



Sanderson High School Student/Parent Handbook 2025 - 2026

5500 Dixon Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609

Main Office: 919-881-4800
Student Services: 919-881-4820
Attendance: 919-881-4800 ext. 24805
Athletic Director: 919-881-4800 ext. 24839
Transportation: 919-856-8050

Statement of Responsibility:

All students are responsible for complying with and are expected to be familiar with the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct and school board policies governing student behavior and conduct. All Code of Student Conduct policies are contained in the WCPSS Student/Parent Handbook, which is distributed to all students and parents at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment in the WCPSS. If there is a conflict between the rules expressed in this handbook and the Code of Student Conduct policies, the WCPSS Code of Student Conduct policies shall take precedence.

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**Mission:**

Sanderson High School will provide a relevant and engaging education and will graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators, and critical thinkers.

Vision:

Sanderson High School students will be prepared to reach their full potential and lead productive lives in a complex and changing world.

Values:

Sanderson High School values our dedicated faculty and staff, and believes that every student is capable and deserves to learn, grow, and succeed regardless of race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

School Website:

<https://www.wcpss.net/sandersonhs>

Contact Information:

Ms. Tara Drouhard	Principal	tdrouhard@wcpss.net
Ms. Kimberly Carter	Assistant Principal (Last Names A-D)	kcarter2@wcpss.net
Mr. Stephen Ausley	Assistant Principal (Last Names E-K)	sausley@wcpss.net
Mr. Trenton Brown	Assistant Principal (Last names L-Ra)	tbrown15@wcpss.net
Mr. Joey Risso	Assistant Principal (Last names Rb-Z)	jrisso@wcpss.net
Ms. Katherine Pendergraft	Assistant Principal of Instruction	kpendergraft@wcpss.net
Ms. Durenda Johnson-Ward	Dean of Students	djohnson-ward@wcpss.net
Ms. Jessica Martz	Counselor (Last Names A-D)	jlmartz@wcpss.net
Ms. Summer Mann	Counselor (Last Names E-K)	sdebnam2@wcpss.net
Ms. Haley Stallworth	Counselor (Last Names L-Ra)	hstallworth@wcpss.net
Ms. Dentra Keith	Counselor (Last Names Rb-Z)	dkeith@wcpss.net
Officer Chad Warren	School Resource Officer	cwarren4@wcpss.net

2025 - 2026 Bell Schedules

Regular Schedule: 1st Period: 7:25 - 8:55 2nd Period: 9:00 - 10:33 3rd Period: A Lunch - 10:33 - 11:08 A Class - 11:13-12:43 B Class - 10:38 - 12:08 B Lunch - 12:08 - 12:43 4th Period: 12:48 - 2:18	Early Release Schedule: 1st Period: 7:25 - 8:32 2nd Period: 8:37 - 9:46 3rd Period: 9:51 - 10:58 4th Period: 11:03 - 12:10 Grab & Go Lunch: 12:10 - 12:18 Buses Leave by 12:18
One Hour Delay Schedule: 1st Period: 8:25 - 9:40 2nd Period: 9:45 - 11:03 3rd Period: A Lunch - 11:03 - 11:38 A Class - 11:43 - 12:58 B Class - 11:08 - 12:23 B Lunch - 12:23 - 12:58 4th Period: 1:03 - 2:18	Two Hour Delay Schedule: 1st Period: 9:25 - 10:25 2nd Period: 10:30 - 11:33 3rd Period: A Lunch - 11:33 - 12:08 A Class - 12:13 - 1:13 B Class - 11:38 - 12:38 B Lunch - 12:38 - 1:13 4th Period: 1:18 - 2:18
Three Hour Delay Schedule: 1st Period: 10:25 - 11:10 2nd Period: 11:15 - 12:03 3rd Period: A Lunch - 12:03 - 12:38 A Class - 12:43 - 1:28 B Class - 12:08 - 12:53 B Lunch - 12:53 - 1:28 4th Period: 1:33 - 2:18	

Morning Arrival:

Students may not enter the building prior to **6:55 am** on a regular school day.

