

Cutter Morning Star High School Discipline Policy 2025–2026



Disciplinary Policy and Procedures

The Cutter Morning Star Board of Education has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the district's students and employees. To help maintain a safe environment conducive to high student achievement, the CMS School Board establishes policies necessary to regulate student behavior to promote an orderly school environment that is respectful of the rights of others and ensures the uniform enforcement of student discipline. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs.

- at any time on the school grounds;
- off school grounds at a school-sponsored function, activity, or event; and
- going to and from school or a school activity.

The District's administrators may also take disciplinary action against a student for off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus and whose presence on campus could cause a substantial disruption to school or endanger the welfare of other students or staff is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Such acts could include, but are not limited to:

- o A felony or an act that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult;
- o An assault or battery;
- o Drug law violations; or
- o Sexual misconduct of a serious nature.

Any disciplinary action pursued by the District shall be in accordance with the student's appropriate due process rights.

The District shall incorporate the District's multi-tiered behavioral intervention procedures in accordance with Policy 4.60 in the application of student discipline.

The district's personnel policy committees shall annually review the district's student discipline policies, including state and district student discipline data, and may recommend changes in the policies to the Cutter Morning Star School CMS School Board. They shall approve any changes to student discipline policies.

The district's student discipline policies shall be distributed to each student during the first week of school each year and to new students upon their enrollment. Each student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall sign and return to the school an acknowledgement form documenting that they have received the policies.

The district shall develop and provide programs, measures, or alternative means and methods for continued student engagement and educational access during periods of suspension or expulsion.

The superintendent is authorized to modify the penalties set forth in the district's student discipline policies on a case-by-case basis.

It is required by law that the principal or the person in charge report to the police any incidents the person has personal knowledge of or has received information leading to a reasonable belief that a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision. If the person making the report is not the superintendent, that person shall also inform the superintendent of the incident. Additionally, the principal shall inform any school employee or other person who initially reported the incident that a report has been made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The superintendent or designee shall inform the CMS School Board of Directors of any such report made to law enforcement.

The superintendent shall make a report annually to the CMS School Board on student discipline data, which shall include, without limitation: the number of incidents of bullying reported and the actions taken regarding the reported incidents of bullying. SEE CMS SCHOOL BOARD POLICY SECTION – 4.17

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Students are expected to take textbooks and writing equipment to each class. Failure to take textbooks, paper, and pencil or other assigned material to class will result in a student receiving an appropriate penalty.
2. Students will be given one electronic bathroom pass per day. They will not be permitted to go to the restroom during class outside of this one time unless a doctor's note is provided.
3. Inappropriate displays of affection are forbidden on the school premises or on school-sponsored trips.
4. Food and drink, other than bottled water, is prohibited during class with the exception of food classes. No open cans allowed in the hallways or classrooms.
5. Headgear of any kind is to be removed for the Pledge of Allegiance, National Anthem, or when a teacher or staff member asks for it to be removed.
6. Any student in the hall during class time must have an electronic hall pass and wear their classroom hall pass vest issued by his/her teacher for that period.
7. Students are expected to show proper respect to teachers, peers, and all with whom they come in contact.
8. No loitering, using phones, horseplaying, "play fighting", etc. in the restrooms.
9. Running or horseplay in school buildings is not tolerated.
10. Skipping school, cutting classes, tardiness, leaving school without permission (truancy), and disruptive behavior are forms of student conduct that are not acceptable in maintaining a good school climate.
11. Student notes, social media messages, or any other form of electronic communication containing vulgarities/obscenities are not to be circulated on campus.

12. Students possessing money or other valuables do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for stolen personal items.
13. All bills must be paid before students will receive report cards.
14. All damaged books and materials must be paid for by the student.
15. Lost and found articles should be turned in at the office. The school is not responsible for lost articles, but will assist in trying to locate them.
16. Students of Cutter Morning Star High School and in grades 7-12 are to remain on the high school campus at all times.
17. Students are to follow the daily bell schedule. Upon arrival, go immediately to the cafeteria and stay there until you are dismissed. Do NOT go to any classroom prior to 7:30 and be off campus within ten minutes of the final dismissal bell, other than for activities, school functions, etc.

