

Dakota Memorial School

STUDENT-PARENT/GUARDIAN HANDBOOK 2021-2022

DBGR Mission: We help at-risk children and families succeed in the name of Christ.

DMS Purpose: Our greatest contribution is to be sure there is a teacher in every classroom who cares that every student every day learns and grows and feels like a real human being.

Dakota Memorial – Minot Campus

6301 19th Ave NW

P.O. Box 5007

Minot, North Dakota 58702-5007

701-857-4211 Fax: 701-837-0700

Dakota Memorial – Bismarck Campus

1227 35th St N

Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

701-221-5310 Fax: 701-250-7230

Dakota Memorial – Fargo Campus

7045 15th St S

Fargo, North Dakota 58104

701-551-6808 Fax: 701-551-6809



Here to help you reach new HEIGHTS!



Welcome to Dakota Memorial School! Whether new to our school or returning, we hope you find Dakota Memorial to be a place where you feel supported and are encouraged to reach your potential. We hope you will find the necessary support to begin preparation for your life as an adult and beyond. We will strive to help you achieve your goals and develop life-long habits that will help you reach personal and academic success.

The rules and expectations in this handbook are meant to provide a safe, productive, and trauma sensitive learning environment. We want to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn and benefit from the unique opportunities at Dakota Memorial School.

Always remember, Dakota Memorial School is YOUR school. We challenge you to support the school and to take pride in keeping it looking great. We also challenge you to do your best by setting goals, getting involved in activities, doing your best, and being courteous and considerate of your teachers and classmates. ALL people in our school have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this handbook and become involved in your educational journey. Please call the school if you have any questions.

May your journey be filled with learning and laughter!

T. DeGree, Principal (Minot)

M. Halvorson, Principal (Bismarck)

S. Leinen, Principal (Fargo)

M. Bartok, Superintendent

Student Handbook Index

Communication/Attendance - Page 3
General Information – Page 5
Academic Information – Page 11
School Celebrations and Opportunities – Page 14
DMS Learning Choices Philosophy – Page 15
Conduct/Discipline - Page 16
DMS Technology Conduct – Page 21
Policies and Forms – Page 21

Communication

Effective two-way communication between families and Dakota Memorial School is necessary for your student's success. Research shows that the more parents/guardians, teachers and administrators share relevant information with each other about a student, the better equipped all will be to help the student achieve academic and social/emotional success. Communication via voice call, text and email is an essential part of the team process. DMS values contact between parents/guardians, teachers, Principal, Dean of Students, Day Program Coordinator and Coordinator of Student Services. Consistent contact is to be expected and is welcomed at DMS.

Attendance

Dakota Memorial School recognizes that regular attendance is necessary to achieve consistent educational progress. North Dakota State Law requires all children between the ages of 7 and 16 to be in attendance every day school is in session, with the exception for illness and certain other incapacities. It is the responsibility of the school administration to monitor student attendance and communicate with students and their parents/guardians to ensure that their children are in school unless a valid reason for absence exists. The parent/guardian must notify the school when their child is absent.

It is the responsibility of every student at Dakota Memorial School to attend school every day that you are physically able to do so. We are here to provide the best education possible for Dakota Memorial Students. Expectations for student attendance remain high. We believe that students will not experience success if they miss important classroom instruction. Thus, it is important that you also place a high priority on school attendance.

Schoolwork missed during an absence shall be made up regardless of the reason for the absence. The effort to make up schoolwork is the responsibility of the student upon returning to school. If a student needs to be absent, arrangements must be made in advance with the Principal and teachers. The student shall make up the work in advance when possible.

NDCC 15.1-20-02.1

Three Types of Absences:

Excused: Excused absences shall be those caused by illness, injury or emergency or those absences granted by the Principal. In the case of an absence granted by the Principal, the schoolwork may be required to be made up ahead of time. The responsibility for making an absence deemed "excused" rests with the parents.

