



# Dorothy Height Charter School

## FAMILY HANDBOOK

### 2023-2024

Dear Families and Students,

Welcome to Dorothy Height Charter School! We are looking forward to another terrific year, and we're delighted that you and your child will be part of our school community. Whether you are returning from last year or new to us this year, we are glad you are here.

Dorothy Height Charter School prepares all students for success in college and a life of opportunity and choice by developing their academic skills, lifelong passions, and personal character. We have the highest expectations for student behavior so that students and teachers can focus on their most important goal: student achievement. Our school culture is defined by our core values of **Perseverance**, **Excellence**, **Courage**, and **Community**. Developing this set of values will help students do well in any setting. Our focus remains on providing all scholars with a rigorous academic education, safe learning environment and a positive student culture.

This handbook is designed to communicate the basic policies that we all must follow to ensure that learning remains the focus of each minute of every day. Please go over the policies with your students and keep it handy so that you may refer to it when necessary.

I am looking forward to a powerful and positive year. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions about the year ahead.

Sincerely,

LaKeysha Arthur  
Principal  
larthur@crescentcityschools.org

*#reachinghigherheights*

Dorothy Height Charter School  
3501 Seine St  
New Orleans, LA 70114

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# MISSION AND VALUES

## MISSION

Dorothy Height Charter School prepares all students for success in college and a life of opportunity and choice by developing their academic skills, life-long passions, and personal character.

## VALUES

**Perseverance:** *With hard work and determination, we put in the energy it takes to accomplish our goals.*

- We never quit because we know it takes hard work to succeed.
- We keep our sights on our goals and keep working until we reach them.
- We put forth the effort to do our best work.

**Excellence:** *We are always striving to improve.*

- We look for solutions, not problems.
- We push ourselves to be better each day.
- We go above and beyond and sweat the small stuff to make sure the work is done right.

**Courage:** *We do what is right, even when it's tough.*

- We do the right thing even when no one is looking.
- We are not afraid to take risks.
- We stand up for what is right.

**Community:** *We are part of something larger than ourselves.*

- We do our part to help each other succeed.
- We value the ideas and effort that others bring to the team.
- We listen. We seek to understand.

## CRESCENT CITY SCHOOLS

Crescent City Schools is the non-profit charter management organization that oversees the workings of Dorothy Height Charter School. Crescent City Schools is governed by its own board of directors, which has board meetings throughout the year. The location of the board meetings rotates among the Crescent City Schools campuses. If you are interested in attending a board meeting, the board meeting schedule is posted in our front office and online at [www.crescentcityschools.org](http://www.crescentcityschools.org). Information on how to join the Crescent City Schools board is also posted on that website.

## STUDENT ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Dorothy Height is an open enrollment school in Orleans Parish and abides by the enrollment policies developed by the Orleans Parish School Board. This means that we are open to all who live in Orleans Parish; we have no requirements for admission; we do not test prior to entry; and, when there are more applicants than seats available, we use a random lottery to determine placement. The admissions process is designed to ensure equal access for all students, and the school does not discriminate in admissions, nor any of its program or activities, on the basis of intellectual ability, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or preference, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, national origin or immigration status, hairstyle, disability, or identification as an exceptional child.

All enrollment is handled by the Orleans Parish School Board. A free appropriate public education, including any necessary special education services, is provided as required by IDEA.

**Dorothy Height Charter School  
Student-Guardian-School Compact**

**STUDENT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE LEVEL** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL'S COMMITMENT:**

We fully commit to Height Families and Students in the following ways:

- We will provide high-quality instruction that supports and pushes students towards academic excellence.
- We will teach and live the values of Perseverance, Excellence, Courage, and Community.
- We will provide interventions to help students who are struggling academically and behaviorally.
- We will communicate openly with families and are accessible to their phone calls until 8:00 p.m. nightly.
- We will hold report card conferences either in-person or virtually to maintain our family-school partnership.
- We will provide guardians with reports on their children's progress on each standard in which they are assessed.
- We will provide guardians opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's school experience.
- We will provide students a safe and calm learning environment, free of bullying or mean spirited attacks.
- We will implement our discipline system fairly and are available by phone or email to partner with guardians in these matters.

**GUARDIANS' COMMITMENT:**

We fully commit to DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL in the following ways:

- We will ensure our child arrives at DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL every day between 7:50 a.m. - 8:10 a.m. Monday-Friday while school is in-person. If school is held virtually, we will ensure our child logs on to all required distance learning courses.
- We will schedule doctor/dentist and other appointments on holidays/staff professional development days so that our child does not miss instructional time.
- We will check our child's homework **every night** and sign their behavior tracker/agenda. During virtual learning we commit to communicating with our child's teachers to ensure lessons are completed by deadlines.
- We will carefully read **all** communications that the school sends home.
- We will attend family conferences either in-person or virtually to maintain our guardian-school partnership.
- We will allow our child(ren) to go on DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL virtual and in-person field trips.
- We will always make ourselves available to our child(ren) regarding the school and any concerns they might have. If our child is going to miss school, we will notify the front office as soon as possible.
- We will support the values of Perseverance, Excellence, Courage, and Community.
- We will make sure our child follows the DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL uniform policy.
- We understand that our child must follow the DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL rules and policies set forth in this handbook to protect the safety, interests, and rights of everyone in the classroom.

*Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause my child to lose various DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL privileges.*

**Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT'S COMMITMENT:**

I fully commit to DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL in the following ways:

- I will arrive at DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL every day between 7:50 a.m. - 8:10 p.m., Monday-Friday when school is held in-person. I will log onto all required online learning courses if school is held virtually.
- I will complete **all** of my homework **every night**.
- I will always make myself available to my family, teachers, and any concerns they might have. If I make a mistake, this means I will tell the truth to my teachers and accept responsibility for my actions.
- I will live the values of Perseverance, Excellence, Courage, and Community.
- I will always behave so as to protect the safety, interests, and rights of all individuals. This also means that I will listen to all my DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL classmates and teachers and give everyone my respect.
- I will follow the DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL uniform policy.
- I am responsible for my own behavior, and I will follow the teachers' directions.

*Failure to adhere to these commitments can cause me to lose various DOROTHY HEIGHT CHARTER SCHOOL privileges.*

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### DISCLAIMER

Policies and procedures in this handbook are subject to change based on directives from federal, state, and local agencies as well as medical and scientific guidance related to COVID-19 or other exigent circumstances.

### SCHOOL SCHEDULE: MONDAY - THURSDAY

7:50 a.m.-8:10 a.m. arrival. Students are tardy at 8:10 a.m.

3:45 p.m.-4:00 p.m. dismissal, at 4:05 p.m. students are late pickups.

### FRIDAY SCHEDULE

7:50 a.m.-8:10 a.m. arrival. Students are tardy at 8:10 a.m.

1:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m. dismissal, at 1:45 p.m. students are late pickups.

### DAILY SCHOOL ROUTINES

Each day, students are required to follow the routines described below:

#### Arrival at School

Students arrive at school by foot, bike, car, or school bus. Please follow signage that indicates which grades enter the building at each location. **Students should not be on the campus before 7:50 a.m.** The building and school yard are **NOT** open in the morning for students. All staff are preparing for the opening of the school day and cannot supervise students prior to that time.

Students are not allowed to leave the school grounds once they have arrived.

#### Breakfast

Breakfast is served from 7:50 a.m.-8:15 a.m. in students' classrooms. If a student arrives at school later than 8:30 a.m., they may not be able to eat breakfast.

#### Homeroom

The homeroom teacher takes attendance, checks homework, and provides students with information for the day.

#### Late Students

Any student who arrives after 8:10 a.m. is late. Please sign your student in at the tardy desk outside the front office, students will receive a late pass. Please be advised that three tardies to school counts as an absence. If a student is late too many times, their promotion to the next grade may be in jeopardy.

#### Hallways and Hall Passes

Hallways are silent during transitions, and classes transition using lines. Because we are a large school with many students in close proximity, transitions are done silently so we do not disturb other learners.

#### Child Nutrition and Food Policy

All students will be provided with breakfast, lunch, a snack, and supper at no cost each day. Students who are allergic to certain foods or must maintain a particular diet due to health issues must provide the school with physician documents indicating all restrictions. Meals will also be provided to students participating in distance learning programs, if applicable.

**Students are allowed to bring outside food to school. However, it must be healthy and nutritious and must not include chips, candy, cookies, pastries, fast food, sugary cereal, soda, or sugary juice. These items will be taken from the student and discarded.** If your child has allergies or dietary restrictions, please make sure the

nurse knows about them so we can work with you to accommodate their dietary needs or create a plan for outside food.

Because we participate in the Community Eligibility Provision, all students are provided free meals, regardless of their or their family's ability to pay.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, race, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the Complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. Mail:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410; or
2. Fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### **Student Team Meetings**

Students in grades K - 8 have a morning meeting with their homeroom weekly. It is a time for each team to perform team chants, recognize students who have shown our values, and celebrate other successes. These weekly meetings build community and enhance teamwork among students.

## **SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

### **Signing In and Out of School**

If a student arrives at school after 8:10 a.m., they must sign in at the outdoor tardy station office and receive a late pass.

Students are not allowed to leave the building during the day without being in the presence of a family member or other person designated by the guardian to check the student out of school. Whenever possible, the office should be notified in advance when a student will be checked out before school is over. **Any notifications of bus or car dismissal changes must be communicated to the front office prior to 2:30 p.m. Only an authorized adult may make changes.**

### **Sick Students**

Students who become ill at school will be sent to the nurse. The guardian will be contacted by phone and arrangements made for the student to be picked up from school, if necessary.

If a student is not at school due to an illness, a doctor's note is required by state law to excuse those absences. Please send a note with your student or present a note to the office upon your student's return.

If students present at school with a temperature of 100 degrees or more, a guardian will be contacted and the student must be picked up immediately to avoid potential community exposure.

### **Visitors**

All visitors must report directly to the main office and discuss the purpose of the visit with office staff. Only visitors who have legitimate business in the school will be permitted and must obtain a visitor's pass. While guardians are always welcome, they are encouraged to make appointments with teachers or administrators. Because the teachers teach most of the school day, they cannot leave the classroom to meet with you. By contacting them directly ahead of time, you can make an appointment with them during their planning period. You may always call the office to schedule a time with a staff member who can address your needs.

### **Telephone Use**

Guardians are asked to call the front office if there is an emergency and they need to communicate with their child. Otherwise, students will not be allowed to use the telephone. Exceptions will be made only in emergency situations.

### **Cell Phone Use**

Cell phone use is **not** permitted at school. Guardians who allow their child to bring a phone to school accept the responsibility for loss or damage to the phone. Phones that are brought to school must be kept in bookbags. We will do our best to keep the phones safe, but we recommend you do not send your student to school with a phone. If a phone is seen, heard, or found on a student after arrival, it will be taken from the student and a guardian will get a phone call from a member of the behavior team as a courtesy.