Departure from School:

Students should report directly to the bus loop, to carpool, or to their vehicle when the 2:18 bell rings. **No student should be in the building after 2:18 pm** unless they are under the direct supervision of a coach or staff member. Students who are on campus after school without a specific purpose will be subject to disciplinary action.

School Calendar:

Please refer to the calendar on our school website (<https://www.wcpss.net/sandersonhs>) or the WCPSS website (<https://www.wcpss.net/>) for the most up to date information regarding dates and events.

Tardy Policy:

All students are expected to arrive at their designated classrooms on time and prepared. "On time" is defined as being in class, seated, and prepared to engage in the lesson by the ringing of the tardy bell. Students are not to congregate, loiter, or roam the halls in areas outside of their class domain.

The consequences outlined below are for each individual class period.

If a student accumulates 3 unexcused tardies in a class period, the teacher will contact home to let the parent/guardian know that the student is not arriving to class on time.

The teacher will look for improvement. If habitual tardiness continues and the student accumulates 5 tardies, the teacher will contact home again to let the parent/guardian know that the behavior has not improved.

If the chronic tardiness continues beyond 5 tardies, the teacher can refer the student to his/her assistant principal based on last name. Possible consequences can include lunch detention, ALC, ISS, or loss of privileges such as off-campus lunch passes.

Students must be in class for at least 45 minutes to be counted as present. If a student misses more than half of a class period they will be marked absent for that class.

1st- Warning 3rd- Parent Conference 5th- 1 block ISS 7th- 3 blocks ISS 9th- 2 days ISS	2nd- Student Conference 4th- Lunch Detention 6th- 2 blocks ISS 8th- 1 day ISS 10th- 3 days ISS
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Period	TARDY	ABSENT
1st Period	7:25 - 8:10	8:11 - 8:34
2nd Period	9:00 - 9:45	9:46 - 10:33
3rd Period - A Class	11:13 - 11:58	11:59 - 12:43
3rd Period - B Class	10:38 - 11:23	11:24 - 12:08
4th Period	12:48 - 1:33	1:34 - 2:18

Absences:

Students will have two school days to bring in a note in order to receive an excused absence. Students should bring a note from a parent or guardian to the attendance office on the day the student returns to school. The note must include the student's first and last name, reason they were out, parent/guardian signature and telephone number. The parent note will be retained on file.

Students wishing to be excused from school for an educational reason will need to get the "request for excused absence for educational reasons" form [online](#) or the attendance office and **submit it to their assistant principal prior to the absence.**

College/Military Visits:

Students are **permitted two college visits per school year**, which count as excused absences, one per semester. Students opting to join the military after graduation are given the same consideration for their enlistment requirements as those students applying to colleges. Students should complete the "request for excused absence for educational reasons" form prior to the absence.

Hall Passes:

Students are expected to have a visible hall pass with them at all times when they are in the hallway, with the exception of during class changes. At Sanderson High School, we follow the 20/20 rule. Students will not be permitted to leave their classrooms during the first 20 minutes or the last 20 minutes of a class. Each classroom has a designated bathroom pass. Students are to use the bathroom closest to their classroom and on the same floor as their classroom.

Lunch:

Students are to be in the cafeteria or under the direct supervision of a staff member during lunch unless they have a lunch pass. Students must have a pass to leave the cafeteria during lunch. During lunch, students will present their pass and exit out the center doors of the cafeteria.

Lunch Passes:

Freshmen and sophomores are not permitted to leave campus for lunch. All juniors and seniors are eligible to purchase a lunch pass via the Sanderson High School website. Passes will be sold to students who have filled out an application online which includes an electronic signed parent permission form at a cost of \$10.00. Replacement passes are \$10.00. Students without a lunch pass are required to stay on campus. Drivers are required to ensure that any passengers with them have a valid lunch pass. Any driver escorting students off campus without a valid pass will lose his or her pass for 10 days for the first offense and the remainder of the semester for a second offense. Students caught with no pass leaving school will not be eligible for a pass during the current year.