Unexcused: with Parent/Guardian's Knowledge and/or Consent - If a student is absent with parent/guardian consent for reasons other than those stated above, the parent/guardian is expected to call the DMS Main Office to explain the absence and the student will be subject to a penalty, since parent/guardian will be in willful violation of Dakota Memorial School Policy and North Dakota Century Code. If the absences become habitual and the Principal is not satisfied that the absences are excusable, the Principal shall file a Report of Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect with County Social Services and the State's Attorney for appropriate action. Habitual absences are defined as 8 or more absences per nine-week period.

Truancy: Truancy is defined as an absence from school without the consent of parent/guardian or school officials. When truancy occurs, the Principal may contact police authorities, as the child's safety is most important. In addition, the Principal will call parents/guardians and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Note: Student days for Choices Program/In-School Suspension (ISS) and/or Out-Of-School Suspension (OSS) will **not** be counted as days of absence under this policy. In addition, required appointments through DBGR are not counted as days of absence but classwork must be made up.

Students are expected to arrive at school and class on time and to attend all classes as scheduled. If a student is late for school, the student must report to the DMS Main Office and have your name removed from the absence list.

To Report an Absence: Call DMS Main Office (Bismarck- 701 221-5310 / Fargo- 701 551-6815 / Minot- 701 857-4211). It is the parent's responsibility to properly notify the school. Without such notification, the student's absence will be unexcused. The cut-off times for attendance and tardiness are 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM. A student needs to be in school until 10:30 AM to receive credit for the morning and until 2:00 PM to receive credit for the afternoon session. Parents will receive notification when their child has been absent for 8 and 16 days during the school year, regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused. A student who misses more than 16 days for the school year and has poor grades may find that promotion to the next grade may be in jeopardy.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to make personal or medical appointments for their children before or after school hours. The Principal may count the student absent or tardy for any personal or medical appointments made during school hours.

Each semester upon the 11th absence in a class, a student will be subject to credit loss in that class and the course may be dropped and the student assigned to a study hall or credit recovery. Students may have an opportunity to regain the credit by appealing in writing to the Principal. A contract between the student and school will be designed and time where up to two additional absences per course will be made up with the teacher/teachers in which the credit loss has occurred. If the contract is not followed, credit loss will be final. Appeals are reserved for unusual and/or extenuating circumstances (e.g. lengthy illness). Credits lost due to poor attendance may be made up in the regular school program, summer school, or via online credit recovery.

The only exceptions to the standard are school-sponsored activities, out of school suspensions, medically documented situations and unique situations approved by the Principal. In the event of a medically documented situation, the physician's documentation is to be submitted to the school office within 2 days of the absence.

Students who exceed the maximum number of absences allowed may participate in the Credit Buy Back Program. Upon exceeding the maximum number of absences in a course, a student may “buy back” time for minutes missed. The buy-back schedule will be developed by the Principal. All buy back time must be completed by the last day of each semester. Credit Buy Back is an option for students with attendance issues and will not be considered an alternative to regular school attendance.

Tardies: A student who is tardy to school or class for unexcused reasons is subject to disciplinary action. Excessive tardiness may result in a truancy charge. Students will be asked to “payback” time as designated by the DMS Main Office in an after school or lunch detention. Students will be informed as to the amount of detention time. Should that student fail to serve the penalty assigned, disciplinary action from the Principal will result. This may result in a loss of school time that could affect the attendance and grade of the student. The Principal shall deal with excessive tardiness.

Vacations/Home Practice

Please notify the Principal prior to absences due to family vacations or extended home visits that result in absence from school. Homework assignments are to be obtained prior to the absence and are due when the student returns to school. Tests are to be taken within five school days following the student’s return or before if the absence is at the end of a quarterly grading period. The student and teacher will schedule a time for the test to be taken.

Homework Request Policy

Class work for an absent student may be requested through the DMS Main Office provided that the student will be absent for **at least 2 days**. Teachers will be contacted, and work sent to the office at the end of the school day. When picking up the work, parents/guardians should stop by the DMS Main Office.