- If a phone is confiscated the **first time**, the phone will be held and returned to the student at the end of school day.
- If a phone is confiscated a **second time**, the phone will be held overnight and only returned to parent/guardian.
- If a phone is confiscated a **third time**, the phone will be held for three school days and only returned to parent/guardian.
- If a phone is confiscated **more than three times** from the same student it will be held for an extended period of time and the student and guardian will meet to sign a cell phone contract with the Director of Student Culture.

**The school will not be responsible for broken, lost, or stolen phones (even if it is being held by a member of the school staff).**

### **Accidents**

All accidents that occur on school grounds or at school events must be reported immediately to the teacher on duty. School personnel may administer first aid when necessary. Guardians will be notified in case of an accident and are expected to come to the school immediately if requested.

### **Drugs, Alcohol, & Weapons**

Students are prohibited from bringing illegal drugs, tobacco products, vape pens or e-cigarettes, alcohol, and weapons to the school, on school buses, to bus stops, and to school-sponsored activities. Students may only carry prescription or over-the-counter medications with them in accordance with the Health Services section of this handbook.

### **Searches**

In order to protect the safety of the school community, the school may need to conduct searches from time-to-time. Students, guardians, and visitors should have no expectation of privacy at the school, on school buses, at school bus stops, and at school-sponsored events. The School may inspect and conduct a search of any place or item, including but not limited to backpacks, purses, lockers, vehicles, and electronic devices. Students shall provide passwords or other access required to inspect electronic devices. The school may retain

property or information discovered in a search which is considered potentially harmful, dangerous, illegal, or inappropriate. The school may also turn over the results of a search to law enforcement if appropriate.

#### **Toys, Electronic Games, Smartwatches, Key Chains, and Sports Equipment**

Students are not allowed to bring lasers/laser pointer keychains, water guns, toy guns, keychains, electronic games, iPods, smartwatches and other similar personal property to school. The school is not responsible for these items if lost or taken from students. Unauthorized items valued in excess of \$15.00, will be held and returned to a guardian. **Unauthorized items valued at less than \$15.00 will be discarded.** We will not send these items home with the student since they are not allowed at school. If these items are allowed at school on special occasions, guardians will be notified in advance in writing.

#### **Student Birthday Celebrations**

Although we enjoy knowing it is a student's birthday, parties are not allowed at school. Each PK-5 grade homeroom class will celebrate birthdays as a class during celebration time at the end of the day on Fridays. **Please do not send gifts, balloons, flowers, candy, etc. to school except for Friday celebration, all items must be commercially prepackaged and individually wrapped. Guardians will not be able to celebrate with their students at school.** Contact your child's teacher for dates and times of birthday celebrations. Although it is a nice thing to do, gifts cause a distraction for the student and their classmates. On these designated Fridays, feel free to send enough cake/cupcakes or healthy options for the class to celebrate together if you choose. All students are encouraged to wear sashes, pins, or crowns to celebrate their birthday. **Students in grades 6-8 do not have time to bring sweets/treats to their class. They should not bring in treats but instead should wear a pin or signifier of their birthday on that day.**

#### **Lost and Found**

We maintain a Lost and Found for clothing and other items that students bring to school. **Staff at Dorothy Height are not responsible for any lost or stolen clothing items (ie: bows, jackets, sweaters, gloves, cardigans, scarves, etc.) regardless of the student's age.** We advise that the student's name be written or monogrammed on their property. Because lost items accumulate faster than they are claimed, we must periodically donate the excess to charity. Small valuable items such as watches, glasses, and keys are kept in the office.

#### **Fire Drills**

As a safety measure, and in keeping with regulations set up by the New Orleans Fire Department, fire drills are conducted regularly. A steady, continuous sounding of the fire alarm signals a fire drill. Quiet and rapid, but safe, movement towards specified exits are to be observed during these drills. Students and teachers are expected to take all fire alarms seriously. A copy of the fire drill instructions and a chart showing an emergency dispersal plan and kit can be found in each classroom.

#### **Emergency Closing Of School**

During emergency weather and other situations, our school will close when it is announced that Crescent City Schools will be closed. Our school will reopen when Crescent City Schools reopens. If our plans for closing and reopening are different from Crescent City Schools, we will communicate that with families. Closures will also be published on our website. If severe weather or a civil emergency occurs during the school day, it may not be possible to contact each family by telephone or to get an announcement on television. In such situations, guardians should use their discretion in deciding whether or not to come early to pick up their child from school.

#### **Withdrawal From School**

If a student is withdrawing to attend another school that participates in the citywide enrollment system the procedures set forth by the Orleans Parish School Board must be followed.

The procedure for withdrawal and transfer to a school that does not participate in the citywide enrollment system is as follows:



1. The guardian should notify the school office/administrative staff and authorize the student's withdrawal and last date of attendance. If the student will be attending a school in Louisiana, the name of the school should be provided. If the student will be attending a school out of state, the name of the state should be provided.
2. The student should return all books and materials received.
3. The student's new school should request records for the transferring student. Dorothy Height front office staff will send student records to the new school within 48 hours of receipt of the request.

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

The nurse provides health counseling and visual examinations for students. The nurse also ensures that students have received the required immunizations needed to attend school. If your child has a medical or health-related issue, please make sure you are in contact with the nurse so your child gets the care they need at school.

### **Medications**

The school nurse or school personnel cannot administer routine medications unless authorized by a physician through a prescription. This also includes over the counter medication. A guardian may come in and administer any over the counter medication when necessary.

If a child has an illness (i.e. Asthma, Seizures, etc.) and requires prescribed medications to be taken at school, the physician must complete a medication form. The school nurse or the office manager has the forms to be completed by the physician.

Guardians are asked to make an appointment with the school nurse prior to visiting the physician. After completion of medical forms by the physician, the guardian must meet with the school nurse to develop a medication plan for the student.

### **Severe Allergies**

Anaphylaxis is a severe systemic allergic reaction from exposure to allergens that is rapid in onset and can cause death. Guardians of students with known life threatening allergies and/or anaphylaxis are encouraged to notify the School Nurse and should provide the school with written instructions and prescribed medications from the student's health care provider for handling anaphylaxis, on an annual basis.

It is the policy of Dorothy Height Charter School to follow the medical and legal guidelines developed for students with an identified severe allergy to food, insect stings, latex, and/or unknown allergens, in addition to those who may not yet have an identified allergy or condition which puts them at risk to experience an unexpected event, that are at a potential risk for a life-threatening reaction (anaphylaxis).

These guidelines include:

1. Education and training for school personnel on the management of students with life-threatening severe allergies, including training related to the administration of medication with a cartridge injector.
2. Procedures for responding to known and unknown life-threatening allergic reactions.
3. A process for the development of individualized health care and allergy/anaphylaxis emergency action plans for every student with an identified allergy.
4. Protocols to prevent exposure to food allergens or precautions to avoid exposure to other allergens.

### **Compliance with the Louis Williams Junior Act**

For any student who is deemed by their physician to be at high risk for anaphylactic reaction and incapable of self-administration of auto-injectable epinephrine, the school shall secure a location in the student's classroom for storage of a supply of auto-injectable epinephrine, provided that the student's guardian provide to the school on an annual basis:

- The supply of auto-injectable epinephrine to be kept in the classroom;

- Written authorization for the student to be administered the medication;
- Written certification from the student's licensed medical physician or other authorized prescriber that the student is at high risk of having anaphylaxis and is not capable of self-administration or auto-injectable epinephrine; and
- A written treatment plan from the student's licensed medical physician or other authorized prescriber for managing anaphylactic episodes;

The documentation described above shall be kept on file by the school nurse. The teachers in any classrooms where auto-injectable epinephrine are stored will be provided with information regarding accessing and administering auto-injectable epinephrine, the signs and symptoms of anaphylactic reactions, and specific information regarding condition, care, and treatment of the student(s) who are at high risk of anaphylactic reaction. The school and its employees shall incur no liability as a result of any injury sustained by the student from the good faith administration of auto-injectable epinephrine. The student's guardian shall indemnify and hold harmless the school and its employees against any claims that may arise related to the good faith administration of auto-injectable epinephrine.

Dorothy Height Charter School will also make every effort to provide at least two (2) doses of auto-injectable epinephrine at school, under the standing order of a Louisiana licensed physician, to assist those persons who may experience anaphylactic emergencies and do not have a prescribed treatment. The stock epinephrine may be administered by a school nurse or employee of the school who is authorized and trained in the administration of epinephrine to any student or other person, who in good faith, is believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction. This policy is not intended to replace or override student specific orders or currently prescribed medications for anaphylaxis.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Bus transportation is provided for students who live more than a mile from the school within Orleans Parish. When new students register, they will have the opportunity to request a bus stop from the front office. The bus company will then assign new students to an existing stop or create a new stop that takes into account the student's safety and all relevant laws and regulations. The school will communicate bus stops and schedules to families. Guardians of students who ride the RTA bus to school each day must provide the school with written notice giving their child permission to ride the RTA bus to and from school. Special transportation services are also provided to any student with special needs whose IEP requires special transportation.

### **Bus Stop Changes**

If a student needs a permanent or semi-permanent transportation change, please use the guidelines below to request a change:

- The transportation changes **must** be given in writing, verified phone, or in-person communication to the front office manager.
- The transportation change is **not** immediate or guaranteed.
- Transportation changes are based on availability on the proposed bus.
- Final changes to transportation will be communicated within 5-7 school days.

**Please Note: Any day-of notifications of bus or car dismissal changes must be communicated to the front office prior to 2:30 p.m. Only an authorized adult may make changes.**

### **School Bus Behavior/Dismissal**

We expect the same behavior from our students on the bus and during dismissal, as we do at school. If a student fails to meet the behavior expectations for riding the bus or during dismissal, the student's guardian will receive a **phone call** to seek their assistance in changing the student's behavior. If that fails the student may not ride the bus home from school that day. Continued infractions may result in expulsion from use of school transportation services. All of our buses are equipped with video cameras so we can ensure student safety on the bus.

Bus Rules:

- Remain at a voice level 1 (a whisper). The bus is a great place to read, study, or listen to music with headphones.
- Remain seated at all times.
- The bus driver should never be able to hear student conversations. Keep your conversations quiet with your seatmate at a voice level 1.
- No food or drink is allowed to be consumed on the bus.
- Follow all bus driver/monitor directions.
- Be safe when waiting for, riding on, and boarding and exiting the bus. Students are expected to look both ways before crossing streets, stay off the street when waiting for the bus, and cross in front of the bus when necessary after disembarking.
- Guardians and other adults are not permitted on buses.
- Weapons are not permitted on buses.