Lunch passes will be color coded for each 9 weeks and linked to student attendance. Students will return their lunch passes to the front office at the beginning of each 9 weeks and receive their new lunch pass. There will be no extra fees for the new passes. Lunch passes also will be linked to absences. 10 or more absences will result in losing your lunch pass for the semester.

Any student who leaves campus during the lunch period and does not have a lunch pass will be subject to disciplinary action. An off-campus lunch pass is required should you choose to eat lunch in your car in the parking lot.

Students who eat lunch in a classroom must have a **lunch pass issued by the teacher** of that room, even if they bring their own lunch or do not plan to eat. Passes are color-coded based on location: **gold** for upstairs, **blue** for downstairs, **green** for the East building, and **pink** for the trailers or pods. Only **one pass per student** may be issued, and passes may be valid for a **single day or for the entire quarter**, depending on the teacher's preference. Students must **show their pass** to remain in the area and must **sign in each day** on the designated sign-in sheet. Students who do not have a valid pass will not be allowed to stay in the classroom during lunch.

Lunch Detention Policy:

Students assigned to lunch detention will receive a **red lunch detention pass** that includes their name, the date, and the location where the detention will be served. Lunch detentions are scheduled for the **following school day at the earliest**. To receive credit, students must serve a **minimum of 20 minutes**. It is recommended that students either **bring their own lunch** or **serve their detention time before going to the cafeteria**. While serving lunch detention, students are expected to follow all expectations: **no personal devices, no talking**, and full compliance with the supervising staff member's directions. If a student **fails to report** to lunch detention, the appropriate administrator will be notified, and **additional consequences** may be assigned.

Food Deliveries:

Food may not be delivered to the school. This includes but is not limited to local fast food deliveries, Uber Eats, Grubhub, or a student bringing food back on campus for another student.

Deliveries and Messages:

To honor instructional time, we are unable to make deliveries to students during the school day. Only deliveries that are critical for classroom instruction or afterschool events will be accepted, and they will be held in the front office until the student comes to retrieve them. In no situation will the school accept deliveries of balloons, flowers, or items not critical to the operation to the school day.

Student Device Policy

Per [WCPSS Policy 4318](#), Student Use of Personal Wireless Communication Devices, "personal devices" are any portable electronic devices that have the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more entities. **Students may not display, use, or make devices visible during instructional times.**

Prohibited devices include: cell phones, tablets, earbuds/headphones, smartwatches (when used for texting/calling), gaming devices, and other non-instructional electronics.

Acceptable Use Guidelines

Restricted:

- During class (bell to bell)

- Outside of assigned class area during class time (i.e. bathrooms, hallways, main office & student services)
- During lunch detention/ ISS/ ALC assignment

Approved:

- Before 7:25am and after 2:18pm
- Transition between classes
- During lunch

School-Wide Storage Plan

1. Upon entering the classroom, students place all prohibited devices in the designated storage area. Per board policy, students must keep them silenced and put away during instructional time between morning and afternoon bells. For the purpose of this policy, a device is “put away” when it is out of sight and not easily accessible (e.g., stored in a locker, backpack, or bag).
2. After the tardy bell, staff issue a brief reminder to follow device storage procedures.
3. Devices remain stored for the entire class period.

E-Mail Communication with Staff:

All WCPSS students and staff must use WCPSS provided email accounts for student to staff email communication. A teacher *will not* reply to an email from a student if it is sent from an email address other than their WCPSS account.

Student Dress Code:

The full policy can be found on the WCPSS website under Policy Code 4316.

Students may not wear or carry clothing, jewelry, book bags, or other personal articles that:

- Depict profanity, vulgarity, obscenity, or violence;
- Promote the use or abuse of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs;
- Are prohibited under Policy 4309 III-2 (Gang or Gang Related Activity) or any other provision of the Code of Student Conduct;
- Threaten the health or safety of staff or students; or
- Are reasonably likely to create a substantial disruption of the educational process or operations of the school.