Student Illness During School

If you become ill during the school day, you may request a *Teacher/Staff Request* form. The form will then go to an administrator. Authorized personnel will examine you, and if necessary, an ambulance will be contacted. If you are ill and a parent is at home, you will be excused from school to go home, you are only excused for that day. If no one is home, other arrangements will be made

General Information

(listed alphabetically)

Accidents and Injuries

All accidents and injuries should be reported immediately to the DMS Main Office staff. An accident report must be submitted to the Principal. Any student with a minor injury will be treated with the generally accepted first aid procedures.

In the event of a serious injury to a student, DBGR, parents, and/or guardian will be notified as soon as possible. If the injury is not life threatening, it will be determined where treatment will be sought and how to transport. At the parent’s request or in case of an emergency the school may provide personnel and transportation to the hospital or call and request an ambulance. If the parent cannot be reached and if the accident is serious, the student shall be transported to the hospital emergency room by ambulance.

Allergies

Parents are asked to notify the school of the child’s allergies prior to the beginning of the school year or as soon as the child is diagnosed. Parents are required to provide written medical documentation of the

allergies each school year. All inhalers will be kept in a locked med cabinet during the school day. Students may request use as needed.

Appointments

All students are required to check in/out with the office. Upon returning students will receive an admit slip. Students who return to class without an admit slip will be required to obtain one from the office.

Backpacks/Bookbags

Due to safety concerns all student backpacks will be placed in a locked supervised area upon arrival. Students may have access to backpacks during the school day with supervision.

Books - Library/Text

Literacy is an important focus for students at Dakota Memorial School. We celebrate reading, writing, and the opportunities students have while attending our school. Students are encouraged to check out books from the DMS library. Students are responsible for damaged/lost books. No non-DMS library collection of outside books, publications, or written materials may be brought into the school by students unless approved by administration.

DMS encourages all students to read and love literature. We work hard to have a library students LOVE!

Care of School Property

DMS has pride in the facilities made available for education. We strive to see that coatracks, walls, floors, restrooms, etc. are kept in good condition. We respect our staff and desire to make their jobs easier by taking pride in what they do for our school. If a student commits vandalism, disciplinary action will be taken, and they may be required to pay for damages. The administration will consider extreme cases, and any student involved is liable for suspension or expulsion.

Cell Phone/Telephones

A public phone in the DMS Main Office is for student use before or after school. Students are only allowed to use the office telephone with staff permission. **Cell Phones, Smart Watches** – The use or visibility of cell phones/smart watches at Dakota Memorial School is not allowed. If brought, they are to be placed in student boxes within the office for safe keeping. DMS reserves the right to search an electronic device if there is reason to suspect that the device contains evidence that the student violated the law or school rules. Consequence for violation of this policy is at the discretion of the principal.

Daily Opening Exercises

We believe that the students of Dakota Memorial School should learn the principles of liberty and democracy expressed in the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights. It is felt that the daily Pledge of Allegiance helps students learn these principles. The Pledge of Allegiance, daily announcements, historical facts, birthdays, other celebrations as well as a moment of silence will be completed in all advisory periods at Dakota Memorial School at the beginning of each school day.

It is recognized that religious beliefs of some students may prohibit their participation in portions of daily opening exercises. This is understood, but any student not participating in opening exercises is expected to remain quiet and respectful during this time.

Dakota Binder

Students will be provided a binder to organize their work. This tool will enhance their grades and classroom performance. The binder is provided by the school and will contain the student handbook, classroom work,

school schedule, and calendar. Non-school items will be removed and safely stored until they can be taken home. The student binder is required to be carried to all classes.

Dress Code

It is the responsibility of parent/guardian/residential staff to have students appropriately dressed for school, reflecting good taste and proper modesty. Students must dress appropriately for the weather. Any dress or appearance, which is disruptive to the educational process, is prohibited. This would include writing on clothing that is inappropriate. If you are in doubt about something, please feel free to ask the Principal. Inappropriate apparel will result in student's removal from class until the problem is corrected and/or possible disciplinary action.

The following general guidelines, for the dress code at Dakota Memorial School:

GENERAL:

- ✓ Underwear is worn under clothing.
- ✓ In the interest of safety and good health, close toed shoes (e.g. tennis shoes) must be worn in physical education and CTE classes. No slippers are permitted in school.

