**2022-2023 Updates and Reminders**

Sussex County Public Schools eagerly awaits the arrival of our students as we begin the 2022-2023 school year. Before we start our new year, we want to provide you with some very important updates. This letter is to inform you of several changes to the 2022-2023 school year’s schedules, student attendance guidelines, dress code expectations and cellphone policy. Please discuss this information with your child.

# School Schedules

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Sussex Central Elementary | Sussex Central Middle and Sussex Central High | School Board Office |
| Student Arrival Begins: 8:45 a.m.Instructional Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. | Student Arrival Begins: 7:15 a.m.Instructional Hours 7:30 a.m. 2:30 p.m. | 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. |

# Attendance Policy (Sussex County School Board Policy JEDA)

School attendance is significant to academic achievement. As indicated in Sussex County Public Schools Code of Conduct pages 5-6, Sussex County Public Schools will deny academic credit for the year to any student who violates the Attendance Policy.

 **Excessive Tardiness/Early Dismissals**

Sussex County Public Schools will enforce the school attendance procedures when students have excessive tardies to school and/or excessive early dismissals from school. For clarification purposes, excessive tardies/dismissal is defined as three or more occurrences.

**Student Drivers**

Student drivers who accumulate 5 or more unexcused tardies to school per semester will have their parking passes suspended for 9 weeks.

# Dress Code (Sussex County School Board Policy JFC-R)

Students are expected to dress appropriately for the K-12 educational environment.

**Head Coverings**

The policy ***prohibits*** students from wearing head coverings, (**hat, hoods, scarves, or any other head covering**) unless required for religious or medical reasons. This school must have documentation on file.

 **Inappropriate Clothing**

Clothing that exposes cleavage, private parts, midriff, or undergarments, or that is otherwise sexually provocative is prohibited. Clothing with vulgar language or images that are discriminatory, obscene, or gang symbols is not allowed.

Please refer to Sussex County Public Schools Code of Conduct pages 11-12 or SCPS Board Policy for more examples of clothing that is prohibited. Students found in violation of the SCPS Dress Code Policy will be asked to cover the noncomplying clothing, change clothes, or go home.

**1st Offense: Student must cover the noncomplying clothing change, go home (Warning)**

**2nd Offense: ISS and parent notified**

**3rd Offense: Discipline referral for defiance**

**Further issues may result in further disciplinary action.**

# Cell Phones and Headphones/Earbuds

To ensure the most conducive learning environment, cell phones, headphones, earbuds, and other listening devices ***are prohibited*** during school hours. Students should secure cell phones in a book bag or other safe location during class. If any student is caught recording and/or distributing any inappropriate content, the phone will be confiscated and returned to a parent.

 **Emergency Calls**

Students may contact parents from the main office phone if an emergency arises. If you need to contact your child for emergency reasons, we also ask that you please call the main office but please understand we would like to protect instructional time for all students.

It is not the goal of the school to confiscate a student’s cell phone. Students will be asked to put away their cell phones if exposed in the classroom/school without permission. Failure to comply will result in the following actions.

**1st Offense: Verbal request to put the phone away (Warning)**

**2nd Offense: Phone confiscation with parent phone pick-up**

**3rd Offense: Discipline referral for defiance**

**Further issues may result in further disciplinary action.**

Students will be allowed to have cell phones after school hours while participating in extracurricular activities.