**Violation of these expectations will lead to loss of bus riding privileges for a determined period of time.**

**\*\*\*Repeated violations will result in a loss of bus privileges for the year.**

The bus driver and monitors have the authority to discipline students on the bus and during dismissal monitoring. Discipline infractions that are MINOR will be handled by the bus driver/monitor. Any behavior that compromises bus safety is considered MAJOR and seriously jeopardizes the safety of all passengers as well as the bus driver and passing motorists. **The consequences of MAJOR misconduct or repeated MINOR infractions will result in a suspension of bus transportation services.**

**Student Discipline for Bus Write-ups for Minor Violations**

1. Warning and guardian phone call
2. Suspension from the bus for 1 day
3. Suspension from the bus for 3 days
4. Suspension from the bus for 5 days
5. Suspension from the bus for an indeterminate amount of time or possibly the remainder of the term/year.

**In addition to bus write-ups, the following are major infractions that will result in an automatic bus suspension based on severity of incident:**

- Fighting or instigating fighting
- Guardian or student cursing and/or threatening the bus driver, monitor, other students, or others
- Guardian or other adult boarding the bus (outside an emergency)
- Student disembarking the bus at an unauthorized stop
- Throwing items from the bus window
- Touching emergency exits or bus controls without permission
- Touching/harassing other students on the bus

Students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and those with an IEP requiring an adult to drop off/receive them from the bus must be accompanied by an adult or older sibling to the bus stop each morning. The students in the above grade levels are not allowed to be let off the bus unless an authorized adult is at the bus stop waiting for them or an older sibling rode the bus with them and can walk them home. Guardians are responsible for the safety of students prior to boarding the bus in the morning and upon departure from the bus in the afternoon. If no one is waiting for them at the bus stop, these students will be brought back to school and an authorized adult will have to come and pick them up from our school building. Students who remain at school until 6:00 p.m. will be dropped off at the office of Child Protective Services or the police station. Late pickups will be tracked, and if multiple late pick ups occur the family may be referred for outside services.

### **Non-Bus Transportation of Students**

School staff are not permitted to offer transportation to students in their personal vehicles for liability and safety reasons. The school does occasionally provide transportation to students in taxis hired by the school or in vehicles owned or rented by the school under special circumstances.

The school's point of contact for transportation issues is Catie Quinn. You can reach her at 504-239-1852.

### **Dismissal**

Students are dismissed from 3:50 p.m.-4:05 p.m. Every minute of our school day is important, so please refrain from picking up children early for non-emergency issues. If a student is repeatedly picked up early, we will hold a guardian meeting to determine the reason. **Any notifications of bus or car dismissal changes must be communicated to the front office prior to 2:30 p.m. Only an authorized adult may make changes. Please do not pick up your child between 2:30 p.m.-3:50 p.m. as the office is preparing for dismissal and may find it difficult to attend to your needs.** Students who are picked up by car must be picked up by an authorized adult listed in SchoolRunner or a student's emergency form and should be picked up between 3:50 p.m.-4:05 p.m.

Students in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and those with an IEP requiring an adult to receive them from the bus are not allowed to be let off the bus unless an authorized adult is at the bus stop waiting for them. If no one is waiting for them at the bus stop, these students will be brought back to school and an authorized adult must come and pick them up from our school building. Students who remain at school until 6:00 p.m. will be dropped off at the office of Child Protective Services or the police station.

## **FAMILY INVOLVEMENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

Involving families in the life of the school is important to us. The school/home relationship is a powerful tool to leverage for our students' success. Families are always welcome to visit and participate in school activities. If you would like to visit your student's class please:

1. Sign in at the front office, showing your ID to determine if you are listed as a guardian/emergency contact.
2. Wait for a staff member to be able to escort and monitor your visit. While the teacher is teaching, we do require all guardians to be supervised by another member of our staff to ensure all interactions are positive and proactive.
3. Teachers may not be able to talk or hold meetings with guardians during the day. If they are teaching when you drop in you may not be able to talk to your student's teacher. Every teacher has a planning period, you can schedule meetings with your student's teacher during their planning period over the phone or virtually. Teachers are also available by telephone until 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To avoid a long wait, make an appointment ahead of time with your student's teacher. All teachers and staff have designated meeting times, so call or text your teacher to schedule.

The morning meeting window for brief check-ins is 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. For that hour our Dean or Director of Student Culture will be available to meet with you regarding behavior concerns.

Dorothy Height Charter School staff will communicate regularly with families about what is expected of students. Guardians should feel free to call the school for more information or to get clarity on an issue or concern.

Our expectations for guardians are outlined in the Student-Guardian-School Compact.

- Please check your child's folder or binder each day for communication from the school. We will send home important paperwork needing your signature or review on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Please check your child's homework **EVERY NIGHT**. We ask that you support your child's homework system.

- Please ensure your child is on time to school every day and stays at school until dismissal.
- In the event of extended school closure, guardians are responsible for ensuring that their student attends virtual school and completes assignments and providing a place for daily school work.

If you would like to volunteer at Dorothy Height Charter or find ways to be involved, please contact our Assistant Principal. She can assist you in finding opportunities for involvement that fit your interests and schedule.

Janika Fazande, Assistant Principal: [jfazande@crestedcityschools.org](mailto:jfazande@crestedcityschools.org), (504) 758-2730

Please direct any input or feedback you have on the school's Family Involvement & Family Engagement Policy to the School Principal.

### **Support Services**

Dorothy Height Charter School will provide the following interventions to assist students with meeting behavioral expectations: individual counseling, group counseling, mediation, and referral to community agencies.

If you wish to request services for your student, reach out to Donna Jones, Director of Student Culture.

[djones@crestedcityschools.org](mailto:djones@crestedcityschools.org) (504) 708-8371

### **School Communication With Families**

Guardians can expect to receive information during the school year. It is important that all guardian contact information is correct and updated as needed with the front office manager. Expect to receive the following forms of communication:

- Student Behavior Sheets/Paychecks
- Monthly school newsletter
- Classroom notes from teachers
- Notices regarding special events
- Individual conferences (in person or on the telephone)
- Progress reports and report cards
- Regular phone calls from staff
- Calls and/or texts from our automated call system

The school will communicate in the language/method that the guardian understands.

The school's policies, procedures, and practices applicable to school employees relative to electronic communication by the employee to a student enrolled at the school can be found on the Crescent City Schools website at [www.crestedcityschools.org](http://www.crestedcityschools.org).

### **Automated Communications**

Throughout the year, the school may send phone calls, text messages, and emails, including automated messages, that contain messages that are closely related to the mission of the school or to official school activities. Examples of these types of messages may include notifications of emergency school schedule changes, reminders of school events and meetings, and updates on your child's performance. If you wish to stop receiving these types of messages, contact the school main office.

### **School Website and Social Media Accounts**

We will post reminders of upcoming events, as well as photos and stories that celebrate our scholars and highlight their accomplishments, on our website and social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter).

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DorothyHeightCharterSchool/>
- Twitter: @DHeightCharter
- Instagram: @dorothyheightcharter

### **Family Events/Meetings**

The school will host events for families throughout the year. During these events, guardians will have an opportunity to, among other things, learn about:

- The school's programmatic offerings (including those programs and services supported by Title I)
- The school's curriculum and academic assessments/performance
- How they can be involved and provide feedback on the school's programming, including this engagement policy

### **Procedure for Addressing Family Concerns**

We value feedback and communication. If you have a concern, first go directly to the staff member who can help you. If that does not resolve the issue, our Principal is happy to help. You can schedule an appointment with her in the office or by emailing [msolomon@crestedcityschools.org](mailto:msolomon@crestedcityschools.org).

Please do not let issues fester. We want to address your concerns and our office manager and leadership team are here to support you and your student.

Here are the steps to follow:

- Please call to talk with or set up a meeting with the teacher or staff member that you have the issue with. Discuss the matter with the teacher and attempt to resolve the disagreement through informal discussion.
- If there is no resolution to the problem, the guardian should then contact a member of the school leadership team, the Director of Curriculum & Instruction for the grade level, Director of Student Support, or the Director of Student Culture.
- If they are unable to adequately resolve the issue, email Monica Solomon at [msolomon@crestedcityschools.org](mailto:msolomon@crestedcityschools.org) or call her at 504-255-8315 to set up a conversation with the Principal.
- If not satisfied after speaking with the Principal, you may contact the Chief Schools Officer (CSO) of Crescent City Schools.
- If still not satisfied you may contact the CEO of Crescent City Schools.
- If not satisfied after that, you may contact the Chair of the Board at Crescent City Schools. The decision of the Chair of the Board is final. Note: Neither the CSO, the CEO, nor the Chair of the Board will discuss the issue with you unless you have spoken to the Principal, so please meet with her first. In most cases, complaints can be better addressed at the school level.
- Guardians and students with complaints of sexual harassment may report them to the school's Title IX Coordinator listed below. The school will respond to any such complaints, using the preponderance of evidence standard, in a timely fashion, subject to a process that allows for a temporary delay of the grievance process or limited extension of timeframes for good cause. The school's full Title IX non-discrimination statement and related policies can be found on the school's website and is available in hard copy in the main office. The school's Title IX Coordinator is:
  - 3501 Seine Street: Donna Jones, [djones@crestedcityschools.org](mailto:djones@crestedcityschools.org), 504-708-8371
- Guardians and students with grievances related to discrimination, bullying, and/or harassment (conduct that is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by the school) on the basis of: intellectual ability, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation or preference, gender identity or expression, ethnicity, national origin or immigration status, hairstyle, disability, or identification as an exceptional child should follow this same procedure. They will be afforded the opportunity to present witnesses and be given notice of the outcome of the complaint at each stage in the procedure.
- Anyone with concerns about the school's compliance with civil rights laws under Title VI, Title II, and/or Section 504 or complaints about discrimination on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability should reach out to the Principal who serves as the school's Civil Rights Coordinator.

- Guardians should expect acknowledgement of their complaint within 1-2 business days. All complaints will be addressed and resolved in as timely a fashion as is possible and practical.
- The school will not retaliate against any person who files a complaint in good faith and/or participates in a related investigation and will keep the investigation confidential to the extent possible. Such discrimination, bullying, and harassment are not permitted by students, staff, or third parties, and the school will take every effort to prevent, remedy, and otherwise correct any that is identified.
- All communication with staff - whether in-person, on the phone, via a website or social media, via text, or via e-mail - is expected to be civil and respectful. No profane language, yelling, or other disrespectful behavior will be tolerated. Engaging in disrespectful or inappropriate communication during a meeting or phone call will result in the meeting ending and being asked to leave the school grounds. Repeated usage of disrespectful or inappropriate communication towards a staff member will result in additional restrictions and loss of privileges to attend school events. The school reserves the right to bar persons from campus and/or school events who threaten the safety or peaceful operation of the school.