OUTERWEAR:

- ✓ Hats are never to be worn in the school building. "Hats off to DMS!"
- ✓ Coats and gloves, or other forms of outerwear are not to be worn in the classroom. Light jackets or sweatshirts are permitted.

TOPS AND PANTS/SHORTS/SKIRTS:

- ✓ We promote a healthy lifestyle for our students thus, T-shirts or other tops that advertise or promote alcoholic beverages, smoking, vaping, drugs, or profanity, comments related to bodily functions, gang affiliation, sex, satanic references, or disregard for human life are unacceptable at our school.
- ✓ Exposed cleavage is not appropriate. Tops that expose the midriff, mesh, tank tops, or see through tops are unacceptable. Sleeveless tops can be worn but must be covered with an over-blouse/shirt or must be worn on top of another shirt.
- ✓ Skirts and shorts must be mid-length. Shorts may be worn for the months of August, September, and May ONLY or at the discretion of the Principal. No beach wear or pajamas or pajama pants are permitted.
- ✓ Yoga or leggings/jeggings may be worn with an appropriate coverage of bottom.
- ✓ Low-cut pants or shorts, and jeans with holes which expose undergarments or skin are unacceptable.
- ✓ Chains are considered safety hazards and cannot be worn.

ACCESSORIES:

- ✓ Jewelry-
 - Rings, necklaces, bracelets, and watches are appropriate.
 - Due to safety, no hoops or dangly jewelry is allowed.
- ✓ Sunglasses (unless authorized by a doctor) may not be worn in school.

Emergency Drills

Schools are required to have regular drills to ensure the safety of all our students and staff. At the beginning of each school year, students will be directed on the proper behavior during drills. During safety drills the Principal, office staff, and/or teachers will direct students. Signs are printed in each room with drill information. Safety is a #1 priority at our school; thus, these drills are important simulations.

Entrances and Exits

Upon entrance into the building, all students are checked for items inappropriate for school. Items deemed inappropriate will be stored for security until the end of the school day. In addition, safety requires the use of a metal detector wand for incoming Day Program students and random use for Residential students.

Students should exit the building at 3:00 PM using the appropriate doors. Students are dismissed from classes with all personal items at the end of each day.

Extracurricular Activities

Dakota Memorial School has a cooperative agreement with the local public schools to allow DMS students to participate in extracurricular activities in the local public-school district. Residential students must obtain approval from their DBGR core team and legal guardian to participate while Day Program students must have parent/guardian approval to participate. Any DMS student who is eligible to participate according to North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) guidelines, has cottage and/or parent/legal guardian permission, and is interested in participating in extracurricular activities must obtain formal approval from the Principal. This approval must be obtained **prior** to joining any extracurricular team or activity that is affiliated with a school. Dakota Memorial School will pay the NDHSAA fee for the student's participation. DBGR (residential) or parent/guardian (day program) is responsible for any additional fees related to the activity. Students approved to participate in extracurricular activities must follow the rules as outlined by Dakota Memorial School, the local public-school district, and the NDHSAA. SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY: Students participating in extracurricular activities through a local public school are not permitted to fail any class. Eligibility will be determined on a weekly basis.

Field Trips / Extracurricular Activities

While on trips in connection with school activities, the student is under the supervision of the school and must abide by those regulations set by the school regarding behavior. Students will be transported by school vehicles and must return in the same manner or present written permission from parents to do otherwise. Inappropriate behavior will result in the individual student and/or the group returning to the school. All Day Program student families will be notified of upcoming fieldtrips.

Guidance Services

Positive relationships are important when building educational success. Guidance is available to help you determine and understand your interest, abilities, limitations, and opportunities in order to make positive choices and identify your goals, talents and strengths. Students interested in therapeutic services will receive information on Dakota Family Services.

Hallway Conduct

Orderly hallway conduct is required. Often student projects are displayed in our hallways and we respect each student's work by not damaging displayed materials. A short appropriate greeting is acceptable. Appropriate conversation is always expected. Running, pushing, and shoving are not permitted as this behavior is a safety issue. All students are required to be with or visible to staff during school hours. All student behavior that poses a safety concern should be referred to Administration.

