

TO THE STUDENTS OF DAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year at Dan River High School! Your high school years should be a time filled with exciting memories and great experiences. Our teachers, administration, and staff are in place to encourage your success and assist you along the way to graduation and beyond. Please take advantage of all the opportunities that Dan River High School has to offer academically, athletically, and through many extra-curricular activities.

This handbook will serve as a reference tool for all students. The information provided will help ensure your success while a member of the DRHS Wildcat student body. In addition, the handbook serves as a student planner containing monthly calendars, weekly assignment records, as well as student hall passes. This handbook should be with you at all times during each school day.

Though the administration attempts to place all important information in this handbook, changes can occur due to unexpected situations. Students must pay attention to the morning and afternoon announcements, as well as the signage boards around the school to keep up with scheduled events. The information contained in this handbook will be covered by each teacher at the beginning of the school year, and also by the Administration in an assembly format. All students will be held accountable for all the information including rules, regulations, and procedures of DRHS that are presented in this handbook. Parents and guardians should review this handbook as well.

Any topic not covered in this handbook falls under the guidelines of the Pittsylvania County School Board Policy Manual. Please refer to the policies that were sent home with your child. The administration reserves the right to make changes to this handbook to promote the safety of all students, staff, and patrons of Dan River High School

Important School Facts

Mascot: Wildcat

Colors: Blue & White with Red

Principal: Steven Mayhew

Assistant Principals:

Matthew Weatherford, TBD

School Day: 8:14 a.m. - 3:11 p.m.

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Address:

Dan River High School

100 Dan River Wildcat Circle

Ringgold, VA 24586

Phone number: (434) 822-7081

Fax number: (434) 822-7347

Website: www.pcs.k12.va.us/drhs

BELL SCHEDULES (By Lunches)

REGULAR SCHEDULE		SPECIAL ACTIVITY SCHEDULE	
1st Lunch:		1st Lunch:	
1 st Block	8:14 a.m. - 9:47 a.m.	1 st Block	8:14 a.m. - 9:29 a.m.
2 nd Block	9:53 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.	2 nd Block	9:35 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
Lunch	11:25 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.	Lunch	10:50 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.
3 rd Block	12:01 p.m. - 1:33 p.m.	3 rd Block	11:26 a.m. - 12:41 p.m.
4 th Block	1:39 p.m. - 3:11 p.m.	4 th Block	12:47 p.m. - 2:02 p.m.
		Activity	2:02 p.m. - 3:11 p.m.
2nd Lunch:		2nd Lunch:	
1 st Block	8:14 a.m. - 9:47 a.m.	1 st Block	8:14 a.m. - 9:29 a.m.
2 nd Block	9:53 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.	2 nd Block	9:35 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
3 rd Block	11:31 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	3 rd Block	10:56 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Lunch	12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.	Lunch	11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
3 rd Block	12:45 p.m. - 1:33 p.m.	3 rd Block	12:00 p.m. - 12:41 p.m.
4 th Block	1:39 p.m. - 3:11 p.m.	4 th Block	12:47 p.m. - 2:02 p.m.
		Activity	2:02 p.m. - 3:11 p.m.
3rd Lunch:		3rd Lunch:	
1 st Block	8:14 a.m. - 9:47 a.m.	1 st Block	8:14 a.m. - 9:29 a.m.
2 nd Block	9:53 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.	2 nd Block	9:35 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.
3 rd Block	11:31 a.m. - 1:03 p.m.	3 rd Block	10:56 a.m. - 12:11 p.m.
Lunch	1:03 p.m. - 1:33 p.m.	Lunch	12:11 p.m. - 12:41 p.m.
4 th Block	1:39 p.m. - 3:11 p.m.	4 th Block	12:47 p.m. - 2:02 p.m.
		Activity	2:02 p.m. - 3:11 p.m.
1:00 PM RELEASE SCHEDULE		TWO-HOUR DELAY SCHEDULE	
1 st Block	8:14 a.m. - 9:14 a.m.	1 st Block	10:14 a.m. - 11:16 a.m.
2 nd Block	9:20 a.m. - 10:19 a.m.	2 nd Block	11:22 a.m. - 12:24 p.m.
1st Lunch Schedule		1st Lunch Schedule	
1 st Lunch	10:19 a.m. - 10:49 a.m.	1 st Lunch	12:24 p.m. - 12:54 p.m.
3 rd Block	10:55 a.m. - 11:54 a.m.	3 rd Block	1:00 p.m. - 2:02 p.m.
2nd Lunch Schedule		2nd Lunch Schedule	
3 rd Block	10:25 a.m. - 10:52 a.m.	3 rd Block	12:58 p.m. - 1:28 p.m.
2 nd Lunch	10:52 a.m. - 11:22 a.m.	2 nd Lunch	12:58 p.m. - 1:28 p.m.
3 rd Block	11:22 a.m. - 11:54 a.m.	3 rd Block	1:28 p.m. - 2:02 p.m.
3rd Lunch Schedule		3rd Lunch Schedule	
3 rd Block	10:25 a.m. - 11:24 a.m.	3 rd Block	12:30 p.m. - 1:32 p.m.
Lunch	11:24 a.m. - 11:54 a.m.	3 rd Lunch	12:30 p.m. - 1:32 p.m.
4 th Block	12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	4 th Block	2:08 p.m. - 3:11 p.m.