Authority for Student Discipline

Teachers, principals, administrators, non-certified personnel, and bus drivers have the authority to take customary and reasonable measures to maintain proper control and discipline among students placed under their care and supervision. Such measures may include the use of reasonable force in the exercise of lawful authority to restrain or correct students and maintain order. SEE CMS SCHOOL BOARD POLICY SECTION

Prohibited Conduct

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are hereby prohibited by the CMS School Board. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following:

1. disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating insubordination;
2. disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations;
3. willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student or school employee;
4. possession of any weapon that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual;
5. possession or use of tobacco, vapes, or e-cigarettes in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school;
6. willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property;
7. possession of any electronic communication device on the school campus during normal school hours unless specifically exempted by the administration for health or other compelling reasons;
8. possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over-the-counter drugs, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug;

9. sharing, diverting, transferring, applying to others (such as needles or lancets), or in any way misusing medication or any medical supplies in their possession;
10. inappropriate public displays of affection;
11. cheating, copying, the use of AI for cheating, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own;
12. gambling;
13. inappropriate student dress;
14. use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures;
15. truancy;
16. tardiness – excessive;
17. engaging in behavior designed to taunt, tease, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
18. possess, view, distribute or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in hard copy form;
19. hazing, or aiding in the hazing of another student;
20. gangs or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing, “throwing signs” or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited.
21. sexual harassment;
22. bullying;
23. operating a vehicle on school grounds while using a wireless communication device; and/or
24. theft of another individual's personal property.
25. Antisemitism (See Policy 4.65 – Antisemitism Prohibited)

Multi-Tiered Behavioral Interventions (See Policy 4.60 for full policy)

The District shall establish a multi-tiered system of behavioral interventions for each student who exhibits social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty that may escalate, if not addressed, to potentially dangerous behavior.

Behavior Intervention Team

A behavior intervention team (BIT) shall be established for each student who exhibits social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty that may escalate, if not addressed, to potentially dangerous behavior. The BIT shall include members who are academic and behavioral assessment and intervention professionals.

A student's BIT shall:

- A. Work with the teachers of a student to complete a FBA of the student and an assessment of any problematic situations involving the student.

- B. Consider the need for a BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan) to prevent or resolve the social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty of the student and develop a response that will de-escalate and stabilize a potential emergency that approaches the danger level, and
- C. Regularly review the data on incidents involving the use of physical restraint on the student and adjust, as necessary, the procedures concerning the use of physical restraint on the student.

Special education procedures shall be followed if a student is suspected of having a disability that relates to behavioral concerns.

Physical Restraint

Except in the case of a clearly unavoidable emergency in which a trained member of school personnel is not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency, the physical restraint of a student shall only be used by a member of school personnel who is appropriately trained to administer physical restraint.

When using physical restraint on a student, school personnel shall:

- Use the least restrictive technique necessary to end imminent danger or serious physical harm to a student and others;
- Use the safest method available and appropriate to the situation;
- Consider the health and safety of a student, including without limitation whether the student has an existing medical condition that makes the use of physical restraint inadvisable;
- Not restrict the ability of a student to communicate unless the use of a less restrictive technique will not prevent imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- Use only the amount of force that is reasonably necessary to protect a student or others from imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- Not verbally abuse, ridicule, humiliate, taunt, or engage in any other similar action towards the student; and
- Continuously and visually observe and monitor the student while the student is under physical restraint.