Library:

The SHS Library is designed to serve, support, and enrich the educational program of our school. The library is open to all students and offers a wide variety of resources, books, and technological equipment. Books from the regular collection may be checked out for a 4 week period and renewed at any time. Any book not returned after the due date will be marked lost. If not returned, the student will be responsible for the replacement cost. Library passes are required during the school day if a student is not with their class. The library is open for students to eat lunch during both lunches. Students must have a pass to eat lunch in the library. Passes can be obtained from a teacher or a library staff member.

Library Hours of Operation:

Monday 7:00 am - 2:18 pm

Tuesday 7:00 am - 3:20 pm

Wednesday 7:00 am - 3:20 pm

Thursday 7:00 am - 3:20 pm

Friday 7:00 am - 2:18 pm

Lockers:

Lockers are available to students at no cost. If you would like a locker, please email Mr. Brown at tbrown15@wcpss.net. In your email, please include what area of the building you would like your locker to be (like the East building, main building first floor, etc.) Mr. Brown will assign you a locker.

Student Conduct:

A safe, orderly, and welcoming school environment is essential to learning. To that end, this Code of Student Conduct is intended to 1) create clear standards and expectations for student behavior; 2) promote integrity and self-discipline among students; 3) encourage the use of behavioral supports and interventions as alternatives to exclusionary discipline; and 4) provide clear guidance to teachers and administrators as to how, when, and to what extent students may be disciplined for violating conduct rules. Please refer to the “Board Policy on Student Behavior” for more specific descriptions of infractions at each level.

Level I: Level 1 rule violations can generally be addressed with non-disciplinary interventions or non-exclusionary discipline consequences. Except in the very limited circumstances described in Rule II-20, Level 1 rule violations may not result in out-of-school suspension.

Level II: Level II rule violations involve more serious misconduct that may warrant short-term suspension of up to five (5) school days when, in the judgment of the principal or designee, non-disciplinary interventions and non-exclusionary discipline consequences are insufficient to address the behavior and prevent its recurrence. Principals may impose a short-term suspension of six (6) to ten (10) days or recommend a long-term suspension of eleven (11) days or more based on one or more aggravating factor(s) regarding the severity of the violation and/or safety concerns, provided such aggravating factor(s) are listed in the written suspension notice.

Level III: Level III rule violations are more severe in nature and may support long-term suspension. The principal may impose a short-term suspension of ten (10) days or less or decline to impose any suspension based on mitigating factors.

Level IV: The only rule in Level IV is one that reflects a statutory prohibition on the possession of a “firearm” or “destructive device” on school property or at a school-sponsored event. State law requires principals to recommend a 365-day suspension for all violations of this rule. Only the Superintendent or Board of Education may modify this outcome. A Level IV violation is always extremely serious and is treated as such.

Level V: Level V allows for permanent expulsion of a student from the WCPSS for violation of one or more Level II, III, or IV rules in this Code if the following criteria are met: 1) the student is fourteen (14) years old or older; 2) both the principal and the superintendent/designee recommend expulsion; 3) the Superintendent and Board determine, consistent with the Board’s “Due Process” policy, that there is a

significant or important reason not to offer the student alternative educational services; and 4) the Board determines, by clear and convincing evidence, that the student's continued presence in school constitutes a clear threat to the safety of other students or school staff. Additionally, any student who is registered as a sex offender under Article 27A of Chapter 14 of the North Carolina General Statutes may be expelled in accordance with these procedures. If such a student is offered alternative education services on school property, the student must be under the supervision of school personnel at all times.