AFTER-SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

No student will be allowed to remain in any area after of the school after school hours without permission from and under the supervision of a staff member. Students are required to be with a sponsor, coach, or teacher by 3:25 p.m..

ANNOUNCEMENTS/MORNING PROCEDURES

Announcements for the day will be made over the public address system during first period. Students are expected to be quiet and attentive to the announcements. Students will observe the moment of silence and will stand during the Pledge of Allegiance. Announcement requests must be made by sponsors or coaches and require administrative approval. Students will not be allowed to request announcements. Any posters which do not pertain to school-sponsored events must be approved by the principal. The school will not make announcements for church, civic, social, or commercial organizations unless these organizations are co-sponsoring an activity with the school.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

When a student is absent from class or school, the student will normally be excused according to the following guidelines:

1. Illness (parent must initiate contact with the attendance office each day of the absence; A doctor's note is required after seven (7) accumulated absences)
2. Quarantine
3. Death in the family
4. Medical appointments (must provide doctor's note/excuse)
5. Court proceedings (statement from court required).
6. Religious observances
7. Educational opportunities (must be pre-approved in advance with a pre-arranged absences form)
8. Emergencies/Other reasons approved in advance by the school administration.

If the reason for an absence does not fall within the guidelines, the absence will generally be unexcused. Absences that might be an exception to these guidelines must be approved in advance. When a student is absent due to suspension, the absence will be unexcused.

Upon returning to school following an absence, a student must have his/her absence verified and cleared on the day of his/her return. If for some reason this is not done, the student will have until the **next** school day to have his/her absence verified. Absences not cleared in this time frame will remain unexcused.

Additional Regulations Governing Middle and High School (Policy JED-PC)

Students who have unexcused absences at the middle school and high school level will not be given an opportunity to make up the work missed. This includes tests, labs and any work done in class on the day of the absence. Work done outside of the classroom by all other students can be accepted.

When an absence is judged to be unexcused, the student and/or a parent may request an appeal before the school attendance committee. This request for an appeal must be made in writing and must be received before the end of the school day following notification of an unexcused absence. If the appeal is successful, the absence will be excused and make-up work will be allowed. Make-up work will not be given prior to the decision of the attendance committee. Note: The appeal process does not apply to suspensions.

The school attendance committee will be composed of three persons from the administration and the guidance department. This committee will meet within two school days, and, upon meeting, render an immediate decision. The decision of the committee will be final. Application of this policy to students with disabilities shall be consistent with federal and state laws and regulations as well as School Board policy regarding students with disabilities.