Physical restraint of a student shall only be used for a limited period of time and shall not be used:

- When imminent danger or serious physical harm to the student or others dissipates;
- If a medical condition occurs that puts the student at risk of harm;
- Unless the behavior of the student poses an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- After the threat of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others dissipates; or
- In the following manner:
 - To punish or discipline the student;
 - To coerce the student;
 - To force the student to comply;
 - To retaliate against the student;
 - To replace the use of an appropriate educational or behavioral support;
 - As a routine safety measure;
 - As a planned behavioral intervention in response to behavior of the student that does not pose an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;

- As a convenience for school personnel; or
- To prevent property damage unless the act of damaging property committed by the student poses an imminent danger or serious physical harm to the student and others.

Even in an emergency, supine restraint shall not be used on a student except by a staff person who has been certified by a crisis intervention training program and the certified staff person determines that supine restraint is required to provide safety for the student and others.

At no time shall school personnel use the following on a student:

- Mechanical restraint:
- Chemical restraint:
- Aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety:
- Physical restraint that is life-threatening or medically contraindicated: or
- Prone restraint or other restraint that restricts the breathing of a student.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE ACTION GUIDELINES

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are prohibited by the CMS School Board. Misbehaviors are listed in three (3) specific levels depending on the seriousness of the offense. Following each group of offenses is a list of penalties from which the administrator, and in some cases, the teacher, will determine appropriate actions. The penalty for the offense will be assessed depending on the seriousness of the violation and the frequency of the misbehavior, with the minimum penalty of a verbal warning up to a maximum penalty of expulsion proceedings and/or expulsion. The groups are not intended to include all possible actions of misbehavior. In the event of a disciplinary violation, the High School administration will make decisions based on the nature, occurrence, and severity of the violation based on the guidelines.

Level 1: Misbehavior Violations

Violation	Minimum Action	Maximum Action
<u>Academic Dishonesty</u> - Cheating, copying, the use of AI, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own -Standard 12.02 Grades must reflect what the student has achieved on course objectives.	Warning, parent conference, the student will re-do assignment or complete an alternate assignment, loss of credit (zero) for the assignment	ISS/OSS (Habitual)
<u>Classroom Rule Violation</u> - Level 1 behaviors, including, but not limited to,	Warning	ISS/OSS (Habitual)

disrupting class, talking, refusing to work, etc.		
<u>Tardies</u> - Students who arrive within the first 29 minutes of class without a pass or notification from an adult in the building.	Teacher marks student tardy in eSchool Four tardies will result in detention	ISS
<u>Dress Code Violation</u>	Warning, the student will be required to change clothes (The student may call home for a parent to bring a change of clothes, or the school may have clothing a student may change into.)	ISS until corrected
<u>Possession of any electronic communication devices</u> - Students are allowed to have devices before entering the school building, and after school, unless exempted by the administration for health or other compelling reasons.	Confiscation of device. Device will be held in the school main office until a parent/guardian can retrieve the device. ISS	ISS/OSS depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures</u> - in the general population	Warning	ISS/OSS depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Inappropriate display of affection on-campus</u> - students will not show affection by kissing, inappropriate touching, prolonged hugging, etc.	Warning, parent notification	ISS/OSS depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Disorderly Conduct</u> - Horse playing, running in the halls, throwing items, hitting, disrespectful to school employees in words or actions	Warning, parent notification	ISS/OSS depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Teasing</u> (CMS School Board Policy) - Students are not to engage in	Warning, parent notification	ISS/OSS depending on

language or actions that would be hurtful to others		the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Possession of laser pointers</u>	Warning, confiscation of device	ISS/OSS depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations

Possible consequences for Level 1 offenses:

Minimum:

- Warning
- Parent contact by teacher, counselor, dean of students, or administrator
- Lunch Detention
- After School Detention
- Student/parent/teacher and/or administrator conference
- Confiscation of object prohibited by rule
- School Counselor Referral
- Maximum 1-10 day suspension

Depending on the severity of the offense the principal and his/her designee may impose the maximum consequence. Generally, they will use progressive discipline as behaviors persist.