Insurance

Students are not covered under any group accident fund. Dakota Memorial School does not carry hospitalization or accident benefit fund coverage for any of the students enrolled and does not assume any financial responsibilities directly or indirectly related or connected with the school. Any bill encountered

from a school injury will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. Students enrolled in work-study classes are covered by workers compensation insurance through Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

Lockers/Personal Cubbies/Coat Racks

This is your area to keep selected school materials and approved items. Lockers/Cubbies/Coat Racks must be kept clean and neat. No books or personal items are stored on or by the lockers/cubbies/coat racks during or after school hours other than outerwear. Do not force or kick lockers closed. According to North Dakota state law, school lockers/cubbies/coat racks remain the property of the school and school authorities have a responsibility and a right to examine the contents of the locker/cubby/coat rack for reasons of health, safety, and security.

Lost and Discovered

Dakota Memorial School cannot accept responsibility for items owned personally by students. If you find an item, please turn it in to the DMS Main Office.

Medication

When a child is placed on medication and the medication is to be taken during school hours, a note from the parent/guardian granting school permission to administer is required. The following information must be included in the ORIGINAL PHARMACY LABELED CONTAINER: child's name; name of medication; amount of dosage; time of administration; strength of medication and route; instructions for administration, special care (such as refrigeration); and name of physician or other legally designated health care professional.

Written permission of parent/guardian is valid for no longer than the current school year. At the end of the school year, any medication not picked up by the parent/guardian will be properly disposed of by school personnel.

Meals

Dakota Memorial School offers a variety of excellent, well-balanced meals for both breakfast and lunch. Meals are free of charge to all students. Students who require special dietary considerations should contact the principal.

Messages at School

Parents are asked to keep telephone calls for emergency purposes only. A student will NOT be called from class to answer the phone except in emergencies. Messages to students will be conveyed during hallway passing, lunch and/or after school.

Money and Personal Items at School

Money and personal items should not be sent to school unless necessary. Large items are to be placed outside the building or in the school office upon arrival. Smaller items are to be placed in the personalized drawer for each student that is placed in the school office. Dakota Memorial School is not responsible for loss, theft or damage to these items. Students are encouraged NOT to bring personal items to school. Students are not permitted to trade, give, or sell personal items to other students.

Outside Gum, Food or Beverages

Students are not allowed to bring food or beverages into DMS. Gum Chewing is allowed in the school, but individual teachers have the right to allow or prohibit chewing gum in their classroom at any time. We expect students to be responsible in their decisions regarding gum chewing.

Safety and Security

The safety of all Dakota Memorial students and staff is our #1 priority. Students are required to cooperate with well-established security measures. In the event of an emergency an office announcement will be made. Since these are potentially serious situations, all drills to practice alerts, must be done with a respectful attitude. Student behavior expectations are at the **highest** standards with **no** exception. Parents may request a copy of the Dakota Memorial Emergency/Crisis Plan from the Principal.

School Closing, Weather Related

In the event of extremely severe weather, school may begin late, dismiss early or be closed. If this occurs, residential staff and parent/guardian/student will be notified. Information may be provided to local television and radio stations.

Because many Dakota Memorial students reside in local communities, parents are asked to use their best judgment in regard to whether it is safe for their child to be transported to and from school due to weather conditions. If the local public school (or the school district of residence of a student) has a delayed start time or closes school for the day, students who reside in the district are excused from school for that day or portion of the day. In the event of an early dismissal due to weather conditions or other unplanned circumstances, the parents/guardians of all Day Program students will be notified of the dismissal time. Students will be transported home via their usual transportation mode.

School Day

Our day begins at 8:30 AM and concludes at 3:00 PM.

Transition Portfolio

Dakota Memorial students will receive a DMS Transition Portfolio when transferring to a new school. Student Transition Portfolios contain information about a student's time at Dakota Memorial School including: Trauma-Sensitive school strategies utilized, choice ready component progress, individual accommodations and modifications, current assessment data, and individual goals achieved and in progress. Dakota Memorial School will share this information with parents/guardians, future schools, and the student.