Requests for Excused Absences for Educational Opportunity: Such requests are for trips that are of educational value. Requests that typically meet this criteria include official college/university visits and educational agency/institution trips. Request forms may be picked up from the attendance clerk's office. **Absences due to educational opportunities count as absences from school and will count against a student's perfect attendance record.**

Checking in and out of School

Tardies

- Students who arrive after 8:14 a.m. are tardy and must report to the Attendance Clerk's office and submit a written excuse to the attendance clerk. The administration will decide whether the tardy is excused or unexcused.
- **Classes missed due to checking in fall under the same guidelines as the Attendance Policy and will be ruled excused or unexcused based on the reason provided in a written note from the parent/guardian.**

- Students who ride with or provide their own transportation will receive one (1) excused tardy per semester for car trouble. Additional excused tardies will not be granted except in extreme circumstances as determined by the administration.
- Tardies to school count as tardies to class. Please refer to the tardy policy on page for consequences for tardies.

Checkouts/Early dismissals

- Students who need to leave school early must submit a written note from a parent or guardian to the Attendance Office in the morning. In addition, **the parent must make telephone contact with the school by 9:00 a.m. for confirmation.** If a student becomes ill during the day, the student must see the school nurse.
- **Classes missed due to checking out fall under the same guidelines as the Attendance Policy and will be ruled excused or unexcused based on the reason provided in a written note from the parent/guardian.**
- Students are not to check out and return to school on the same day without permission from an administrator.
- Early dismissals for appointments require documentation (note from a doctor, court clerk, etc.) on the day the student returns to school.

BEFORE-SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Students should not arrive to school prior to 7:45 a.m. unless they are under the supervision of a teacher or sponsor.

CAFETERIA AND LUNCH PERIOD

Students are required to report and remain in the cafeteria during their assigned lunch period. Students are to conduct themselves appropriately in the cafeteria. They should never break line, push others, or run. Students should respect the duty teachers and cafeteria workers' authority. Chairs, tables, and floors should be kept clean. All talking should be completed in normal volumes. Trays, silverware, and dishes must be returned to the appropriate area. All food items and trash should be cleaned up before leaving. No food is to be removed from the cafeteria. Per Federal guidelines, students are not permitted to consume fast food in the cafeteria.

Breakfast/lunch prices for the 2016-2017 school year are as follows:

	Full Price	Reduced	Adult
Breakfast	\$1.75	\$0.30	\$1.95
Lunch	\$2.55	\$0.40	\$3.50

CAR RIDERS

Students who are dropped off in the morning or picked up in the morning should make sure that those persons driving them to school obey the instructions on the sign posted at the entrance and exits. Only buses should be on the main road in front of the school during arrival and dismissal times (7:45 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

CLASS RANK

The first semester grade of each senior shall be averaged with his/her previous yearly averages to determine class rank and the selection of honor graduates.

GPA (Grade Point Average)

This is calculated by the total number of quality points divided by the number of courses attempted.

Points per Credit:

Advanced & AP Courses	All Other Courses
A = 5	A = 4
B = 4	B = 3
C = 3	C = 2
D = 2	D = 1
F = 0	F = 0

CLINIC

The clinic is staffed by a nurse. Students must have a pass from a teacher to visit the clinic.

Medications:

1. It is preferable for medication to be administered at home.
2. **Students are not allowed to have medication on their person at any time.** Doing so will result in disciplinary consequences including suspension from school up to expulsion.
3. All medications are required to be presented to the school clinic by a parent/guardian with signed medication permission form. All medications must be presented in the original container labeled with the student's name, date,

and name of medication. If there is any discrepancy, whatsoever, between the label on the bottle, the parent's/guardian's instructions, or the doctor's order (if indicated), the medication will not be administered.

4. The Medication Permission Form must be updated at the beginning of each school year or when there is a change of dosage.
5. Reminder by letter or telephone call to the parent/guardian for medication(s) to be picked up will be made before the close of the school year (or sooner if indicated). Medication not picked up at the close of the school year (or sooner if indicated) will be destroyed.

DESIGNATED AREAS

Students must remain in designated areas at all times. For example, if a student is at lunch, he/she should be in the cafeteria not in other parts of the building including teacher's classrooms. Students not in designated areas are subject to disciplinary consequences.