Some Notable Rules of Conduct:

- Students enrolled at SHS **may not be on any other WCPSS campus during the school day without permission.**
- Students enrolled at SHS may not be off campus during the day without an approved SHS pass or being formally checked out by a parent or guardian. **Students are not permitted to be at Optimist Park, Baseball/Softball Fields, Tennis Courts, Student or Staff Parking Lots, or other off-campus locations between the hours of 6:55 am and 2:18 pm. Failure to comply with this rule may result in a trespassing citation.**
- Tobacco, Vaporizers, and Nicotine Products: These are all prohibited on the campus of SHS. The policy prohibits vaporizers and liquids used in vaporizers even if they do not contain tobacco or nicotine.
- No student shall set off, attempt to set off, or aid and abet anyone in giving a false fire alarm.
- Students shall not make any threat through written or verbal language, sign, or act which conveys a serious expression of intent to cause harm or violence. Furthermore, no student shall make a false threat of harm or violence, even jokingly, which causes or is reasonably likely to cause fear or a disruption to school activities.
- Physical aggression toward or fighting with a student, staff member, or visitor are prohibited. A student who is attacked may use reasonable force in self-defense, but only to the extent necessary to get free from the attack and notify proper school authorities.
- No narcotics, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, chemicals, or drug paraphernalia may be on campus at any time.
- Prior to dances (Homecoming, Winterfest and Prom), student grades and attendance will be reviewed. Students who have excessive absences and/or who are failing multiple classes may not be permitted to attend.

Parking Passes:

Parking spaces are assigned to any eligible student in good standing at SHS with no outstanding fees owed. Seniors receive first priority, with juniors following. Grade level is determined by promotion standards according to Infinite Campus. Parking passes are \$200.00 for the year and are subject to any increase by the WCPSS Board of Education. Parking regulations are clearly outlined on the Parking Permit Application. Parking Applications can be found on the Sanderson High School Website.

Driver's License:

In North Carolina, students under 18 can lose their driver's license if they drop out of school, fail to make adequate progress, and/or commit certain offenses resulting in suspension.

House Bill 769 directed the State Board of Education to design guidelines tying academic performance with a student's ability to retain his/her driver's permit and/or license. A student must pass 3 out of 4 courses each semester in order to be eligible to receive a Driving Eligibility Certificate. Students not meeting these criteria will lose their permit/license for a semester. A student who drops out of school will lose his/her driver's permit/license. A student is exempt from this law when he or she reaches the age of 18 or has obtained a high school diploma, a GED, or an adult high school diploma.

Lose Control, Lose Your License:

NC has established legislation, effective July 1, 2000, requiring a student's driving permit or license to be revoked for one year if he/she is given a suspension for more than ten consecutive days, or an assignment to an alternative educational setting for more than ten days for one of the following reasons:

- The possession or sale of an alcoholic beverage or an illegal controlled substance on school property.
- The possession or use on school property of a weapon or firearm that resulted in disciplinary action under G.S. 115C-391 (d1) or that could have resulted in that disciplinary action if the conduct had occurred in a public school.
- The physical assault on a teacher or other school personnel on school property.

Course Syllabi:

Each teacher will provide students with a syllabi for the course on the first day of class. All syllabi will include Tier I Classroom Remediation Policy, Late Work Policy, and Grading Categories and Weights. Teachers will provide students and their parents/guardians with clear expectations of their grading practices.

Infinite Campus:

Infinite Campus is a statewide student information system that gives students and parents access to real-time information including attendance, grades, assignments, transportation, and school assignments. All students and parents have access to Infinite Campus. Please contact student services for log-in information.

Students can access Infinite Campus by logging in through their WakeID Portal. First, click on NCEdCloud and log in using your student ID number (no password is required). Once the NCEdCloud Portal opens, select NCSIS, and Infinite Campus will launch.

Grading System:

The purpose of the grading system is to appropriately and consistently measure and communicate an individual student's level of mastery of defined learning objectives. Teachers will provide each student with regular feedback to promote learning, self-evaluation, and growth. SHS is on the 4x4 block schedule. Students will take four (4) courses in the fall semester and four different courses in the spring semester. Interim reports are issued to all students at the midpoint of each quarter. Report cards are issued to all students at the end of each quarter. SHS does not offer extra credit.