## **STUDENT DATA PRIVACY**

We understand and respect the importance of student privacy. We are committed to keeping all personally identifiable information about your child private and only sharing that information when legally required to do so or when necessary for the education, health, or safety of your child. Below are examples of what information may be shared.

- Directory information and educational records may be shared with employees of Crescent City Schools, including teachers and administrators, to be used for designing, implementing, and evaluating educational programming and academic achievement.
- Directory information and educational records may be shared with high schools, postsecondary educational institutions, and the Office of Student Financial Assistance to be used for processing applications for admission and financial aid.
- Directory information and educational records may be stored on third-party computer systems for data storage and backup purposes.
- Directory information and educational records may be shared with the Louisiana Department of Education and third party providers to provide and bill for special education and mental health services and evaluations. (This includes billing Medicaid when applicable.)
- Directory information may be shared with third party providers to provide educational programming, co-curricular programming, and assessments.
- Directory information and health information may be shared with medical professionals and third party providers to provide medical care or billing for medical care services. (This includes billing Medicaid when applicable.)
- Directory information may be shared with third party providers for the provision of transportation and food services.
- Samples of student work and accomplishments may be displayed in the school or published to recognize your child(ren)'s achievements.

We will NOT share personally identifiable information with any person or entity who desires to use the information for purposes that do not benefit the education, health, or safety of your child.

Guardians may withdraw consent for sharing information in this way by submitting a request in writing to the main office.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords guardians and students who are 18 years of age or older certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access. Requests for access should be submitted to the office manager and include what records are to be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the guardian or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Requests to amend records should be submitted to the principal and should clearly identify the part of the record wished to be changed and the reason. The school will notify the guardian or eligible student of its decision and the right to a hearing.
3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. School officials include employees of Crescent City Schools and contractors, consultants, or other individuals performing a function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under control of the school with respect to use and maintenance of education records. Legitimate educational interests include professional responsibilities related to the student's education. The school may also disclose educational records to other schools in which a student seeks to enroll or is already enrolled.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education at:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202

The school may also disclose directory information unless you have advised us to the contrary in writing. The primary purpose of disclosing directory information is to allow the school to include information from your child's records in certain school publications and displays. Examples include:

- Bulletin boards located throughout the building
- Honor rolls and other recognition lists
- Event programs
- Sports activity sheets and rosters

Directory information is only disclosed for planned school purposes. It is never disclosed upon the request of an external individual. If you do not want the school to disclose any or all types of directory information listed below, you must notify the school in writing within 90 days of the first day of school (or within 90 days of enrollment if enrolling mid-year). The school has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Student's photo
- Grade level
- Participation in activities and sports
- Honors and awards received
- Dates of attendance

Guardians may also review a child's disciplinary records upon request.

#### **Student Surveys**

From time-to-time students may be asked to participate in surveys for the school or external partners. Permission from a guardian will be obtained if the surveys contain any personally-identifiable information.

#### **Request for Student Information by Law Enforcement**

The following procedures shall apply if law enforcement agents seek disclosure of student personally identifiable information (PII) or other student record:

- If a law enforcement agent presents a valid subpoena, warrant, or court order, the school will photocopy the agent's picture identification and/or badge, as well as the subpoena, warrant, or court order.



- If presented with a valid warrant, access to the records shall be provided immediately. The school shall call the student's guardian to notify them of the disclosure.
- If presented with a valid subpoena or court order, the school shall attempt to notify the student's guardian prior to disclosure of the information. The guardian may seek protective action prior to disclosure of the information.
- If a law enforcement agent does not present a valid subpoena, warrant, or court order, the school should not disclose student PII or other student records.
- School administrators may disclose PII and student records without consent in connection with a health or safety emergency presenting imminent danger to students or other members of the community, or that requires an immediate need for information in order to avert or diffuse serious threats to the safety or health of the student or others. The reasons for this disclosure shall be documented.
- School administrators may disclose student PII and other records as needed to comply with Article 609 of the Louisiana Children's Code (regarding mandated reporting requirements).

**Request to Interview a Student by Law Enforcement**

The following procedures shall apply if law enforcement agents seek to interview a student at school:

- If a law enforcement agent does not present a valid subpoena, warrant, or court order, the school should not produce the student for an interview, nor disclose student PII or other student records, unless the school has requested the interview.
- If a law enforcement agent presents a valid subpoena, warrant, or court order, the school will photocopy the agent's picture identification and/or badge, as well as the subpoena, warrant, or court order.
- The school shall attempt to notify the student's guardian before allowing the interview to commence, unless extenuating circumstances exist, such as:
  - A delay in the interview may pose imminent danger to the health or safety of the student or others.
  - The student's guardian is suspected of a felony or other crime posing an imminent danger to the health or safety of the student or others or poses a risk of flight.
  - Law enforcement officials need to act promptly to prevent destruction of evidence of a crime posing an imminent danger to the health or safety of the student or others.
  - If the guardian desires to be present, the interview should be delayed until the guardian arrives.
  - Investigators from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) may make a determination to interview a student independently of their guardians. The school will respect such decisions.
  - If the student refuses to speak to the law enforcement agent, the interview may not proceed on school grounds.

**Request to Arrest a Student**

The school shall cooperate with law enforcement authorities who present a valid warrant, attachment, or subpoena for a student. The school shall make a photocopy of the warrant, attachment, or subpoena and shall attempt to notify the student's guardian.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Technology access and usage is an integral part of the education provided by the school. Students will have access to technology while at school, and some students may have access to portable technology and/or Internet connectivity to take home with them. The following acceptable use standards apply to usage of school technology and Internet connectivity at the school and off-campus.

- The technology and Internet connectivity are provided to students solely for academic and school-related purposes as directed by their teachers and other school staff. Students and their families shall not use them for other non-sanctioned purposes.
- Students must take care of any devices the school gives them or allows them to use.

- Students must be kind and safe in all their digital interactions with others.
- Technology may not be used to create, transmit, access, receive, print, download, or solicit material that is illegal, unauthorized, inappropriate, derogatory, obscene, sexually explicit, harassing, or disparaging.
- Technology may not be used to lobby, solicit, or proselytize others for commercial, political, or religious purposes.
- Technology may not be used for any illegal purposes, including hacking, disrupting networks, making unauthorized disclosures of personal information, or downloading or disseminating copyrighted material.
- Students may not download any billable or paid applications that are not authorized by the school.
- Students may not remove any hardware, including SIM chips) or software from computers.
- If any technology is lost, damaged, stolen, or becomes inoperable, it must be reported to the school as soon as possible.
- If students are provided with data usage to use off-campus, they must monitor their usage so as not to exceed their per month allotment of data and shall not stream audio, video, or games, except in connection with school-related work.
- The school is able to monitor Internet searches that are conducted using its communication technology devices and/or Internet access infrastructure. When the school becomes aware of searches that could indicate the potential for physical harm to either the person conducting the search or others, it will take the following steps.
  1. The school shall conduct either a self-harm or a threat assessment.
  2. If the searcher is a student, the school may alert the guardians to the nature of the search.
  3. If the threat assessment indicates that the threat is credible, the school shall report it to the local law enforcement agency.
  4. If the self-harm assessment indicates that the searcher is in credible danger of self-harm, the school shall engage mental health resources as it deems appropriate.
  5. Repeated extreme searches may result in the restriction of technology access.
  6. The school shall document each self-harm or threat assessment that it conducts, the results of each assessment, and the actions taken in response to the assessment.

The school may ask students to use the Google Suite of software, including Google Classroom and Gmail, in connection with its educational programming. Additionally, the school may ask students to access additional online content in connection with its curricula and programming. And in the event of a prolonged school closure, the school may utilize online video conferencing platforms. A full list of websites and apps that may be used can be found in your child's registration documents.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Students are not allowed to use cell phones or social media during the school day. Use of cell phones or social media sites during the day will result in school based consequences, and, if a frequent occurrence, a mandatory guardian meeting will be required.

If your student is using social media we recommend:

1. Have access to all accounts (know their passwords)
2. Check both the public posts and private messages randomly at least once a week
3. Talk with your student about the dangers of meeting people online who are not who they say they are or who want to harm them.
4. Talk with your student about cyber bullying and what to do if they see it or experience it.

If you notice any inappropriate behavior on social media by Dorothy Height students please screenshot (take a picture of it) and send it to the Director of Student Culture or a member of the culture team for support.

\*\*\* Do not take pictures of or send any files that include nudity or sex acts. In that case, confiscate your student's phone and bring it into the school or to the police for support resolving the issue.

The school does engage with students, guardians, and the community via social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter). Student pictures may be used on these school sanctioned sites, but without identifiable information. If you do not wish to have you or your student's picture used, please submit written notice to the front office within 90 days of enrolling.

# ACADEMICS AND SCHOOL CULTURE

## SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The curriculum is driven by clear performance standards for what students should know and be able to do. For each grade level, standards are based on national and state curriculum frameworks. Teachers will use regular assessments to measure how well students are mastering the standards.

We use knowledge about student skills to shape whole class instruction, small group work, and intervention. Using individual student data, instruction can be targeted to better meet individual student needs. Teachers do not simply work to get through a textbook; rather, they assess student skills and needs in order to target instruction appropriately.

Teachers will give students and guardians ongoing feedback about student performance. Teachers will often send work home for guardians to sign, and teachers will contact guardians if they see a significant slip in academic performance or a special skill that needs extra practice at school and home. Guardians will get informal feedback about student performance throughout the year.

### Elementary School Curriculum

The elementary school program is designed to nurture and support students, while teaching them the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to be successful in school. The focus of the curriculum is to ensure that all students learn to read, write and develop the math skills necessary to provide a solid foundation for success in school. Physical Education and the Arts are also essential to the elementary school curriculum. Students are assigned homework to serve as an extension of what they are learning in school. Homework assignments will be checked each day.

Phonics: Core Knowledge Skills Strand and Rainbow Words

ELA: Wit & Wisdom

Math: Eureka Math

Science: Amplify Science

Social Studies: LDOE curriculum resources

PK: Creative Curriculum

The curriculum is hands-on, interactive, and designed to accommodate students with a wide-range of learning styles. Additionally, students are also exposed to a variety of enrichment activities (art, dance, physical education, technology) each school year, which is designed to stimulate their interests and make them curious about the world around them.

### Middle School Curriculum

In the middle school, students rotate to four classes: ELA, math, science, and social studies. In each class, students are mastering grade level expectations and teachers are tracking their mastery. Teachers work closely with students to ensure that they are mastering the important skills and knowledge in the core curriculum. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to take a variety of enrichment classes.