STUDENT DRIVER REGULATIONS

Driving and parking a vehicle at Dan River High School is a privilege and is afforded to licensed student drivers. Unsafe driving practices, excessive unexcused check-ins or check-outs, and excessive absences can result in withdrawal of driving privileges to school as determined by the administration. Each student driver must register their vehicle by purchasing and displaying a Dan River High School parking decal that displays the current year. A limited number of decals can be purchased for \$20.00. If a student changes vehicles, he or she must re-register the new vehicle with the office. Students must park their vehicles properly in the student parking lot. Students are not allowed to park behind the school at any time or the lot near the cafeteria. Upon arrival to school, students are to immediately exit their vehicles and enter the building. Students may not return to their vehicles without permission from administration.

EXAMS

All high school courses require a final exam. The exam grade will count 25% of the final grade; the three six-week grades will be calculated to represent 75% of the final grade.

Exemptions: Seniors with an overall "A" average will be exempt from their final exam. Any student that passes the Standards of Learning (SOL) test or Industry Certification test for the corresponding class will be exempt from the exam. The teacher has the right to have a student take a final exam, even if he/she has passed the SOL, if the

student needs a passing grade on the exam to pass the class. Students must take the exam in dual enrollment classes.

FLOWERS AND BALLOONS

Deliveries are not accepted for students. Such gifts should not be brought from home. Balloons may not be taken into a classroom or onto a school bus.

FOOD AND DRINK

Students who bring lunch to school must eat in the cafeteria. No student is to enter the teachers' lounge for drinks or snacks at any time. No food or drinks are to be carried or consumed in the classrooms, lockers, hallways, restrooms, gymnasium, locker rooms, or library

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is based upon a 100-point scale. The scale is as follows:

A = 94 - 100

B = 86 - 93

C = 78 - 85

D= 70 - 77

F = 0 - 69

I = Incomplete

GRADUATE OF MERIT

- Graduates who attain a specified point total accumulated during their high school studies qualify as Pittsylvania County Graduate of Merit.
- Recognition: Each recipient will be honored during a public ceremony held at the end of the final semester and attended by the students, parents, business sponsors, and school officials.
- For more information, see a guidance counselor.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Listed below are the requirements for a Standard Diploma. For more information, please contact the guidance office.

STANDARD DIPLOMA		
Discipline Area		
	# of Credits	# of Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics	3	1
Science	3	1
History & Social Studies	3	1
Health & PE	2	
Fine or Practical Arts		
Foreign Language, Fine Arts, or Career & Technical Ed.	2	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives	4	
Student Selected Test		1
TOTAL	22	6

Listed below are the requirements for an Advanced Studies Diploma. For more information, please contact the guidance office.

ADVANCED STUDIES DIPLOMA		
Discipline Area		
	# of Credits	# of Verified Credits
English	4	2
Mathematics	4	2
Science	4	2
History & Social Studies	4	2
Foreign Language	3	
Health & PE	2	
Fine Arts or Career & Tech Ed.	1	
Economics & Personal Finance	1	
Electives	3	
Student Selected Test		1
TOTAL	26	9

GUIDANCE

Our comprehensive guidance program serve the individual student and his/her ever-changing needs. The program is designed to:

- assist students in discovering special abilities and interests,
- provide counseling both social and personal,
- provide financial aid information,
- provide student information to colleges,
- coordinate state-mandated tests,
- register and enroll new students,
- arrange for tutors,
- schedule classes, and assist students in planning a program of study that best meets their needs.

HOMEWORK

The need for homework varies according to the content and level of courses. Its value lies in practicing skills and doing research. The amount and frequency of homework is commensurate with the course and class level. Student homework is reviewed, checked, or graded as needed to verify understanding and completion.

HONOR ROLL

To qualify as an honor graduate, the student must attain a 3.2 average on all units of credit attempted for subjects which are designated as ninth grade or above and must have a good conduct record. The first semester grade of each senior shall be averaged with his/her previous yearly averages to determine the selection of honor graduates.

INSURANCE

All students involved in athletics or shop work must have valid health insurance. It is also highly recommended for all physical education students. The deadline for the purchase of school insurance is October 1st. Fall sports participants must have insurance before being allowed to participate.

LOCKERS

Students are allowed to use their lockers before school, between classes, and after school. Students are assigned lockers and should not share lockers with other students. Use of lockers during instructional time is not permitted.

