips **per the Jessica Lunsford Act of 2005.**
4. **ALL** fines and fees must be paid in full for students to participate in field trips.

4. S.1. Overdue Balances:

Families that become overdue on balances will be subjected to the consequences listed below:

- Aftercare - Balances \$100.00 or more - Students will be removed from aftercare until the balance is paid in full.
Field Trips - If the above balances are in place prior to a student field trip, the student may not be permitted to attend until the balances are paid in full.

4. T. Internet Use

The school district, along with FORZA Education Management, implements Internet content filters to regulate student access to material in accordance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA). All students are required to utilize these filters when accessing the Internet to prevent exposure to harmful content. The supervision of public school student telecommunications services, whether through school equipment or authorization, is ensured. District procedures, compliant with CIPA guidelines, incorporate technology protection measures to block or filter visual depictions that are obscene, contain child pornography, or are deemed harmful to minors. Parents or guardians who wish to restrict their child's access to the Internet must provide written notification to the school. Unauthorized Internet usage will result in disciplinary measures being taken.

Email use by students is not allowed without specific instructional purposes and must be monitored at all times for appropriate content. This use requires prior approval by Oak Creek Charter to assure compliance with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Neighborhood Children’s Internet Protection Act (NCIPA).

Unauthorized access, including so-called hacking or other unlawful activities, will result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, cancellation of privileges. Written parental permission is required prior to a student’s participation in online programs that transmit personally identifiable information. The district will make all reasonable efforts in selecting online programs that ensure the privacy and confidentiality of the student and comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA requirements will be communicated annually to parents, students, faculty, and staff.

4. U. Telephone/ Cell Phone Guidelines

Students at OCCA are not allowed to use office or classroom phones except in true emergencies, where the school staff will assist the student. Personal calls, such as arranging to go home with another student, are not permitted. The staff and administration will determine if the student can use the phone based on the situation. Messages only during emergencies will be taken for students, and they will not be called out of class to use the phone or receive calls unless it is a true emergency. Cell phones and Smartwatches are prohibited unless authorized by school staff or administration under certain circumstances. All students must have their devices turned off and kept in bags for emergencies only. Any unauthorized use of the device will result in the device being confiscated, and parents will need to retrieve the device. A second offense leads to an automatic referral, and the student cannot bring the device to school for the rest of the year.

Personal electronic devices, i.e., electronic games or any unnecessary devices deemed potentially disruptive shall not be permitted at school. The same consequences as having a cell phone will be adhered to.

Students bringing any electronic devices for a class project must make arrangements with the teacher or administration for safekeeping. Students are not permitted to record videos on their electronic devices while on school property, including whilst on the bus or on a field trip. Students should not wear a school uniform in any videos recorded for use on social media platforms whilst off campus.

Cellular devices shall be defined as any electronic device that reproduces, transmits, or records (voice, pictures, text, or any other type of media.)

The school shall not accept responsibility for any student's personal property including electronic devices.

Section 5: Discipline

Discipline encompasses the systematic approach of guiding a student's behavior from inappropriate to exemplary standards. Our aim is not merely to reduce negative behaviors but to instill a sense of understanding and adherence to positive conduct. We strive to create the best learning environment for all students. Discipline is administered without anger or for the sake of expediency. While students may not always welcome disciplinary measures, as part of OCCS, all students are held to high expectations and will benefit from the structure and clear expectations provided, which are essential for students to achieve their maximum potential.

The Student Handbook and Lee County Student Code of Conduct ensure consistent enforcement of rules. According to F.S. 1006.07, teachers, principals, and administrators can maintain discipline. The principal can adjust disciplinary actions, and the administration decides the consequences for offenses. Discipline applies on school property, at events, and at bus stops. Students must respect law enforcement or face consequences for obstruction.

If a student continues to violate school rules and regulations or if a student commits a crime off school property, reassignment to another school may occur. Students may be disciplined for engaging in other objectionable conduct even if the conduct is not specifically described below.

Students are required to follow all classroom and school rules and regulations. The teacher will send students to the office after multiple verbal warnings. Students are only sent to the office after the teacher has exhausted every strategy in the classroom.