ELA: Wit & Wisdom

Math: Eureka Math

Science: Amplify Science

Social Studies: LDOE curriculum resources

## Teachers

Guardians have the right to know whether their scholar's teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas taught and whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status. They also have the right to know the baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate

certification or degree held by the teacher. They also have the right to know the qualifications of any paraprofessionals serving their students. Guardians can direct any of these requests to the principal.

#### **Access to Instructional Materials & Bill of Rights**

The legal guardian of a student attending a school in the Crescent City Schools network may review instructional materials used by or administered to their child, excluding secure testing materials. The legal guardian may also review any survey before it is administered or distributed to their child. A legal guardian wishing to review any such materials should make a request of the school principal. The principal shall set a time during regular school hours for such review. If a guardian requests a paper copy of material that can be practically and legally copied at the school, the school will provide such copy at the cost of \$0.25 per page.

The above is intended as a summary of Louisiana R.S. 17:355.

The legal guardian of a child attending a school in the Crescent City Schools network:

- May examine textbooks, curriculum, and supplemental material used in their child's classroom.
- May inspect their child's school records and receive a copy of such records within 10 school days of submitting a written request for such records. Such records include:
  - Academic records, including assessment results,
  - Medical or health records,
  - Records of any mental health counseling,
  - Records of any vocational coaching,
  - Records of discipline,
  - Records of attendance,
  - Records associated with a child's screening for learning challenges, exceptionalities, plans for an Individualized Education Program, or Individual Accommodation Plan, and
  - Any other student-specific file, document, or other materials maintained by the school.
- Shall be notified when medical services are being offered to their child, except where emergency medical treatment is required. In cases where emergency medical treatment is required, the guardian shall be notified as soon as practicable after the treatment is rendered.
- Shall be notified if a criminal action is deemed to have been committed against their child or by their child.
- Shall be notified if law enforcement personnel question their child, except in cases where the guardian has been accused of abusing or neglecting the child.
- Shall be notified if their child is taken or removed from the school campus without parental permission.
- Shall receive written notice and the option to opt their child out of any surveys that include questions about any of the following:
  - The student's sexual experiences or attractions,
  - The student's family beliefs, morality, religion, or political affiliations, or
  - Any mental health or psychological problems of the student or a family member.
- Shall be able to access the annual school calendar through the school website no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the school year.
- Shall be notified in writing as soon as feasible of any revisions to the annual school calendar.
- Shall be able to access through the school's website a listing of any school fees, their purpose, and a description of how economic hardships may be addressed.
- Shall be able to access through the school's website the school uniform requirements.
- Shall be informed if their child's academic performance is such that it could threaten the child's ability to be promoted to the next grade level and be offered an in-person meeting with the child's classroom teacher and school leader to discuss any resources or strategies available to support and encourage the child's academic improvement.

The school shall not be required to release any records or information regarding a student's medical or health records or mental health counseling records to a guardian during the pendency of an investigation of child abuse or neglect conducted by any law enforcement agency or the Department of Children and Family Services where the guardian is the target of the investigation, unless the guardian has obtained a court order.

Crescent City Schools does not discriminate against any child based upon race, color, national origin or immigration status, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or preference, gender identity or expression, natural or protective or cultural hairstyle, or the sincerely held religious beliefs of the child or the child's family.

The above is intended as a summary of Louisiana R.S. [17:406.9](#).

### **Homework Policy**

Daily homework reinforces the concepts taught in the classroom and gives students needed practice on basic skills. Additionally, it reinforces responsibility and independence for our students and gives them life-long habits that bring academic success. To prepare our students for competitive high schools and college academic work, 8<sup>th</sup> graders will leave Dorothy Height Charter School with good homework habits. Homework should always be meaningful and related to the daily lessons in the classroom.

We ask guardians to share the responsibility in completing homework. This means that we want you to check your child's folder, make a space for them to work quietly, and sign the completed homework to indicate that your child is finished. This will motivate your child to do their homework and build important family habits. When a student is repeatedly failing to complete their homework, the family is responsible for finding solutions for the problem and helping their child overcome this challenge. Please let us know if you believe the homework is too long or too difficult. We want to partner with guardians on helping their child complete homework each night. The State Library of Louisiana and the local public library may offer after-school online homework assistance. See [homeworkla.org](http://homeworkla.org) for more information.

#### Quantity

Dorothy Height Charter School teachers assign homework every night. Below are our guidelines for homework quantity.

##### Lower Elementary:

- PK: 10 min hw, 10 minutes of a guardian reading to them
- K: 10 min hw, 20 minutes of a guardian reading with them
- 1<sup>st</sup>: 10 min hw, 20 minutes of a guardian listening to them read and asking questions
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: 20 min hw, 20 minutes of a guardian listening to them read and asking questions

##### Intermediate Elementary:

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: 70 min hw, (20 independent reading, 15-20 ELA, 15 math, 15 science or social studies)
- 4<sup>th</sup>: 70 min hw, (20 independent reading, 15-20 ELA, 15 math, 15 science or social studies)
- 5<sup>th</sup>: 70 min hw, (20 independent reading, 15-20 ELA, 15 math, 15 science or social studies)

##### Middle School:

- 6<sup>th</sup>: Approximately 100 min (30 reading, 15-30 math, 15-30 ELA, 15 science, 15 social studies)
- 7<sup>th</sup>: Approximately 100 min (30 reading, 15-30 math, 15-30 ELA, 15 science, 15 social studies)
- 8<sup>th</sup>: Approximately 100 min (30 reading, 15-30 math, 15-30 ELA, 15 science, 15 social studies)

\*\*\*Students will also have projects and assignments over major holidays.

#### Homework Procedures

Students are expected to call the teacher, ask another adult, or call a peer for clarity about homework. Teachers will make themselves available before 8:00 p.m. for homework questions. Each student will be given all of their teachers' phone numbers at the beginning of the year. If a teacher does not answer, the student must leave a voicemail with their name, number, and reason for calling. "I didn't understand" is not an acceptable excuse for incomplete homework.

The State Library of Louisiana and the local public library may offer after-school online homework assistance. See [homeworkla.org](http://homeworkla.org) for more information.

In PreK-8th grade: If students arrive at school with unfinished homework, they will receive a consequence during the school day. You will also see this reflected on their behavior sheets and can communicate with the teacher about homework issues as needed.

## **ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS**

Students are evaluated in terms of their progress in courses of study in which they are enrolled and in relation to grade-level expectations as listed in the Louisiana Content Area Standards. Students must take language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and one elective. Our promotional criteria are outlined in our pupil progression plan that is available upon request.

### **Coming Prepared to Class-In-Person or Virtually**

Coming prepared to class is an important part of being a student. Students are expected to come to class each day with the following materials:

- Two pencils
- Paper
- Binder or Folder
- Any books/materials needed for the class
- Independent reading book
- Signed behavior sheets/paychecks (in-person only)

### **Evaluation of Student Performance**

In each class, evaluation of a student's performance will be based on progress toward meeting the standards listed on the report card. Progress is assessed through:

- Daily classroom performance in-person or virtually
- Quality of work produced
- Homework
- Tests and quizzes
- Work samples
- Projects and/or portfolios

### **Trimester Report Cards**

Students will receive a report card at the end of each school trimester. Guardians and teachers meet during Report Card Conference day to discuss academic performance and pick up their child's report card. Guardians of students with Academic or Behavioral difficulties will be asked to attend a report card conference at the end of each trimester. Additionally, guardians can call to check on the status of their child's achievement and can get a verbal progress report at any time.

### **Make-Up Work**

When a student is absent, they assume the responsibility for contacting other students or their teachers for assignments. The guardians of a student who is absent from school three or more days should inform the school of the nature of their child's absence and request make-up work. Any student who is absent from previously assigned tests or reports will be required to make these up at the teacher's convenience.

## **STUDENT PROMOTION**

Dorothy Height Charter School will clearly articulate to students and families what our promotion policy is at the outset of the year and reinforce this throughout the year. Dorothy Height Charter School follows the promotion policy

outlined in our pupil progression plan that is available upon request. Promotion from one grade to the next is based upon the multiple criteria listed below:

1. Performance in the required courses of study.
2. Performance on State-mandated assessments.
3. Students must not miss more than sixteen (16) days.

Occasionally, teachers also find that a student is not ready for the next grade. This may be due to a lack of social-emotional maturity, academic concerns, or a combination of these factors. Repeating a grade can give a student the edge they need to achieve success in future grades. A teacher may recommend that a child remains in their present grade for another year after consulting with school administrators and discussing the student with the Response to Intervention team. We make every effort to inform guardians as early as possible in the spring if we feel a child will have to repeat the grade.

#### **Guidelines for Promotion from Kindergarten**

- For promotion from kindergarten, the student shall attain mastery of at least 70% of the required Grade-level Expectations as evidenced by work samples, anecdotal records, pictures/portfolios, and observations.
- Students must not be more than 1/2 a year behind in reading, and therefore must achieve a score of 30 or more on the correct letter sound portion of the Nonsense Word Fluency component on the DIBELS assessment.
- Students must also demonstrate social and emotional readiness for the 1st grade, and therefore must achieve an average score of 6 on the objectives and dimensions in the Social-Emotional area of development and learning on the *GOLD* assessment.

**Students retained in Kindergarten may not participate in the Kindergarten moving up ceremony.**

#### **Guidelines for Promotion from First Grade**

For promotion, the student shall attain at least 70% average in each of the promotional subjects of Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics based on the Louisiana State Standards. Students must not be more than 1 year behind in reading, and therefore must achieve a score of 34 or more on the correct letter sound portion of the Nonsense Word Fluency component on the DIBELS assessment.

#### **Guidelines for Promotion from Second Grade**

For promotion, the student shall attain at least 70% average in each of the promotional subjects of Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics based on the Louisiana State Standards. Students must not be more than 1 year behind in reading, and therefore must read 60 words per minute as measured by the Oral Reading Fluency component of the DIBELS assessment.

#### **Guidelines for Promotion from Third Grade**

For promotion, the student shall attain at least 70% average in each of the promotional subjects of Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics based on the required Louisiana State Standards and attain at least a 70% combined average on Science and Social Studies. Students must not be more than one year behind in reading and therefore must read 100 words per minute as measured by the Oral Reading Fluency component of the DIBELS assessment.

#### **Guidelines for Promotion from Fourth Grade**

For promotion, the student shall attain at least 70% average in each of the promotional subjects of Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics based on the required Louisiana State Standards and attain at least a 70% combined average on Science and Social Studies. Students must not be more than one year behind in reading and therefore must read 112 words per minute as measured by the Oral Reading Fluency component of the DIBELS assessment.