LOST AND FOUND

Many articles are lost or misplaced during the school year. Any student who finds an article not belonging to him/her should deliver it to the attendance office. Students should report their losses to their teachers and to the office.

MAKE-UP WORK

It is the responsibility of the student who had an excused absence to meet with his teacher to arrange for make-up work. The time allowed for make-up work is the number of days missed plus one. An administrator must handle exceptions to this policy. Note that assigned papers, projects, or long-term assignments are not considered make-up work. These assignments are considered on an individual basis.

The teacher reserves the right to request that a student complete make-up work before or after school. The following guidelines will be used for requesting make-up work:

1. Students are encouraged to get assignments for short-term absences from peers.
2. The school will not collect assignments for a student if he/she is absent for only one day.
3. Requests for make-up work should be made to the guidance office with 24-hours' notice.

MEDIA CENTER

The media center is open each day from 8:10 a.m. until 3:25 p.m. Books may be checked out for two weeks and may be renewed. A fine of \$0.10 per day will be charged for each overdue item.

MINUTE OF SILENCE

As required by School Board Policy and State regulations, Dan River High School will observe a minute of silence at the beginning of each school day followed by students being requested to recite the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag." During the minute of silence, students are to remain seated and be silent and are not to disrupt or distract others. This time may be used for personal reflection, prayer, and meditation. Students and others are prohibited from praying aloud during the minute of silence.

PAYMENTS AND FINES

Students and parents may pay for various fees or fines using checks. Checks must include a phone number of the responsible party on the check. If the account from which the check is written has insufficient funds to cover the amount, the matter will

automatically be referred to a collection company. By paying by check you are also authorizing the collection of a fee through an electronic fund transfer from your account if your payment is returned unpaid. This fee can range from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per check and is collected and kept by the outside collection company. Pittsylvania County Schools only receives the face value of the check.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is a very important component of an individual's development. With this in mind, credits must be obtained in order to earned graduate from DRHS. Failure to dress for PE each six weeks will result in the following:

- 1st offense: Reprimand and warnings by teacher
- 2nd offense: Parent contact by teacher
- 3rd offense: Office referral resulting in one day ASD
- 4th offense: Office referral resulting in one day ISS
- 5th offense: Office referral resulting in two days ISS
- 6th offense and subsequent: Office referral resulting in OSS

SCHOOL CLOSING

When it becomes necessary to close schools due to inclement weather or emergencies, a decision will be made at the earliest possible time. All patrons and students are asked not to call the school, school board office, or the highway department. Local radio and TV stations, the PCS website (<http://www.pcs.k12.va.us/public/weather.html>), and the School Messenger alert system alert parents of changes to school operations.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Council: The Student Council Association (SCA) of Dan River High is designed to promote unity, participation, and communication among the students, faculty, and administration. This organization is comprised of elected officer delegates and representatives from the student body.

Service Clubs: These clubs build leadership skills, self-esteem, and character. They also provide countless hours of service to the school and community. Dan River is proud of its dedicated service clubs, which include: JROTC, BETA Club, Interact, and YOVASO.

Performance Groups: Drama, marching band, concert band, concert choir, and Forensics are DRHS's performing groups. These groups have individual selection auditions.

National BETA Club: Students are inducted into this national service organization by invitation. Membership criteria include outstanding scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Students must have a 3.2 GPA to be considered for membership in the BETA Club. A record of service to school and/or community must be demonstrated prior to induction.

Other DRHS clubs include: FBLA, FFA, Spanish, French, DECA, Science, Art, FCA, FCCLA, Technology, and Book Club.

TARDIES

All students are expected to arrive to class on time and to be prepared for class. A student is considered tardy if he/she arrives to class after the tardy bell rings. Disciplinary actions for tardies are as follows. Please note that tardies to school count as tardies to class.

1st & 2nd tardies: student warnings from an administrator

3rd tardy: Tardy Referral sent home to the parent

4th tardy: After School Detention (ASD)

5th tardy: One day of In School Suspension (ISS)

6th tardy: Two days of ISS

7th tardy: One day of Out of School Suspension (OSS)

Repeat Offenses: subsequent OSS as determined by administration

TELEPHONES

Students may use the school telephone with the permission of an administrator. Cell phones are not to be used during the school instructional day at any time.