Each administrator and educator will establish appropriate procedures for discipline in his or her classroom based on these guidelines. **The following list is not all-inclusive:**

1. There is zero tolerance for aggression, drugs, and alcohol on campus. Students who push, hit, bite, kick, harass, bully, threaten school safety, or negatively use the internet will be assigned an appropriate consequence, up to and including suspension or dismissal from the school. Items that carry pictures or slogans referring to drug culture or alcohol, profane or abusive language, and inappropriate slang language are prohibited by anyone at OCCS.
2. Students are required to demonstrate respect towards school personnel, encompassing, but not limited to, administration, teachers, staff, and substitutes.

3. Any deliberate damage to school property will necessitate replacement, repair, or reimbursement for damages by either the student or their parents. The affixing of stickers to school property is strictly prohibited, including on student tablets or computers.
4. The following items, including but not limited to matches or lights, music devices, skateboards, handheld gaming devices, toys, and weapons of any kind, are strictly prohibited on school grounds: Students are advised that disciplinary measures may be taken if they are found crafting any weapons or items resembling weapons using craft materials.
5. Students are expected to maintain cleanliness within the school premises at all times. Gum chewing is strictly prohibited inside the school premises.
6. All students will follow the established school cell phone policy. Cell phones or other personal electronic devices should not be brought to school, and use is prohibited during school hours. School phones are available in case of emergencies. Possession of a cell phone or other personal electronic devices during the school day will result in the equipment being collected and returned directly to the parent; multiple offenses may result in higher discipline.

5. A. Bullying

It is the policy of Oak Creek Charter School that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Our school will not tolerate bullying and harassment. Such interactions could occur in telephone conversations, voice mail messages, face-to-face conversations, or in written communication, including on social media. Bullying and harassment, as defined below, are prohibited.

Bullying is a repeated form of aggression and occurs when a person(s) who perceives a power imbalance, willfully subjects another person (victim), whomever he/she may be, to intentional, unwanted, and unprovoked hurtful verbal and/or physical action(s) which result(s) in the victim feeling oppressed (stress, injury, discomfort) at any school site, bus stop, or school-sponsored activity or event.

Bullying may also occur as various repeated forms of hazing, including initiation rites perpetrated against a new student or a new member of a team. Students who engage in such conduct shall be subject to a range of punishments including verbal or written reprimand, out-of-school suspension, or change of placement and/or expulsion.

Examples of Bullying

1. **Physical Bullying** - punching, shoving, poking, strangling, hair-pulling, beating, biting and excessive tickling.
2. **Verbal Bullying** - hurtful name-calling, teasing, and gossip.
3. **Emotional (psychological) Bullying** - rejecting, terrorizing, extorting, defaming, humiliating, blackmailing, rating/ranking of personal characteristics such as race, disability, ethnicity, or perceived sexual orientation, manipulating friendships, isolating, ostracizing, and peer pressure.

4. **Sexual Bullying** - many of the actions listed above as well as exhibitionism, voyeurism, sexual propositioning, sexual harassment, and abuse involving actual physical contact and sexual assault. In many cases, gender and cross-gender sexual harassment may also qualify as **bullying**.

5. **Cyberbullying** can encompass any various forms of harassment through electronic communication, such as messages, images, or data transmission. This includes creating fake profiles or impersonating others online. It also involves distributing or posting harmful content to multiple recipients.

6. **Stalking** means engaging in a course of conduct or pattern of behavior that would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her own safety or the safety of others, or to suffer substantial emotional distress from such a course of conduct or pattern of safety behavior.

7. **Cyberstalking**, as defined in F.S. 784.048(1)(d), means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person, and serving no legitimate purpose.

8. **Bullying**, in most cases, is characterized by repeated harmful actions on the part of the bully. Personnel at all levels are responsible for taking corrective action to prevent bullying. Bullying will not be tolerated and will lead to suspension, expulsion, and/ or transfer from Oak Creek Charter School.

In addition, retaliation **will not be tolerated**. **Retaliation** is defined as “to pay back (an injury) in kind.”

5. B. Harassment

State and federal law specifically prohibits harassment. Instances of harassment may result in both civil and criminal liability on the part of the individual harasser as well as the school board. Harassing activities by students or employees will not be tolerated.

Harassment is when a person continually teases, annoys, threatens, or insults another person in either a verbal, physical, or written manner. Harassment occurs when a person subjects another person to any unwelcome conduct because of sex, race, origin, religion, etc., on school property or at a school-sponsored event. Persons who engage in such conduct shall be subject to a range of punishments.