Transportation

Transportation of Day Program students is the responsibility of the school district of residence or parent/guardian during the school day.

- Parents/Guardians must contact the transportation provider if the student will not be riding.
- Students who are displaying unsafe behavior during transporting will be addressed by the home school district.

Day Program students are not permitted to drive themselves to/from school nor to park on school grounds without permission from the Principal, Superintendent, and CEO of the Ranch. Any student found to be in violation may have their vehicle towed at their expense.

Parent/Guardian Transportation:

- Students may arrive no earlier than 8:25 AM and are expected to be picked up at the scheduled dismissal time.
- Anyone other than the school district of residence transporter is required to sign out the student and to provide photo identification if the individual is unknown to school staff.

- Students will only be permitted to leave with those individuals that their parent/guardian have authorized.
- No student will be permitted to leave the school with any individual who appears to be under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Visitors

All visitors must report to the DMS Main Office immediately upon entering the building and sign in. All visitors are required to wear their identification badge while at the Ranch. Advanced arrangements are to be made with the Principal should parents/guardians wish to visit the classroom while classes are in session. Parents, guardians, etc. who are bringing items for students need to leave them at the office.

Academic Information

(listed alphabetically)

Accreditation

Dakota Memorial School is accredited by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and Cognia™. Based on a set of rigorous research-based standards and evidence-based criteria, the accreditation process examines the whole institution- its policies, programs, practices, learning conditions, and cultural context. Accreditation recognizes education providers that demonstrate and sustain their commitments to continuous improvement and better learner outcomes.

Course of Study

All courses are defined and listed in the DMS course handbook located in the DMS Main Office of each campus or with the building Principal. Student schedules are built using this outline, if possible.

High School Curriculum:

Freshman/Sophomore

Pre Algebra or Algebra (1) Algebra/Geometry (1)
 Physical Science (1) Biology (1)
 English 9 (1) English 10 (1)
 World History (1)
 PE (1)
 Life Skills/Resource Room (1)
 Elective (1) _____
 Elective (1) _____ Elective (1) _____

Junior/Senior

Math Elective (1) Math (1) (if needed)
 Science Elective (1) Science (1) (if needed)
 US History (1) Problems of Democracy I and II (1)
 Composition/American Literature (1) Speech/Modern Literature (1)
 Financial Literacy (.50) Career Management (.50)
 Transition (1) Transition (1)
 Elective (1) _____ Elective (1) _____
 Elective (1) _____ Elective (1) _____

Electives: Vary according to campus.

Elementary/Middle School Curriculum:

All elementary/middle school students meet the required North Dakota Department of Public Instruction educational minutes.

Course Enrollment Changes:

A great deal of time and resources are allocated in the registration and scheduling process. Teacher allotments are decided by the courses that students sign up for in the spring. For these reasons, no changes will be allowed unless they are deemed necessary by an administrator.

Acceptable reasons for schedule change are:

1. I have an incomplete schedule
2. I do not have the required minimum number of courses for my grade level
3. I don't have a course I need for graduation
4. I don't have a prerequisite course on my schedule
5. I have already passed and received credit for a course on my schedule
6. I failed this course or another course before with the same teacher
7. I want to add/replace a current course with a Dual Credit or AP course
8. I need to make changes to meet the requirements of the ND Academic or CTE Scholarship.
9. I am requesting a school and life skills class be added

Curriculum

Curriculum at Dakota Memorial School is based upon the standards and benchmarks set for each grade level and subject as determined by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. Course offerings meet the needs of each student based upon his/her educational plan (i.e. high school graduation, Career and Technical preparation, GED preparation, etc.)

Day Program Transition

Day Students must participate in their transition review. Transition reviews include PowerSchool log entries, current grades, social interactions, academic responsibilities and recognitions. Transition plans incorporate individual goals, promote health, indicate community involvement/interests, identify successful coping strategies, list outpatient services/programs, and outline collaboration with sending schools and parent/guardians for learning supports.