TEXTBOOKS

Books must be returned in basically the same condition as they were issued. No student can turn in a book for credit that was not properly issued to him/her. Students with outstanding book obligations will be placed on the fines list and records and privileges can be withheld.

VALEDICTORIAN/SALUTATORIAN

The valedictorian represents the senior with the highest cumulative GPA at the conclusion of the first semester of the senior year. The salutatorian represents the senior with the second highest cumulative GPA at the conclusion of the first semester of the senior year. In case of a tie for valedictorian, co-valedictorians shall be declared with no salutatorian. In case of a tie for salutatorian, co-salutatorians shall be declared.

VISITORS

All visitors to Dan River High School during school hours must report to the Main Office and state the nature of his/her business. Parents are always welcome to visit the school. Prior arrangements and appointments are appreciated. Visitors' passes must be worn and visible at all times.

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC PROGRAM

The athletic program at DRHS offers a variety of team and individual sports for both boys and girls. In order to participate in the athletic program, a student must have a completed VHSL parental consent/physician's examination form on file with the school athletic director before the first day of practice. To be eligible for participation (including practice) in the sports programs, a student must be currently enrolled in four courses and must have passed at least three subjects the preceding semester. Students must be present for half (2 periods) of the school day in order to participate in any practice or game that day.

CONDUCT OF STUDENT ATHLETES

Student athletes are expected to exemplify the highest standard of conduct befitting a lady or gentleman. Student athletes should remember that many people are observing their actions and that bad conduct reflects not only upon themselves, but also DRHS. Remarks, gestures, and other outbursts that may result in a technical foul or an official warning is considered unsportsmanlike conduct and is frowned upon by the athletic department and school administration. Any penalty during an athletic event can be punishable according to appropriate school policies. (Example - a fight during a soccer or football game could also result in a 10 day suspension from school.) Players ejected from a contest are responsible to the coach of the team, the athletic director, and/or the principal for disciplinary action. The Virginia High School League requires ejected players to sit out one to two games, depending on the reason for the ejection.

CONDUCT AT ATHLETIC EVENTS

The Virginia High School League requires good sportsmanship to be shown at all times in all athletic and extracurricular activities. Students and spectators are to treat the opposing teams, fans, and officials cordially. There is to be no abusive language; no throwing of objects; no kind of physical contact such as pushing, hitting, etc.; no booing; and no uncomplimentary signs. Students and spectators are not allowed on the playing floors or fields. Failure to abide by the regulations could cause DRHS to

forfeit the athletic contest, be placed on probation, fined, or even dropped from the league. At all times and at any event, DRHS students are obligated to cooperate with faculty members and school representatives.

DRHS SCHOOL TRADITIONS

Communications with the Dan River community is a tradition at Dan River High School. Our goal is to inform our parents and patrons about all school activities and to encourage their attendance at school events.

The Archway - Our yearbook is produced annually and covers all aspects of student life. Photographs of individual students, as well as clubs, organizations, and athletic group pictures are included.

Homecoming: Homecoming Football game date will be provided at a later date.

Awards Assemblies - Dan River High School students are recognized for their achievements. The Academic Awards Assembly is held during the academic year to honor students who have outstanding academic achievement. The community is invited to attend these celebrations of excellence. Athletic excellence awards are presented at the end of the fall, winter, and spring seasons.

Junior-Senior Prom: This formal dance will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the Olde Dominion Agriculture Complex in Chatham. Hosted by the junior class, the event honors Dan River seniors. Attendance at the prom is a privilege; failure to adhere to school rules can result in an administrative decision to exclude a student from the prom festivities.

After-Prom Party: A DRHS tradition, parent volunteers design and implement a festive informal party for the prom-goers.

Baccalaureate: Students enjoy a motivational and inspirational program presented by fellow students and Dan River community members.

Commencement Exercise (Graduation) - Graduation is the culminating activity for seniors and is designed to be a solemn and dignified occasion. Student speeches and the awarding of diplomas are highlights of this event. This is a privilege for seniors and junior marshals. Failure to adhere to school rules can result in an administrative decision to exclude a student from the commencement activities.