Sexual harassment is when a person bothers another person using sexual words, pictures, gestures, or conduct that the other person would find offensive. Sexual harassment can also occur when a person is forced by his or her location or situation to see or overhear sexual comments, gestures, or conduct that he or she finds offensive.

Examples of sexual harassment may include sexual comments or jokes, pressure to date someone, catcalling, unwanted touching, spreading sexual rumors, receiving explicit images or messages, being forced to do sexual acts, and derogatory terms related to sexual identity.

Confidentiality must be maintained as much as possible during any harassment investigation. Confidentiality is maintained when the identity of the people involved or the circumstances surrounding the incident are kept private. For example, you do not maintain confidentiality if you tell your friends the name of the person who harassed you.

Oak Creek Charter's policy forbids harassment. The school will not tolerate harassment of any kind at any of its sites or activities. Personnel, at all levels, are responsible for taking corrective action to prevent harassment. Allegations of harassment will be promptly investigated, giving due regard to the need for confidentiality.

Guidance regarding the prevention and remediation of harassment will be furnished in written form to both staff and students. Individuals found to engage in such behavior will be subject to a spectrum of disciplinary measures. Substantiated claims of harassment can yield significant ramifications for the individual found culpable, including but not limited to the following:

The range of punishment for a party found guilty of harassment could include verbal and written reprimand, out-of-school suspension, change of placement, and/or expulsion.

If the party deemed guilty is a school employee, the range of punishment could include written reprimand, suspension without pay, and/or termination.

If the party deemed guilty is neither a student nor a school employee, appropriate steps shall be taken, which could include limiting the access of this party to school property and any other action deemed necessary.

5. C. Vandalism and Defacing School Property

Vandalism in our school can cost thousands of dollars and jeopardize our lease agreement. For the students' own protection, they should stay away from the school buildings when school is not in session.

Vandalism and defacement of school property constitute grave offenses. Students found guilty of such infractions, whether within Oak Creek Charter School and other used premises or elsewhere in any county, shall face severe disciplinary measures. These actions may entail restitution, suspension, and/or expulsion. Additionally, the student in question will be reported to the relevant law enforcement agency and may face arrest and prosecution. This encompasses acts such as spray-painting buildings, destruction of the premises, and any similar forms of vandalism. It is imperative to note that any damage caused to school property by a student is the sole responsibility of the student's family.

5. D. Weapons and Dangerous Instruments

A student shall not possess, handle, or transport weapons of any type or any object that resembles a weapon. Students violating this policy are subject to suspension, expulsion, transfer and/or arrest.

Examples of Weapons:

Weapons may include, but are not limited to: guns, knives, dirks (daggers), razor blades, ice picks, explosives, chains, pipes, brass knuckles, Billy clubs, Chinese stars, mace, tear gas or any mixture of chemicals used as a weapon, dangerous instruments, toy guns, or anything that resembles or could be considered a weapon on school grounds and up to 500 yards from school grounds, or at related activities are prohibited. Any student that brings a weapon to school, a school function, or on any school-sponsored transportation may be expelled, with or without continuing educational services and referred for criminal prosecution following an administrative hearing.

5.E. Zero Tolerance Offences

Oak Creek Charter has adopted a zero-tolerance policy for serious crimes involving violence, weapons, drugs, and behaviors that threaten the safety of students or personnel; illegal activities are intolerable. The 2001 Florida Legislature enacted CS/CS/HV 267 which requires school districts to adopt a policy of zero tolerance for victimization and prohibits any student who is adjudicated of certain specified felony violations against another student from attending the same school or riding on the same school bus as the victim or the victim's sibling(s).

Exceptional education students are not exempt from the provisions of this bill. However, the implementation in the case of ESE students must be provided within the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C., and Chapter 33 as amended by: Public Law 105-17.

5. E. 1. Examples of Zero-Tolerance Offenses:

Zero-tolerance offenses at Oak Creek Charter School may include but are not limited to alcohol possession, arson, threatening or intimidating school staff or students, bomb threats, property damage, false alarms, homicide, kidnapping, major disruptions, slander of school staff, theft, firearm possession, drug possession or use, possession of drug paraphernalia or illegal contraband, sexual assault, non-weapon use as a weapon, attempted bodily harm to school staff or students, gang-related activities, and possession of weapon replicas.

Consequences of Zero-Tolerance Offenses:

1. The student will be suspended immediately.
2. A parent or guardian will be notified.
3. The student may be suspended, expelled, or recommended for a change of placement.
4. Referral to law enforcement agency as appropriate.