Level 2: Disruptive and Disorderly Behavior Violations

Violation	Minimum Action	Maximum Action
<u>Truancy</u> - Leaving class or school grounds without permission	Warning, lunch detention, parent conference	ISS/OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Fighting</u> - Physical altercation between two students	Parent conference, ISS	OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Use of verbally abusive language, profanity, obscene gestures, threats, or "fighting words"</u>	Warning, lunch detention, parent conference	ISS/OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense,

		and if repeated violations
<u>Use of profanity directed toward a staff member</u>	Warning, lunch detention, parent conference	ISS/OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Disorderly Conduct/Reckless Conduct/Disruption and interference with school routine</u> - inappropriate behavior that substantially disrupts or interferes with or is likely to disrupt or interfere with any school function, activity, or school program	Parent conference, ISS	OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Disruption of school bus</u>	Warning, lunch detention, parent conference	OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Harassment of students or school personnel</u>	Parent conference, ISS	OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Altering or destroying school records</u>	Warning, Parent conference	ISS/OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Theft or Forgery</u>	Warning, Parent conference	ISS/OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Gambling</u>	Warning, Parent conference	ISS/OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Boycotts, walkouts, or protests</u>	Warning, Parent conference	ISS/OSS/Expulsion depending on the

		degree of offense, and if repeated violations
<u>Hazing</u>	Parent conference, ISS	OSS/Expulsion depending on the degree of offense, and if repeated violations

Possible consequences for Level 2 offenses:

Minimum:

- Warning
- Parental Contact/Conference
- Lunch Detention
- After School Detention
- Exclusion from Extracurricular Activities
- In-School Suspension (ISS)
- Out-School Suspension (OSS)
- Community Service Hours
- Bus Suspension (for bus infractions only)
- Expulsion (habitual)
- Corporal punishment

Depending on the severity of the offense the principal and his/her designee may impose the maximum consequence. Generally, consequences will become more severe as behaviors persist.

Please note: In the case of a fight between two or more students, staff will use video and other available resources to ascertain which student was the aggressor. The aggressor shall be punished more severely than other students.

Level 3: Illegal Behavior Violations

Violation	Minimum Action	Maximum Action
Bullying (CMS School Board Policy)	ISS	Expulsion
Willfully and intentionally physically assaulting/ attempting/ or threatening to assault or physically abuse any student or school employee	ISS	Expulsion
Verbal abuse of staff (to use violent, abusive, or obscene language or	ISS	Expulsion

gestures addressed to a teacher or staff person in a threatening manner)		
Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person based on race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or disability	ISS	Expulsion
Possess, view, distribute, or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in hard copy form.	ISS	Expulsion
Possession of a firearm (whether loaded or unloaded) or weapon (knife, club, multi-tool, etc.)	ISS	Expulsion
Use of a firearm or other weapon (knife, club, multi-tool, etc.) on school property	OSS	Expulsion
Possession or the use of explosives or fireworks on school property	ISS	Expulsion
Use and/or possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia, unauthorized inhalants, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over-the-counter drugs, vaping, THC, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug.	ISS	Expulsion
School fraternities, secret societies, and gang membership and activity on school grounds. Gang or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing, "throwing signs" or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited (SEE CMS SCHOOL BOARD POLICY)	ISS	Expulsion
Indecent Exposure or Sexual Misconduct	ISS	Expulsion
Inciting a Riot	ISS	Expulsion
False Emergency Alarm	ISS	Expulsion

Blackmail / Vandalism / Defacing School Property	ISS	Expulsion
Extortion or Coercion	ISS	Expulsion
Arson, Robbery, or Theft	ISS	Expulsion
Homicide	OSS	Expulsion

Possible consequences for Level 3 offenses:

Minimum:

- ISS
- OSS
- Community Service Hours
- Expulsion

Discipline and penalties for the infraction of school and CMS School Board behavior policies will be based on the severity and frequency of occurrence ranging from a minimum of a verbal warning to a maximum of expulsion proceeding and/or expulsion.

******In some instances, law enforcement authorities may be notified. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action, and may also constitute a criminal offense. By law, local law enforcement must be notified whenever a felony or act of violence may have been committed on campus. (Act 706 of 1997)