Grading

Grades will be earned under the following guidelines:

- A = 100-92%
- B = 91-82%
- C = 81-72%
- D = 71-62%
- F = 61% and below

Graduation

Students in grades 9-12 earn high school credit toward graduation based upon attendance and passing each course. Because of the unique population of students served at DMS, school administration works diligently to combine any pertinent coursework from previous schools attended with that completed at DMS to enable students to earn credit when appropriate.

Dakota Memorial School has the following graduation requirements:

15.1-21-02.1 High school graduation requirements.

Before a school district, a nonpublic high school, or the center for distance educations issue a high school diploma to a student, the student must have successfully completed at least twenty-two units of high school coursework from the minimum required curriculum offerings.

15.21-02.3. Optional high school curriculum requirements:

If after completing at least two years of high school a student has failed to pass at least one-half unit from three subsections in section 15.1-21-02.1 or has a grade point average at or below the twenty-fifth percentile of other students in the district who are enrolled in the same grade, the student may request that the student's determine if the student should be permitted to pursue an optional high school curriculum, in place of the requirements set forth in section 15.1-21-02.1. If a student's parent consents in writing to the student pursuing the optional high school curriculum, please contact the principal to review further necessary actions.

Dakota Memorial School diplomas are awarded at the graduation ceremony held at the end of each school year to any student who has satisfactorily completed the requirements for graduation.

Individual Education Plans (IEP) and Section 504 Plans

Dakota Memorial School will initiate an education meeting for each student who enrolls with a current IEP within 30 school days of their enrollment to DMS. Dakota Memorial School will initiate a meeting for students on a Section 504 Plan as required by law.

North Dakota Choice Ready

Dakota Memorial School works in partnership with sending schools for alignment to the North Dakota Choice Ready Initiative. Choice Ready is a new component in the North Dakota accountability system to measure whether our high schools prepare students that are ready for success upon graduation.

The metrics outlined within the Choice Ready initiative measure student readiness in multiple areas:

Possessing Essential Skills

- Post-Secondary Ready
- Workforce Ready
- Military Ready

Promotion and Retention

For those students in grades 2-8, a student's achievement of skills for the grade to which he/she has been assigned and his/her readiness for work at the next grade level shall be required before he/she is assigned to the next higher grade. Those students who have mastered the appropriate skills will be promoted and those who have failed two or more subjects may be retained. A student may also be retained at the request of, or with the consent of his/her parent/guardian in case of special difficulty such as immaturity, ill health, or frequent absence from school.

Services from Least Restrictive to Most Restrictive

Educational programming for students can range from least restrictive such as being placed full time in a regular public-school classroom to more restrictive. Ranked from least restrictive to most restrictive:

- a. Public school regular classroom.
- b. Public school with some resource room classes.
- c. Public school with full time resource room classes.
- d. Public alternative school.
- e. Part time Day Program and part time public school.
- f. Full time Day Program with classes in mainstreamed Dakota Memorial School classrooms.

- g. Full time Day Program with classes in Resource Room.
- h. Placement in a Residential Facility.

Standards and Benchmarks

Curriculum decisions and practices are based on Standards Based Education. Best practices, training, and implementation will be provided to teachers during fall workshop, professional development days, and Professional Learning Community time.

Student Assessment/Progress

The primary purpose of any reporting plan is to communicate the behavioral and academic progress of students. Parents/Guardians, Residential Staff, Referrals, and School Districts are informed of student progress in several ways.

- **Report cards/transcripts** are provided at the end of each quarter.
- **Power School**, our internet-based reporting system, is available to access student grades and attendance.
- Individual teachers may use **DMS Progress Reports** to document student behaviors.
- **Parent/Guardian/Teacher Conferences**
- **Standardized Testing**
 - North Dakota State Assessment
 - ACT
 - ASVAB
 - Choices/Vocational Assessment
 - NWEA MAPS
 - STAR

Tutorial Support

Additional tutorial support is available for all students. Staff is available to assist students as needed in order to better understand concepts, improve grades and/or to participate in the Credit Buy Back program. This support may be utilized as an intensive intervention for any student who is failing or in danger of failing any class.