Consequences of Felony Drug-Related Incidents:

1. The student will be suspended immediately, and parents will be contacted.
2. The authorities must be contacted immediately.
3. Any student reprimanded with drugs or drug-related incidents might be expelled or arrested.

4. The OCCS and local school board will decide if the student is return to school.

Tobacco or Tobacco Products Consequences:

1. Mandatory parent conference.
2. Referral to law enforcement.
3. Mandatory anti-tobacco education as stated in F.S. Section 386.212 and Section 569.11.
4. Out-of-school suspension as determined by the administration.

Fighting Consequences:

1. One to ten days of out-of-school suspension and a mandatory meeting will be scheduled with a parent.
2. Successful completion of peer mediation, conflict resolution, or anger management training.
3. Referral to law enforcement as appropriate.
4. Students may be expelled or transferred to another school depending on the incident.

****Actions that were taken clearly in self-defense without prior physical or verbal involvement shall not be considered an intentional act under this rule, but a student will still be suspended for fighting or striking a student back.**

Sexual harassment Consequences:

1. Verbal and written reprimand.
2. Mandatory parent meeting
3. Out-of-school suspension; 1 to 10 days.
4. Change of placement and/or expulsion.

Drug Possession Consequences:

1. Out-of-school suspension 1 to 10 days and mandatory parent meeting.
2. Referral to law enforcement.
3. Referral to the Juvenile Drug Court Program.
4. Permission to attend a regular school program if the student participates in a Drug Court program and/or treatment center.
5. Failure to successfully complete Drug Court program and/or treatment center may result in a recommendation for a change of placement and/or other sanctions.
6. Oak Creek Charter and local school board will decide if the student returns to school.

5. F. Behavior Consequences

There is a school-wide discipline plan, however, all teachers have their own classroom rules and regulations that all students must adhere to. Each teacher will be sending this information home on the first day of school. After all behavior strategies have been exhausted in the classroom, teachers may send a student to the office. **This is always a last resort for teachers!**

***SEVERE CLAUSE: Fighting, Profanity, Disrespect, or Disruptive behavior may result in immediate suspension from school (OSS). A parent will be contacted and may be called to pick up the student.**

***Please see your child's teacher to find out his/her management system.**

***Suspensions may be given to any student who is sent to the office for violating the rules and regulations listed in this handbook.**

OCCS uses the Lee County Code of Conduct as a guide to our discipline procedures, but the Administrative Team and FORZA Management have the final decision as they relate to disciplinary actions. Attached is a copy of the Code of Conduct levels of behaviors and consequences. https://www.leeschools.net/our_schools/code_of_conduct

5. G. Search and Seizure

Students have the right to privacy and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures unless there is probable cause to protect safety, health, or property. Oak Creek Charter School Board maintains a Zero-Tolerance Policy for weapons or items resembling weapons to ensure a safe learning environment.

Students have the right of privacy of their personal possessions unless there is reason on their part Students must not carry or hide prohibited items that could disrupt the educational process or the safety of the school. They should cooperate with reasonable requests to surrender such items. "Pat downs" are allowed, but strip searches are prohibited by school officials.

of the Administration or designee to believe that the student is concealing a weapon, illegal drugs or other material that is inappropriate and dangerous to themselves, others, or property; to be given prior notification of any searches unless in a case of emergency. Students have the responsibility not to carry, possess, or conceal any material that is prohibited by law, and to accept the consequences for their actions in cases where unlawful materials are found in their possession or in their lockers.

5. H. Search and Seizure Guidelines

Search in School Buildings or on School Property by the Administration

The administration has the authority to inspect and search students' desks if they suspect the presence of prohibited items. Search and seizure procedures may be used to maintain discipline and ensure safety. The fruits of such searches may be handed over to law enforcement for further action. Parents can request searches of their child's belongings in writing. Law enforcement may be involved in accordance with local laws.

If the administration has received reliable information, that evidence of a crime or stolen goods not involving school property of members of the school staff or student body is located in a certain student's locker, desk, or student's or nonstudent's automobile, and search is unrelated to school discipline or

health and safety of a student or student body, the administration shall request law enforcement assistance, and procedures to obtain and execute a search warrant shall thereafter be followed.