Letter Grade	Number Grade	Standard Course GPA Points	Honors Course GPA Points	AP Course GPA Points
A	90-100	4	4.5	5
B	80-89	3	3.5	4
C	70-79	2	2.5	3
D	60-69	1	1.5	2
F	0-59	0	0	0

Academic Recovery Plans:

All students who fail the first or third quarter will receive an academic recovery plan for the chance to bring their grade to a 60 for the quarter.

Student Honor Code:

Academic honesty is essential to excellence in education and is directly related to the Board's educational objectives for students to promote integrity and self-discipline in students. As all schoolwork is a measure of student performance, academic honesty facilitates an accurate measurement of student learning. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, and/or falsification or deceit. A violation of the honor code may result in a disciplinary consequence. Staff will address violations of this policy under Board Policy 4309, Student Behavior - Code of Conduct.

- Level I-11 (Honor Code) states, "All students are expected to adhere to the academic honor code. Disciplinary consequences for violations of this policy will typically be consistent with Level I violations."
- Level 1-II (Falsification or Deceit) states, "Intentional acts of falsification or serious deceitful misconduct that threatens the health, safety, or welfare of others, or that cause a substantial detrimental impact on school operations or other individuals, are prohibited."
- Violations of the honor code may impact eligibility for school privileges including but not limited to athletic participation, honors, or awards. Further, this policy does not prevent consequences from being imposed by other organizations or regulations.

Exams:

Exams will take place at the end of each semester. These will include End of Course Exams (EOC), CTE Post-Assessments, and teacher-made exams.

Exam Exemptions:

For the **2025-2026 school year**, students in **Grades 9-12** may be exempt from exams based on the following criteria:

- Students must have a projected final grade of B or higher
- Students must have 10 or fewer absences in the course.
- Students must have 10 or fewer tardies in the course.
- Students cannot be exempt from state testing including field testing.

The principal (consistent with GS 115C-288) has final authority to determine a student's exemption status.

To provide some clarification to the guidelines above:

- Absences will all count equally when considering eligibility for exam exemptions. Excused absences for educational reasons will count as part of the 10 days.
- Tardies will all count equally when considering eligibility for exam exemptions.
- In rare instances, principals may waive beyond the 10 absences or 10 tardies for documented reasons that are outside of the student's control (ex - medical or transportation).
- All absences or tardies must be communicated to the attendance office via email or note.
Attendance email: SHS-Attendance@wcpss.net

Course Withdrawal Penalty:

Students are not allowed to drop a course after the first ten days of the course. If a student withdraws after the tenth day, they will receive a withdrawal failure (WF) for a final grade. This course will be counted as an attempted course with no quality points earned and will factor into the student's GPA. Speak to your counselor prior to the tenth day if you are interested in dropping a course.

Promotion Requirements:

From Grade	Promotion Criteria	Total Credits Needed
9	English I 2 credits in the areas of math, social studies, or science 3 additional credits	6
10	English II 1 credit in math 1 credit in social studies 1 credit in science 2 additional credits	12
11	English III Enrollment in a program which, if successfully accomplished, will result in the completion of graduation requirements	18
12	Complete all WCPSS Graduation Requirements	22

Athletics:

Athletic Director: Mr. David Neal, dneal@wcpss.net, 919-881-4800 ext. 24839

Head Athletic Trainer: Ms. Deidre Johnson, djohnson4@wcpss.net, 919-881-4800 ext. 24818

For specific information regarding forms, tryouts, practices, eligibility, schedules, and other pertinent information, please visit our athletic website at wakecountyathletics.com/sandersonhs

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Cheerleading (V and JV) Cross Country Football (V and JV) Men's Soccer (V and JV) Women's Flag Football Women's Golf Women's Gymnastics Women's Tennis Women's Volleyball (V and JV)	Indoor Track Men's Basketball (V and JV) Men's Wrestling Swimming Women's Basketball (V and JV) Women's Wrestling	Men's Baseball (V and JV) Men's Golf Men's Lacrosse (V and JV) Men's Tennis Stunt Track and Field Women's Lacrosse (V and JV) Women's Soccer (V and JV) Women's Softball (V and JV)

“REMEMBER TO STAY CLASSY SPARTANS!”