### **Guidelines for Promotion from Fifth Grade**

For promotion, the student shall attain at least 70% average in each of the promotional subjects of Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics based on the required Grade-Level Expectations and attain at least a 70% combined average on Science and Social Studies. Students must read 133 words per minute as measured by the Oral Reading Fluency component of the DIBELS assessment or make 1.5 years of reading level growth.

### **Guidelines for Promotion from Sixth Grade**

For promotion, the student shall attain at least 70% average in each of the promotional subjects of Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics based on the required Grade-Level Expectations and attain at least a 70% combined average on Science and Social Studies. Students must reach 146 words per minute as measured by the Oral Reading Fluency component of the DIBELS assessment or make 1.5 years of reading level growth.

### **Guidelines for Promotion from Seventh Grade**

For promotion, the student shall attain at least 70% average in each of the promotional subjects of Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics based on the required Grade-Level Expectations and attain at least a 70% combined average on Science and Social Studies. Students must read 146 words per minute as measured by the Oral Reading Fluency component of the DIBELS assessment or make 1.5 years of reading level growth.

### **Promotion from Eighth Grade**

For promotion, the student shall attain at least 70% average in each of the promotional subjects of Reading, English Language Arts (oral and written communication, handwriting, and spelling) and Mathematics based on the required Louisiana State Standards and attain at least a 70% combined average on Science and Social Studies. Students must read 150 words per minute as measured by the Oral Reading Fluency component of the DIBELS assessment or make 1.5 years of reading level growth.

### **Students must meet the following requirements to participate in Eighth Grade Week and Promotional Exercises:**

- No suspensions from April 1st-May 15th and no major behavior issues that the school determines are prohibitive of participation.
  - We will provide tiered consequences for smaller infractions. That could include losing 1 field trip or outing before losing the entire week/ promotion.
  - Students might receive smaller consequences along the way.
- No extreme behavioral incidents outside of school, involving students at school, or on social media.
- Mandatory LEAP Attendance (if applicable)
- Received passing report card grades/and or passing LEAP scores (if applicable)
- High School Placement Finalized
  - Completed OneApp-Round One application (at least 5 choices)
  - Completed HS Registration paperwork at your placement school

We know many families are applying for private schools or selective admissions schools, however, we require all 8th grade scholars to complete the NCAP as a backup in case those other options do not work out. We also require families who are planning to move out of New Orleans to still complete the NCAP in case plans change. This will hold a spot for you in the spring as you make family decisions for the fall. **Without a high school selection, per completion of the common application to public high schools in New Orleans, your student will not be able to participate in our 8th grade promotion ceremony.**

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **Daily Attendance**

Daily school attendance is a crucial aspect of a student's academic success. Regular attendance ensures that students do not miss out on important lessons, discussions, and activities that are essential for their learning and growth. Consistent attendance also helps students to establish a routine and develop good habits. Additionally, good attendance may be a requirement for participation in extracurricular activities, sports teams, and other programs that can enhance a student's overall education and social development. Daily student attendance is also required by State law. The law makes guardians legally responsible for the regular school attendance of their children.

Each absence from school is recorded as either "excused" or "unexcused".

- Excused absences are those that occur due to circumstances beyond a student's control, requiring them to miss school. Some common examples of excused absences include:
  - Illness
  - Injury
  - Medical appointments (including therapy) that cannot be scheduled outside of the regular school day
  - Quarantine required by a health official
  - Religious observances
  - Death in the student's family (up to 1 week)
  - Court appearances
  - Visitation with a parent or guardian who is a member of the US Armed Forces or National Guard (up to 5 days per year)
  - Prior school-approved travel for education
  - Natural catastrophe or disaster
  - Pregnant and parenting students

For an absence to be "excused", appropriate documentation, such as a doctor's note, is required. Up to 3 consecutive days may be excused for any reason listed above with a note from the student's guardian. A maximum of 10 days per trimester can be excused with a guardian's note. The School Principal may also choose to excuse absences due to extenuating circumstances.

While the school will excuse absences for urgent and necessary medical appointments, we strongly encourage you to schedule all such medical and dental appointments on Friday afternoons (when school lets out early), during staff professional development days (when students are off), or during vacations and holidays.

- Unexcused absences are those that are not for a valid, excusable reason. Examples of unexcused absences include:
  - Missing the school bus
  - Vacations during the school year
  - Birthdays or other celebrations
  - Shopping
  - Caring for another child or adult
  - Working at a job
  - Skipping or cutting class
  - Uniform issues

Students with 16 or more unexcused absences in a year are at risk of being retained in their current grade and not promoted at the end of the year.

Below is the order of interventions the school will follow to address students with multiple unexcused absences:

Number of Unexcused Absences	Intervention*
1	Phone call, text message, and/or email
3-5	Attendance letter sent home
5-10	Truancy meeting with guardian
10-16	Referral to NOLA Public Schools, Municipal Court, FINS, the Youth Opportunity Center, and/or any other truancy services
16	At-risk of retention in the current grade

\*The school reserves the right to expedite or forgo any steps in this process based on individual circumstances.

**Tardiness**

Tardiness is defined as arriving after the start of school or checking out prior to the regularly scheduled dismissal time. Instances of tardiness will be excused for the same reasons as absences, listed above. Guardians of students who are habitually tardy will be required to meet with the school and/or receive other interventions.

School begins at 8:00 a.m. If a student arrives after 8:30 a.m., an adult must sign them in at the front office. Students must attend school on time to be effective academically.

**Truancy**

A student is considered truant when they have 5 unexcused absences or 5 unexcused tardies in 1 semester (August-December; January-May).

**End-of-Day Student Pick-Up**

Students must be picked up by 4:05 p.m. each day. Our staff is in meetings and professional development immediately after school, and we do not have the resources to watch your child beyond the school day. Any child repeatedly left at school (or PK-K-1-2 student not met at the bus stop) will be required to have a guardian conference. We will take the following steps for any child not picked up by the designated times.

**Student Returned by Bus**

1. Warning/reminder of policy
2. Suspension from the bus for 1 days
3. Suspension from the bus for 3 days (continuing each additional time as well)
4. Guardian referred to Department of Child Services
5. Suspension from the bus for the remainder of the school year

**Student Not Picked up at Dismissal**

1. Warning/reminder of policy
2. Conference with school staff
3. Guardian referred to Department of Child Services
4. Conference with NOPD Resource Officer
5. Action recommended by NOPD Resource Officer

### Suspensions

Absences due to suspension are counted as excused, but students are required to make up any academic work missed. When allowed, the student and/or guardian are responsible for requesting the work from the teacher. The student must return to school with make-up work completed.

### Transportation

Students who miss the school bus or do not come to school because of a school bus issue **will not be excused, and the day will be recorded as an absence.** Students and families should contact the school immediately if there is a bus issue, the school will do its best to remedy the situation, but all students are still responsible for attending school that day.

If a student is tardy due to a bus issue (traffic, driver error) those students will not be penalized for that tardy, it will be excused by the school.

### Make-Up Work

If a student is absent and the absence is excused, the student is required to make up class work assignments. It is the responsibility of the student and their guardian to secure make-up work and complete it in a timely manner.

### UNIFORM POLICY

Our uniform policy reinforces our schools' culture of high expectations and academic achievement. Students are expected to wear a uniform every day Monday-Friday.

### Uniform for the 2023-2024 School Year

<b>Shirts:</b> All students are required to wear a <b>Dorothy Height</b> polo shirt (Pre K: gold/ K-1-2: cardinal red/ 3-4-5: gray/ 6-7-8: black). Shirt tails must be tucked in and may not be worn outside of uniform bottoms.
<b>Bottoms:</b> Pants are to be khaki-colored dress, non-denim, uniform type slacks. Pants are to be the appropriate size for the students, must fit properly at the waist and may be neither too tight nor too baggy. Approved plaid pants option for girls. Bell-bottom, jeggings, cargo, corduroy, patch-pocketed, joggers or jean type pants are not allowed as part of the uniform. Pants are to be hemmed (shoe-top length) and have no frayed edges or cut bottoms. Uniform shorts, skirts and skorts must be knee length.
<b>Undershirt:</b> Black, white or gray undershirt
<b>Belts:</b> A plain black or brown belt (no slogans, writing, characters or large buckles) <b>(2nd - 8<sup>th</sup> grade)</b>
<b>Socks:</b> Students can wear any color of socks or tights (socks must be worn daily).
<b>Shoes:</b> <u>1st - 8th Grade</u> - Any color shoes with an athletic/ non marking sole <u>PK &amp; Kindergarten</u> - Any color velcro shoes with an athletic/ non marking sole
<b>Outerwear:</b> The only clothing worn over the uniform must be the school's sweatshirt or cardigan (hoodies, windbreakers are to be worn outdoors, but must be removed upon entering the building).
<b>Accessories:</b> Hats, caps, hoods, bandanas, handkerchiefs, visors, bonnets, sleep scarves, sunglasses (unless prescribed by a physician) may NOT be worn in the building or in class. No distracting, excessive, jewelry or accessories will be allowed.

**Student IDs:** Name badge on left collar

**Friday Uniform Policy Attire**

On Friday scholars in grades Pk-8 are allowed to wear a Dorothy Height uniform shirt or college shirt with blue, gray or black jeans. **No jean shorts, jeans with rips, leggings, joggers, sweatpants are allowed.**

**The following dress is unacceptable:**

- \* Shirts hanging out of pants or pants hanging too low
- \* No distracting jewelry, accessories or sunglasses (unless prescribed by a physician)
- \* Hats, caps, hoods, bandanas, handkerchiefs, visors, bonnets or sleep scarves
- \* Hoodies under uniform shirts or any sleepwear visible under uniform
- \* Flip flops, slippers, shoes with a heel, open toed shoes, crocs
- \* False nails, no acrylic, no dip nails, overlay, false eyelashes or makeup

We also ask parents to support all decisions made by school staff regarding whether or not clothing is appropriate or inappropriate for school. Students who are out of uniform will remain in a study hall setting until their uniform issue is addressed. Height staff will do all they can to communicate the uniform policy and to help resolve minor uniform infractions quickly to avoid a loss of instructional time.

Note: If your child requires a religious accommodation to the uniform policy, please contact the school to discuss. If your child is experiencing homelessness or for any other reason needs financial assistance to procure a uniform, please contact the school to discuss.