The administration has the authority to interview students regarding crimes committed on school property without parental notification. They may request law enforcement assistance in such cases, with investigations led by the local law enforcement agency. If assistance is requested, law enforcement officers may conduct investigations and interview students with school staff present. If a student is a prime suspect, guidelines for interview, search, and arrest will be followed jointly by the administration and law enforcement.

If a student is suspected or accused of a crime committed on school property or during school hours, an administrator can interview them without parental presence or constitutional warnings. However, if the crime is not school-related or if law enforcement initiates the interview, parental notification is required, and constitutional warnings must be given. The voluntariness of any statement made by the student will be assessed in subsequent legal proceedings.

5. I. Arrest by Law Enforcement Officers

Typically, law enforcement officers shouldn't need to arrest or take custody of students during school hours for offenses committed outside of school. Officers may only arrest or take custody of a student during school hours if requested by the administration or if there's probable cause for a violent felony, an arrest warrant, or a juvenile commitment order. Before taking action, officers must inform the administration and summon the student to the office. In emergencies involving witnessed felonies or breaches of peace on school premises, officers can take immediate action, but the administration must be notified promptly.

In emergency situations, where the commission of a crime or offense involving felony or breach of the peace in school has been witnessed by a law enforcement officer, or if the law enforcement officer is in "hot pursuit" of the student for such crime, the officer has the legal right to take direct and unhindered action in schools. The administration must be notified of the action as soon as possible.

5. J. Student Bathroom and Locker Room Use

The school policy requires individuals to use bathrooms, locker rooms, and dressing rooms corresponding to their biological sex at birth. Single-occupancy gender-neutral bathrooms are available. School personnel rely on initial enrollment records or other available documentation to enforce this policy. Additional documentation may be requested if inconsistencies arise. The policy complies with state and federal law.

In carrying out this policy, school personnel are required to maintain the privacy of all educational records as set forth in Section 1012.22, Florida Statutes, and to respect the privacy interests of all students and parents.

Section 6-Health

6. A. Child Abuse/ Neglect

Under the law, teachers are obligated to report any case of suspected child abuse. Teachers are protected under the law against a lawsuit from parents for reporting a case.

6.B. Health Issues and Medication

Illness – The health and physical well-being of all students is a matter of great concern to us. A student who is sick with a fever (100 degrees or higher), headache, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, open sores, or similar illness should not be sent to school. A student may not return to school if they have vomited or had diarrhea within the past 24 hours. A student must be without a fever for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication before returning to school. Health conditions such as pink eye are highly contagious and must be properly treated before your child may return to school.

Medication - Whenever possible, medications should be given at home. However, if it is necessary for your child to receive a prescribed or over-the-counter medication at school, the parent must bring the medication to school in the original container or packaging **with a Medication Authorization Form completed and signed by the prescribing physician and the parent/ guardian.**

1. All medications must be brought to school by the **parent/guardian and signed in with the office staff.**
2. Medication must be delivered to school in the container in which it was purchased (dispensed). The medication label must indicate the student's name, name of the medication, physician's name, dosage, and time (frequency) to be given. If the medication requires equipment for administration (cup, spoon, or dropper), the parent is responsible for supplying the articles labeled with the student's name.
3. A separate supply of medication must be kept at school. Medication shall not be transported between home and school on a daily or weekly basis.
4. All medication must be kept in the school office; a student is never permitted to keep any medication. Students may not carry medications at school except in specific situations, which require the written approval of the physician, parent/guardian, and administration.
5. Only medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration will be accepted for administration at school.
6. Students may not bring vitamins, in any form, to school unless a Medical Authorization Form has been completed and signed by a prescribing physician.

If medication is discontinued, or at the end of the school year medication is not taken home by the parent, it shall be destroyed. Special arrangements must be made if a student is self-medicating.

Inhaler use - a student who has experienced or is at risk for life-threatening anaphylaxis may carry an inhaler and self-administer while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities if the school has been provided with parental and physician authorization. The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall adopt.

Epinephrine use - a student who has experienced or is at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions may carry an epinephrine auto-injector and self-administer epinephrine by auto-injector while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities if the school has been provided with parental and physician authorization. The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, shall adopt rules for the use of epinephrine auto-injectors. Oak Creek Charter and its employees and volunteers shall be indemnified by the parent of a student authorized to carry an epinephrine auto-injector of all liability with respect to the student's use of an epinephrine auto-injector pursuant to this paragraph.