CODE OF CONDUCT AND PCS POLICIES

A copy of the Policies and Regulations Manual of Pittsylvania County Schools is maintained in the school media center and is available to students, employees, as well as the public. All students attending DRHS have a right to an education without disruption. Please review the guidelines below. Also refer to the policy booklet sent to each high school student which includes a copy of the Code of Conduct.

After School Detention (ASD): The purpose of ASD is both rehabilitative and punitive. This is to be accomplished in part by strict discipline and isolation. This may be imposed on students who have problems adapting to classroom situations. ASD will be held on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 3:25 to 4:25 p.m. If schools are closed on the day of ASD, it will automatically be rescheduled for the next scheduled day. Students missing an assigned ASD will be allowed one reschedule. Missing a rescheduled ASD will result in additional disciplinary consequences.

Behavior Management Center (BMC): Behavior Management Center was implemented for the purpose of the teacher to have the option of removing a student from class for minor offenses that do not warrant a referral to the administration. Students sent to BMC will have the same assignment that the class is working on or the teacher can choose the option of the student completing a packet available in the BMC room.

Bullying: Students who bully, harass, threaten, or intimidate other students will be disciplined. Under no circumstances are students allowed to confront other students or take matters in their own hands. Doing so will result in disciplinary consequences.

Bus infractions: Riding the school bus is a privilege, not a right of students. Appropriate behavior is expected of all students on the bus and at the bus stop for the safety of all. Inappropriate behavior will result in disciplinary action and/or suspension of riding privileges.

Cellular Devices: Cellular devices (cell phones, cellular watches, i.e. smart watches, etc.) cannot be used or heard during the school day. The device will be confiscated by school personnel in every instance. A parent or guardian will have to pick up the phone from an administrator, no phones will be returned to students. Cell phones are not to be used while traveling to or from school on the school bus. Violations of this policy will result in the following consequences: first offense- three (3) days of ISS; second offense- one (1) day of OSS; third offense- three (3) days of OSS. Repeated offenses will result in progressive consequences.

Dress Code: Appropriate dress is expected of all students. The following guidelines apply to all students, male and female.

1. Hats, caps, bandannas, sweatbands, and other headgear or sunglasses must be placed in lockers upon arriving at school. They may not be brought into any classroom.
2. No spike jewelry, dog collars, wallet chains, or long chains with large charms.
3. Shirts should have sleeves. (No halter tops, tank tops, tube tops, off the shoulder tops, spaghetti straps, backless dresses or tops.)
4. No see-through shirts (mesh, lace, sheer material), fish-net jerseys, or bare midriffs.
5. No low cut revealing tops.
6. No tight fitting clothing (including yoga pants, biker shorts, etc.)
7. No clothing that advertises tobacco, drugs, alcohol, obscene language, gestures, or other suggestive literature. No clothing with a message or logo that is offensive to others.
8. Pants must be worn at the waistline and pocket areas must be visible.
9. Shorts and skirts may be worn at any time, if they have appropriate fit and length within four inches of the student's knee; this also applies to holes in pants.
10. No bare feet, pajamas, slippers, or bedroom shoes.
11. Bulky jackets, long coats, book bags, and drawstring bags must be placed in lockers upon arriving at school. They may not be brought into any classroom.
12. No costumes are to be worn at school.
13. The administration reserves the right to determine appropriateness of dress.

Violation of the student dress code will result in disciplinary action up to out-of-school suspension.

Drugs and alcohol: Possession, use, and/or distribution of alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia on school property during the day or during any school activity are prohibited. Any student who violates this section of the Code of Conduct is subject to school intervention, suspension, long-term suspension, recommendation for expulsion, and referral to the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office.

Disruptions: Inappropriate behavior that disrupts classroom instruction is prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action.

Electronic Devices: The unauthorized possession or use of any type of electronic or mechanical device that distracts or impedes the educational process is prohibited. Specifically prohibited are pagers (beepers) or representation thereof. CB radios, MP3 players, boom boxes, walkmans, iPods, Blackberries, PSPs, etc., which are not authorized for use at school also fall under this category.