**Consequences for uniform violations:**

PK-2	3-5	6-8
<p>Students who are not in uniform will have their guardians called during arrival. If the guardian can bring an item, they will be allowed to attend class. If they cannot fix the issue or are unwilling to fix the issue they may be in the Time Out Center for that day and for subsequent days until the uniform violation is fixed.</p>	<p>Students who are not in uniform will have their guardians called during arrival. If the guardian can bring an item, they will be allowed to attend class. If they cannot fix the issue or are unwilling to fix the issue they may be in In School Suspension for that day and for subsequent days until the uniform violation is fixed.</p>	<p>Students who are not in uniform will be given an opportunity to fix the issue during arrival. If they can fix it, they will be allowed to attend class. If they cannot fix the issue or are unwilling to fix the issue they may be in In School Suspension for that day and for subsequent days until the uniform violation is fixed. Students will also earn a <b>consequence</b> for:  <b>Uniform Bottoms/Shirt</b>  <b>Belt</b>  <b>Nametag</b></p>

**SCHOOL CULTURE**

School Culture generally refers to “the beliefs, perceptions, relationships, attitudes, and written and unwritten rules that shape and influence every aspect of how a school functions”, but the term also encompasses more concrete issues such as the physical and emotional safety of students, the orderliness of classrooms and public spaces, or the

degree to which a school embraces and celebrates racial, ethnic, linguistic, or cultural diversity.” (Defined by the Glossary of Educational Reform)

**Mission of Culture at Dorothy Height Charter School**

The culture at Dorothy Height Charter School is rooted in the consistency and deliberateness of actions taken by students and staff in every moment and interaction within our school community. It promotes effective use of time and allows for attention to be directed to the rigorous instruction provided to students in classrooms so they are prepared to excel in our city’s exceptional high schools and ultimately, in prestigious colleges around the country.

**How our Culture Relates to our Values**

Our culture directly supports our mission and values as a school. Our culture is our way of publicly showing what we value and believe in as the Dorothy Height Charter School community.

An orderly school climate characterized by respectful relationships is the necessary foundation for a successful school. It is essential that all students respect the expectations for behavior in the school in order to develop the behavioral habits necessary for success in life and to provide a school climate where teaching and learning can flourish.

**High Expectations for Behavior**

If we have high expectations for behavior, our students will respond appropriately. When we explicitly teach students what we expect and develop systems for rewarding their cooperation, we equip them with the necessary information and motivation to succeed. These clearly articulated expectations provide clear, unambiguous behaviors to be taught and set high behavior standards analogous to the high academic standards expected in all classrooms.

The acronym below is used to reinforce the desired classroom behaviors from students. This teaches students how to pay attention and convey a positive attitude through appropriate body language in a classroom, in assemblies, and when talking to adults.

To protect the safety and security of students, staff, and our campus, security cameras are deployed throughout the building. Students, guardians, and visitors should have no expectation of privacy in classrooms, offices, hallways, and other common spaces in and around the school. Similarly, classes held remotely via online video conferencing platforms may be recorded.

**SLANT**

- S** Sit up
- L** Listen
- A** Ask and Answer Questions (in a complete sentence!)
- N** Nod
- T** Track the Speaker

In addition, classrooms all share the following expectations:

- Respect each other with your words and actions
- Participate in class and bring your best energy
- Follow all directions the first time given
- Respond to redirections appropriately

**CONSEQUENCES**

Both the Elementary School and Middle School have concrete consequences. While the consequences are different amongst the grade levels, they both relate back to our values and the behaviors students should exhibit each day in every part of our school. Depending on the grade level of the students with whom a staff member is interacting, the appropriate ladder should be strictly and concretely followed. The only instance in which the behavior management system is not strictly and concretely followed is when a student is in crisis or in danger of creating an environment

that is not safe for our school community. In this extreme case, a member of the Culture Team will remove the student from the environment immediately.

#### **Middle School**

1. Redirection and restate expectations
2. Paycheck deduction (based on concrete values listed below)
3. In-Class Time Out/Student and teacher check in one on one
4. Additional Paycheck Deduction & guardian call within 24 hours through SchoolRunner app to ensure the call was logged electronically

#### **Paychecks**

Paychecks will be used in grades 6 through 8. Paychecks are used to reinforce the behaviors we believe enforce the type of culture we believe in having at our school. Students may earn additions to their paychecks as well as deductions based on actions grounded in our values of Perseverance, Excellence, Courage, and Community.

#### **Logistics of Paychecks**

Common deduction dollar amounts are between 1 and 4 dollars. Severe deductions have separate set amounts ranging from 8 to 20 dollars. Students will earn collective positive points through the classpoint system.

#### **Elementary School**

1. Redirect- Scholar receives reminder. Teacher positively narrates to redirect scholar behavior.
2. Redirection given. Scholar loses behavior points tied to their specific action (i.e. not following directions).
3. Redirection is given. Scholar loses behavior points tied to their specific action (i.e. not following directions). Scholar is given a conference about behavior in a personal setting.
4. Redirection is given. Scholar loses behavior points tied to their specific action (i.e. not following directions). School is given a 5 minute reflection time in the classroom or Culture Push-In as needed.
5. Redirection is given. Scholar is given a 5-minute reflection time in the classroom. Teacher will call/text home.

#### **Logistics of Elementary Point System**

Common deduction points are worth 1 point. Severe deductions will result in time out either in-class or out of class. Students will earn collective positive points through the classpoint system.

### **SCHOOL WIDE CONSEQUENCES**

#### **Class A Offenses**

Class A offenses usually result in a suspension of one or more days from school depending on the offense and its severity. However, no suspension will be issued prior to an investigation by the Culture Team. Multiple infractions may lead to a referral to the citywide hearing officer and escalated school based consequences.

**Fighting:** hitting, punching, and kicking, with the intent to harm another, or stir up hostility.

**Weapons:** any instrument or device used to attack or harm another. Ex: guns, knives, crude or handmade weapons, ordinary items that can be used as weapons. Students at Dorothy Height Charter School are prohibited from bringing weapons of ANY kind onto school grounds.

**Fireworks/Lighters/Matches/Fire Starters/Accelerant:** Students at Dorothy Height Charter School are prohibited from bringing Fireworks/Lighters/Matches/Fire Starters/Accelerants of ANY kind onto school grounds.

**Major Property Damage:** Students that damage school property will be suspended for a minimum of two days from school.

**Endangering yourself and others:** Students cannot put themselves or others in danger due to their direct or indirect action. Doing so will result in consequences and guardian notification and involvement.

**Sexual Harassment:** Sexual Harassment is defined as making unwanted sexual advances or obscene remarks to others that creates a hostile environment.

**Leaving campus:** Students are prohibited from leaving campus for ANY reason without the express supervision of a Dorothy Height Charter School staff member, guardian, or designated guardian.

**Blatant disrespect of school faculty and staff; extreme insubordination:** Students are prohibited from being blatantly and wantonly disrespectful to Dorothy Height Charter School staff and visitors. (Example: calling staff members or visitors bad names, cursing at staff members, exhibiting inappropriate body language, insubordination, etc.)

**Stealing:** Students are prohibited from taking things that do not belong to them.

**Drugs/Vape Pens/Tobacco Products:** Students are prohibited from bringing drugs/vape pens/tobacco products onto school grounds.

## **Bullying**

All students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. Behavior that infringes on the safety of any student will not be tolerated. A student shall not bully or intimidate any student through words or actions. Bullying has a detrimental effect on the perpetrators, victims, and bystanders. Such behavior includes, but is not limited to, direct physical contact, verbal assaults, the use of electronic methods, and social isolation and/or manipulation. Any student who engages in bullying will be subject to disciplinary action as laid out in this handbook and/or as laid out in state law which lists potential criminal consequences and the loss of one's driver's license. Victims will be provided appropriate remedies.

Bullying is defined by state law as:

- A pattern of any one or more of the following:
- Gestures, including but not limited to obscene gestures.
- Written, electronic, or verbal communications, including but not limited to calling names, threatening harm, taunting, malicious teasing, or spreading untrue rumors. Electronic communication includes but is not limited to a communication or image transmitted by email, instant message, text message, blog, or social networking website through the use of a telephone, mobile phone, pager, computer, or other electronic device.
- Physical acts, including but not limited to hitting, kicking, pushing, tripping, choking, damaging personal property, or unauthorized use of personal property.
- Repeatedly and purposefully shunning from activities.
- Where the pattern of behavior, as described above, is exhibited toward a student, more than once, by another student or group of students and occurs, or is received by, a student while on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-sanctioned function or activity, at any designated school bus stop, in any school bus or any other school or private vehicle used to transport students to and from school or any school-sponsored activity or event.
- And where the pattern of behavior, as described above, shall have the effect of physically harming a student, placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm, damaging a student's property, placing the student in reasonable fear of damage to the student's property, or shall be sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough to either create an intimidating or threatening educational environment, have the effect of substantially



interfering with a student's performance in school, or have the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Students are expected to report incidents of bullying to a staff person. School staff will promptly investigate each complaint of bullying in a thorough and confidential manner. The school prohibits retaliatory behavior against any complainant or any participant in the complaint or investigation process. Students or guardians who are not satisfied with the result of an investigation or complaint may follow the policy for addressing guardian concerns outlined in this handbook and/or state law.

The school prohibits intentionally making false reports of bullying. Such behavior will result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with state law and this handbook.

This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling on a school bus to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, and during school-sponsored activities.

### **Hazing**

The hazing of students, the solicitation to engage in hazing, and aiding and abetting another person who engages in hazing are prohibited. Hazing is defined as any knowing behavior, whether by commission or omission, of any student to encourage, direct, order, or participate in any activity which subjects another student to potential physical, mental, or psychological harm for the purpose of initiation or admission into, affiliation with, continued membership in, or acceptance by existing members of any organization or extracurricular activity at a public elementary or secondary school, whether such behavior is planned or occurs on or off school property, including any school bus and school bus stop. The consent of the hazing victim is not a defense.

All students, teachers, and other school employees are expected to take reasonable measures within the scope of their individual authority to prevent violations of this hazing policy.

Students who believe they have witnessed or been the victim of hazing or any other part of this hazing policy should report the incident to a staff member. Reports of hazing or other violations of this section will be investigated by the principal or their designee. Violations of this policy that are substantiated upon investigation will be punished and may be appealed in accordance with the policies outlined in this handbook. Any violations that are found to have also violated the law may be referred to law enforcement.

**Repeated Demonstration of Class B Offenses (those listed below):** Students are prohibited from repeatedly disregarding the rules and values of our school community. When a student has received an alternative consequence for Class B Offenses multiple times, these behaviors may result in suspension.

### **Class B Offenses**

Will result in school based consequences, but may escalate to suspension if repeated or if paired with an additional offense.

**Minor Property Damage:** Students are prohibited from damaging school property. Minor property damage constitutes damage less than \$100.00. (Guardians are responsible for costs associated with property damage)

**Cell Phones, Toys, and other non-school related items:** Any cell phone or other inappropriate item, whether electronic or toy will be confiscated and placed in the possession of the Director of Culture or the Principal. A guardian must pick up all prohibited items valued in excess of \$15.00.