6. C. Student Illness or Accident in School

If a child becomes too unwell/ill to remain in class, parents will be promptly contacted. Therefore, it is imperative that any changes to contact information, particularly telephone numbers, are communicated immediately to the school, as up-to-date emergency contact details are essential if an emergency arises. Please note that emergency care facilities within the school are extremely limited.

Arrangements for the child's transportation home **must** be arranged promptly. In the case of a serious illness or injury, parents will be notified immediately without delay. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) may be summoned to provide medical assistance, at the discretion of staff. It is important to emphasize that any costs incurred during such emergencies are the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

6. D. Communicable Disease

School personnel cannot decide if a child with a rash or sores has a communicable disease. Only a physician can certify that a child is free of communicable diseases. We can only call the parents and request that the child is kept at home until an official clearance has been obtained, **in writing**. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

6. E. No "Nit" Policy

"NO NIT" POLICY PROCEDURES: Oak Creek Charter has a "No Nit" policy. If a child is found to have head lice, they will be temporarily excluded from school and may only return once their head is free from both lice and nits (the eggs laid by lice that attach to hair strands). It is the responsibility of parents to administer appropriate treatment to eradicate head lice and nits before the child's return to school. Ideally, a child should miss no more than one or two days of school due to head lice. Any excessive absences resulting from head lice will be handled in accordance with the provisions of the compulsory school attendance law.

1. If a student has signs or symptoms of head lice, the clinic aide or trained staff will check the student's hair and scalp to determine if live lice or nits are present.
2. If live lice or nits are present, the parent must pick up the child promptly and will be given instructions for treatment and removal of the nits and/or lice. All siblings will also be checked.
3. The parent must accompany the child to school after treatment and be **present during recheck**. Students who continue to have live lice or nits upon recheck may not return to class.

Please check your child frequently and notify the office if lice and/or nits are found.

6. F. Stranger Danger Procedures

The single most effective prevention of danger from strangers is for parents and concerned citizens to monitor all bus stops and routes that Oak Creek Charter children take to and from school. The Lee County Sheriff's Office will continue to maintain enhanced and specialized patrols along these routes and at bus stops.

6. G. Safety and Security

Providing a safe and secure environment for students to learn is a top priority at Oak Creek Charter School. Measures have been taken to ensure that staff and students are prepared in the event a crisis occurs in the school. A comprehensive Crisis Management Plan has been adopted below to guide staff through a wide variety of situations. Fire drills, tornado drills, lockdowns, and evacuations are practiced, to ensure that routines and safety procedures are well-established and familiar to all staff. PCA has adopted the safety policy that is intended to comply with the requirements of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act (as amended), Rule 6A-1.0018, Florida Administrative Code, and Rule 6A-1.0017 Florida.6. H. Crisis Management Plan

When Oak Creek Charter responds with emergency measures, its sole priority is to keep all students, faculty, and staff safe. Teachers and Substitute teachers must be cognizant of and prepared to follow and expedite all emergency procedures. Oftentimes, in cases of potentially serious school safety threats, students, faculty, and staff remain in the building under a lockdown even after the school day has ended. These measures are often frustrating for parents who want to remove their children from school during a threat. The parents of Oak Creek Charter School will need to appreciate that the school must protect itself from all potential incoming individuals if the incoming individuals are parents.

6. H. Crisis Management Plan

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who want to remove their children from school during a threat. The parents of Oak Creek Charter School will need to appreciate that the school must protect itself from all potential incoming individuals if the incoming individuals are parents.

6. I. Universal Precautions

6. I. 1. Blood-borne Pathogens

Universal Precautions are the steps taken to reduce the spread of blood-borne diseases from one person to another. It is important that these steps be fulfilled within the school to protect children, staff members, vendors, visitors, and others who have contact with the facility.

1. It is a requirement to wear vinyl or latex gloves when touching body fluid.
2. Wash hands before and after all emergency procedures. If your skin comes into contact with body fluid, wash the affected area immediately with soap and water.
3. If your skin comes in contact with body fluids, report the incident at once to a school administrator or immediate supervisor. Not all reported situations will automatically be considered “exposure incidents.” Each situation will be handled on an individual basis, including the determination by OSHA standards whether the Hepatitis B vaccine will be offered.
4. Never recap, bend, or break needles. Dispose of needles in red sharps containers.

The Exposure Control Manual is in the main office of the building. If you have any questions about the prevention of the spread of blood-borne pathogens, speak with a school administrator.