Falsified fire alarm: The Code of Virginia states that it is a Class 1 misdemeanor if any person who without just cause summons by telephone or otherwise any ambulance or fire-fighting apparatus or maliciously activates a manual or automatic fire alarm in a public school building, regardless of whether the fire department responds.

Fighting: Fighting is strictly prohibited. Participants will receive up to 10 days of suspension from school, possible recommendation for expulsion, and charges filed with the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office.

Gang Activity: Students are not permitted to be in possession of any gang-related articles of clothing or items. This includes gang-related writings and symbols. Bandanas are strictly prohibited at school. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in disciplinary consequences.

Gambling: Gambling is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to card playing, the use of dice or any activity that involves the exchange of money.

Incorrigible behavior: Any student that continually violates the Pittsylvania County Schools' Code of Conduct may be recommended for expulsion.

In-school suspension: Students are assigned in-school suspension by the administration. Students assigned to in-school suspension will be allowed to complete work that would be available in regular class period. Failure to comply with the in-school suspension coordinator will result in suspension from school. Upon returning from the suspension, the student would be required to serve the required number of in-school suspension days.

Leaving School Without Permission: A student must not leave school at any time without permission. To do so will result in disciplinary action.

Out-of-school suspension: Students assigned to out-of-school suspension are not allowed to attend school or any school functions during the term of the suspension. Out-of-school suspension count as unexcused absences; therefore, the student would not be allowed to make up any work completed during the school day.

Problems between students: Faculty members are to settle all disputes or misunderstandings arising between students. Students are never to attempt to settle disputes or misunderstandings by fighting, using inappropriate language, etc. Students should report any incident to the office or ask for a conference with a guidance counselor. The first period teacher is the student's first point of contact and mentor in school problems.

Public affection: Students are expected to refrain from public displays of affection. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. Kissing and inappropriate touching is prohibited at school and all school-related functions. Hand holding is permitted.

Safety Precautions:

1. Hallways and stairways are never to be blocked. No one is to be seated on the stairways or hallways at any time.
2. Congregating in hallways in such a manner as to obstruct the free passage of other students constitutes a safety hazard and is in violation of fire regulations. Teachers will not allow students to congregate at their classroom doors.
3. Always keep to the right when moving in halls, on the stairways, or while entering or leaving the classroom. This will help to alleviate congestion in the halls.
4. Do not run or horseplay in the hallways at any time. This is a serious safety hazard which could result in injury to yourself and others.
5. In shop areas, health and safety regulations, as well as usual occupational dress requirements will determine the dress code.
6. Safety glasses must be worn in all labs and shops.
7. Students must use sidewalks when using outside pathways.

Search and Seizure: When reasonable suspicion exists, school officials may search property belonging to students. Property belonging to students includes items that can be connected to a student, carried by a student, or stored by a student in areas made available to the student by the school. These areas include lockers, desks,

storage bins, automobiles, parking lots and other locations. Prior to initiating a student search, the student will be informed of the reason for the search and may request consent for a search. If consent is not granted, the search may be conducted anyway if the standard of reasonable suspicion is met. Students' rights will be respected at all times.

Threatening statements: Students must refrain from making any statements that may be interpreted as threatening toward students or staff. Threatening statements will be taken seriously and, in many cases, result in disciplinary consequences up to expulsion from school.

Tobacco: In accordance with Virginia State law, a person under the age of 18 in possession of or smoking cigarettes is violating the Virginia Code of Law 18.2.371.1. All students are PROHIBITED from use and possession of tobacco products, matches, and lighters on school property. Use or possession of tobacco will result in suspension from school.

Vandalism and Property damage: Students are expected to respect the property of others and to take pride in school property. Students who vandalize or destroy any school property will result in restitution and/or disciplinary action. If damage is the result of an accident, students should report it to school personnel (teacher or administrator) immediately.

Weapons: Weapons of any description are strictly prohibited at any Pittsylvania County school. Possession of any weapon in a locker, on one's person, in personal belongings, or in a vehicle will be referred to the Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office and will result in a recommendation for expulsion.