**Chronic Uniform Violations:** At Dorothy Height Charter School we take pride in our appearance. Our school uniform is the first thing that exemplifies our values. We must adhere to uniform guidelines. Chronic violators of the uniform code may receive detentions and additional consequences.

**Inappropriate Materials at School:** At Dorothy Height Charter School, we honor our school community in everything that we do. In keeping with our value of community, students are prohibited from bringing any

materials to school that are not for school use. Ex: Toys, electronics, inappropriate reading material, adult material or books, etc.

**Inappropriate Social Media/Texting Behavior:** Students are prohibited from posting inappropriate material on social media that directly affects or influences behaviors at school. Students are further prohibited from texting other students at Dorothy Height Charter School inappropriate material or conversation that is deemed inappropriate if participated in during school hours.

### **Appealing Suspensions**

Should a guardian wish to contest or discuss the suspension of a student, the guardian has the right to request a meeting with the Principal by emailing Monica Solomon, Chief of Staff, at [msolomon@crescentcityschools.org](mailto:msolomon@crescentcityschools.org) or calling at 504-255-8315. The Principal will speak with all guardians wishing to discuss student suspensions and other disciplinary actions. Upon the conclusion of the meeting, the Principal will decide if the student's suspension stands or if another form of disciplinary action is suitable. If the decision made at the conclusion of the meeting with the Principal is not acceptable to the guardian, the guardian has the right to contact the CEO of Crescent City Schools, Kate Mehok, who will meet with the guardian and a representative from the school and render a decision. If the guardian is still unsatisfied with the decision of the CEO, they may contact the Board President of Crescent City Schools who will meet with the guardian and the CEO to render a decision. The decision of the board chair regarding school suspensions is final.

### **Expulsion**

Expulsions will be recommended for serious behavior violations. For example, carrying or possessing a weapon (knife, firearms or dangerous instrument); possession, distribution, selling, giving, or loaning any controlled dangerous substance; multiple suspensions or conviction of a felony.

Dorothy Height Charter School complies with the expulsion policy set out by the Orleans Parish School Board. A copy of the policy can be made available upon request.

### **Behavioral Expectations Outside of the Classroom and School**

Outside of the classroom, we expect scholars to interact respectfully with all staff members and to follow all directions. High expectations for student behavior do not end at dismissal. Because part of our mission is to build student character, we must eliminate the disconnect between in-school and out-of-school behavior. If we see or hear of things happening outside of school that are examples of poor decision making or character, we will use it as an opportunity to counsel our scholars and give them an opportunity to examine their choices.

To this end, please report issues that you witness or hear about. While we generally do not issue school-based consequences in these situations, we do want to address concerns with students and help them make better choices.

### **Field Trip Expectations**

All scholars are expected to maintain the highest behavioral expectations while on field trips as they represent Dorothy Height in the community. Scholars who have a major behavior infraction in the week prior to a field trip or have a pattern of major behavior concerns, may be required to stay at school during the field trip or a guardian must attend the field trip with their scholar to participate. Scholars who commit a major behavior infraction while on a field trip may have field trip privileges suspended in the future.

### **Students With Disabilities**

While all students may receive consequences for failing to meet behavior expectations, the consequences used for students with disabilities will not constitute a "change in placement," - except in the case of emergency circumstances as described below - when the offense is directly related to their disability or when the IEP or Section 504 plan is not implemented. Consequences constitute a "change in placement" when a student is:

- Suspended for more than 10 consecutive days, or
- Suspended for more than 10 total days in a school year if the suspensions constitute a pattern based on the school's analysis of the similarity of the precipitating behaviors, the length of each suspension, the total amount

of suspensions and the proximity of the suspensions to one another.

Any student with a disability who is removed from their current placement for more than 10 days will receive IEP services beginning on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of removal.

Within 10 days of any decision resulting in a “change of placement”, the school will meet with the guardian and relevant members of the child’s IEP (individual educational program) team to review all relevant information in the student’s file, including the IEP, to determine whether the student’s behavior resulting in the “change of placement” was 1) caused by or directly and substantially related to the student’s disability, or 2) a direct result of the school’s failure to follow the student’s IEP.

- If this review team concludes that the answer to either of the above questions is yes, then the student’s behavior is a manifestation of their disability. The student will be returned to the placement from which they were removed unless the guardian and the team agree to a change of placement and the school conducts, if necessary, an FBA (functional behavior assessment) of the student or reviews and modifies the student’s BIP (behavior intervention plan). If the IEP was not implemented, the team will document why it was not implemented and whether this impacted the student’s behavior.
- If this review team determines that the student’s conduct was not a manifestation of their disability, then the student may be subject to the same consequences as general education students. The team will identify and document education services the student will receive to enable them to continue to participate in the general education curriculum, although in another setting (IAES- individual alternative educational setting), and to progress toward meeting the goals set out in the IEP.

In circumstances related to a student’s use of weapons or drugs or the imposition of serious bodily injury, the school may remove a student for 45 school days. During this 45-day period, the school will convene a meeting (as described above) to determine whether the student’s behavior is a manifestation of their disability. The student will receive, as appropriate, an FBA and BIP services and modifications that are designed to address the behavior related to the removal so that it does not recur.

Guardians who disagree with the appropriateness of the alternative placement or remedial disciplinary setting or services may request an expedited due process hearing. If the school has documented reasons to believe that keeping the student in the school is substantially likely to result in injury to the student or to others, the school will request an emergency hearing to ask a hearing officer to transfer the student to an IAES for up to 45 school days. During the appeal of a discipline decision, if disciplinary action was the result of:

- Weapons, drugs, or serious bodily injury: the student will remain in the IAES pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the 45-day placement, whichever occurs first, unless the guardian and school personnel agree otherwise;
- Behavior that is not a manifestation of the student’s disability: the student will remain in the IAES pending the decision of the hearing officer or until the expiration of the alternative placement, whichever occurs first, unless the guardian and school personnel agree otherwise.

In some cases, a student without a disability may be deemed to have one. This occurs when any of the following factors are present:

- The guardian has requested an evaluation;
- The guardian expressed concern in writing to the student’s teacher or school administration about the student’s need for special education and related services; or
- The student’s teacher or other school staff told the special education services staff or other school supervision personnel of specific concerns about the student’s pattern of behavior.

Nothing in this section shall prohibit school personnel from reporting a crime committed by a student with a disability to appropriate authorities or prevents State law enforcement and judicial authorities from exercising their responsibilities with regard to the application of Federal and State law to crimes committed by a student with a disability. School personnel reporting a crime committed by a student with a disability will ensure that copies of the special education and disciplinary records of the student are transmitted for consideration by the appropriate authorities to whom the crime is reported. Records will only be transmitted to the extent allowed by FERPA and other relevant

laws.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Our school is committed to serving all students. All students, regardless of disability, may enroll here in accordance with policies developed by the EnrollNOLA office. We do not discriminate in enrollment practices or in any other way against students with disabilities. A free appropriate public education, including any necessary special education services are provided at Dorothy Height Charter School, as required, under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). According to the Louisiana Department of Education, support through special education and related services requires an evaluation to *determine* eligibility for those services. Once a student has moved through the RTI process, mentioned above, and the RTI Team determines that an evaluation is necessary to determine special education eligibility, a licensed school psychologist is contacted and assigned to the student's case to work with the RTI team and guardian to complete an Educational Evaluation. The process of identifying a student for special education services is lengthy and involves a team of educators, family, and specialists. Once a scholar is deemed eligible for special education services, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed and implemented.

Our school serves all students and will identify, locate and evaluate all students who need special education and related services. Once a scholar is deemed eligible for special education services, an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) is developed and implemented, and the school provides all special and related services required in the least restrictive environment that meets each student's individual needs.

### **504 ACCOMMODATIONS**

Section 504 is a Federal Civil Rights statute enacted to ensure non-discrimination against persons with disabilities.

If a student has a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, they may be eligible for accommodations under Section 504. The accommodations will be individualized based on the scholar's disability and need. The accommodations are meant to "level the playing field" for students with disabilities.

A legal guardian may request a child be evaluated by the school for 504 eligibility. The request may be made to the Director of Student Support. Once a request is made, a team of educators familiar with the student will determine the student's eligibility based on various sources of data related to that student's performance. If a student is found eligible, an Individualized Accommodation Plan (IAP) will be developed for the student with the guardian's input and approval. Once the plan is finalized, the student will receive the necessary accommodations in all areas of instruction.

### **ENGLISH LEARNERS**

The school uses home language questionnaires, classroom observations, literacy assessments, and other screeners to identify which students are English Learners (EL). The school will notify guardians of identified EL students if it places them in an alternative language program (ALP).

The school's program for EL students includes pull out supports in english acquisition and push in supports in content classes . EL students are not unnecessarily segregated or excluded from other students, programs, or activities. Staff that teach EL students have the appropriate certifications and/or training.

When a student scores in the proficient range (4 or 5) in all four domains on the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT) they will be reclassified from English Learner to Full English Proficiency. At that time, the student will no longer be eligible for English language support. The student will be monitored for two years in which time their academic progress will be followed closely. If at any time they appear to be struggling due to language demands, they will be reconsidered for English language support.

### **STUDENT FEES**

We believe in offering an excellent education to all students. We further believe that the inability to pay student fees should not prevent students from having access to a quality education, and that economically disadvantaged students and students whose families are experiencing economic hardships should have the same opportunities afforded to them as to other students.

The following is a list of student fees. All fees may be paid in the school's main office with cash or with a debit card, money order, certified check, or debit card. The school may also offer an online portal for the payment of fees. Collected fees are used to defray the costs of the referenced supply or experience.

Fee	Amount	When Due
Uniform Fees	Actual cost of each uniform item.  At maximum:  T-shirt: \$10  Polo: \$15  Sweatshirt: \$30  Cardigan: \$30	When uniform items are picked up
Field Trip Fee	Maximum of:  Day trip: no charge  Overnight, in-state trip: \$50  Overnight, out-of-state trip: \$200  Overnight, international trip: \$1,000	Two weeks prior to the trip
Activity Fees	Parade unit: \$100  Other extracurricular: \$50 max	Prior to the first event
Technology Fees	Computer replacement: \$100  Computer repair: \$50  Lost charger: \$20  Lost stylus: \$20  Lost computer case: \$20	Prior to obtaining the repaired/replaced device

No student will ever be denied a uniform, technology or participation in a field trip or activity because of a lack of ability to pay a fee. Nor will students be denied any other academic opportunity because of a lack of ability to pay a fee. Furthermore, failure to pay any required fee shall not result in the withholding of a student's educational record. No fees not authorized by this policy shall be assessed.

Families who would like to request an economic hardship waiver of a fee may do so by alerting the front office and speaking with the school's social worker or their designee. Waiver requests will be approved or denied based on a family's demonstrated financial need. Waiver requests that are denied may be appealed to the school principal.