Section 7- Parental Rights for Unresolved Student Welfare Complaints (Specials Magistrate)

The “Parental Rights in Education” law, also known as House Bill 1557 (2022), sets forth specific procedures for complaints or disputes falling into those categories detailed in Section 1001.42(8)(c)1.-7, Florida Statutes, and on the “Parental Request for Appointment of a Special Magistrate” form published by the Florida Department of Education and available here: (<https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7700/urlt/CSSM-16A-60791.pdf>)

The Florida Department of Education allows parents or guardians of charter school students to request the appointment of a Special Magistrate if they have been unable to resolve disputes with the school through established procedures. A Special Magistrate, who must be a qualified attorney with at least 5 years of experience in administrative law, conducts hearings where both the parent and the school present their cases regarding alleged violations of rights or procedures. This process serves as an alternative to filing a court action and culminates in a written recommendation by the Special Magistrate for consideration by the State Board of Education. Disputes concerning the educational rights of students with disabilities under IDEA 2004 are not eligible for this process. The Department notifies both parties once a decision on the appointment of a Special Magistrate has been made.

7. A. Related complaints or disputes

This includes any complaints or disputes related to the following:

- Concerns over procedures for notifying a student’s parent if there is a change in the student’s services or monitoring related to the student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being and the school’s ability to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for the student.
- Concerns related to any school policies or procedures that are perceived to discourage or prohibit parental notification of and involvement in critical decisions affecting their student’s mental, emotional, or physical health or well-being.
- Concerns over classroom instruction related to sexual orientation or gender identity, which is prohibited in grades K-8 and must be age-appropriate for all other grades.
- Concerns over student support services training developed or provided to school personnel that is believed to be out of compliance with guidelines, standards, and frameworks established by the Department of Education.
- Concerns over parental notification at the beginning of the school year about healthcare services offered by the School, including the ability to opt-out or withhold consent for any such services.
- [FOR GRADES K-3 ONLY] Concerns over whether the School provided a well-being questionnaire or health screening form to the parent and sought their permission before it was administered to the student. This only applies to grades K-3.

7. B. Complaint Procedures

Complaints must be made according to Rule 6A-6.0791. Parents and guardians have the right to notify the Principal of any concerns related to the above areas. The Principal or their designee must provide a response to the parent within seven (7) days of receiving the complaint. If the dispute cannot be resolved by the Principal or designee within seven (7) days, the parent may present the dispute to the School District. The School District must attempt to resolve the dispute within no more than thirty (30) days. If the School District is unable to resolve the dispute, a parent may request the appointment of a special magistrate utilizing the “Parental Request for Appointment of a Special Magistrate for Charter School Students” form linked above. For purposes of this policy, the term “days” means business days and excludes state, federal and school holidays/

Section 8- General Information

8. A. Important Phone Numbers and Websites

For the most up-to-date and accurate information, including school closings coming directly from Lee County Public Schools, please rely on the school district’s emergency information sources:

- **School District Website** – log on https://www.leeschools.net/our_schools/emergency_notification_system. Your 24/7 source for all school and school district information.

8. B. General State, District, and School Websites

- <http://www.myflorida.com>
- www.tumblebooks.com- (www.Leeschools.com/sge/mediacenter.htm)
- <http://bookadventure.com>
- <http://Google.com> - for research

These sites offer educational activities that primary students enjoy:

- <http://alfy.com/>
- <http://funbrain.com/kidscenter>
- <http://primarygames.com/>
- <http://www.Khanacademy.org>

7.C. Florida Standards Assessment preparation and research sites

- <http://www.fsassessments.org>
- <http://kz.com/login.htm>
- <http://go.grolier.com/>
- <http://discoverer.sirs.com>

**The students at Oak Creek Charter School are, "TOTALLY EN-
GAGED, EVERYDAY!"
POWERED BY FORZA**



FORZAedu.com

**“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn.”
----Benjamin Franklin**

OAK CREEK CHARTER HANDBOOK AGREEMENT



Please sign and return this page of the handbook the first week of school.

I have read, understand, and reviewed the above policies with my child. I agree to abide by the policies. I understand that failure to comply with school policy may result in the dismissal of my child from Oak Creek Charter School.

Student Handbook Agreement

Student Signature

Date

Student Name/Grade Teacher's Name

Parent /Guardian Signature

Date