School Celebrations and Opportunities

Dakota Memorial School intentionally works to build a vibrant and effective school community. Creating a sense of community is a meaningful way to foster competence in social and emotional skills. By recognizing contributions and celebrating accomplishments we help students develop a sense of belonging. Celebrations and opportunities include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Honor Roll Luncheons
- ✓ Student of the Quarter recognition
- ✓ Moving in the right direction celebrations
- ✓ Notes of Appreciation
- ✓ Entry into state and national academic contests
- ✓ Recognition/display of work in local, state and national publications/venues
- ✓ Student Council
- ✓ Seasonal celebrations
- ✓ Birthday recognition
- ✓ School store
- ✓ Opportunities to work on campus
- ✓ Positive communication home

- ✓ Talent Shows
- ✓ **Numerous before and after school clubs and activities**

DMS is always exploring new ways to celebrate and recognize success within our school community. Please let a teacher or administrator know if you have any ideas to add.

DMS Learning Choices Philosophy

Using Trauma, Brain-Based and Mindful Strategies

Learning Choices Philosophy

Our Learning Choices Philosophy is an integral aspect of our trauma sensitive school which assures that each child has an environment conducive to learning. Our Learning Choices Philosophy gives students, staff, and parent/guardians the opportunity to collaboratively introduce research-based strategies in a process intended to support students and what they require to find success within a school environment. DMS supports and encourages students and parent/guardians to express “what works” within the school setting. All educational strategies utilized by DMS are research based and focused on future transitional implementation within a student’s home school.

Our Learning Choices Philosophy helps students process through their self-evaluation and planning. The plan created becomes an opportunity for a student to restore themselves to a positive place at home, classroom and school.

Learning Choices Philosophy Procedures:

1. Teacher begins by utilizing **classroom** Trauma, Brain-Based and Mindful Strategies with student.
 - a. If positive, student remains in class and instruction continues. Student choice and successful strategy are documented.
 - b. If non-positive, student is referred outside the classroom. Teacher notifies the office for staff assistance. Behavior and strategy are documented.
2. DMS support staff begin utilizing Trauma, Brain-Based and Mindful Strategies with the student outside the classroom.
 - a. If positive, student returns to class and instruction continues. Behavior and strategy are documented.
 - b. If non-positive, additional support is requested from Administration (approx. 30 minutes).
3. Student is referred to Administration.

ReGroup/ReFocus Procedure

A teacher is responsible for redirection and strategy implementation in the classroom. If interventions/strategies prove unsuccessful, the teacher may decide to implement ReGroup or ReFocus process. A teacher may have their own procedure for handling discipline issues prior to a ReGroup or ReFocus procedure.

The teacher will document ALL REFOCUS situations in POWERSCHOOL. Administration will forward the necessary information to parent/guardian/residential staff to ensure the safety of others.

- ReGroups:

ReGroups are utilized in the classroom and can be requested by teacher or student. ReGroups generally do not exceed 5 minutes. Students may take multiple ReGroups within a class period and continue with classroom activities without staff assistance and without interrupting the learning environment. Teachers will document ALL REGROUP situations in POWERSCHOOL.

- ReFocus:

ReFocus is utilized when classroom interventions/strategies are ineffective. ReFocus lasts on average a minimum of 10 minutes and occurs outside of the classroom. All students will be given a minimum of 10 minutes of quiet time before processing the situation. Administration will be informed if a student is not able to return to the learning environment within 20 minutes and an appropriate plan will be developed at this time.

Mindfulness Room

Mindfulness Rooms are used by students who are currently self-regulating and beginning to understand the trauma sensitive strategies they require to be successful learners. Specific programs and activities utilize research-based brain techniques to enhance learning suggested by special education case managers, behavioral specialists, or occupational therapist. Mindfulness Room times generally do not exceed 10 minutes. Staff will document Mindfulness Room use.

Conduct/Discipline

In any society, general rules and policies are necessary for orderly operation and for ensuring the safety of all members. It is the duty of the Dakota Memorial School to help students adjust – rather than punish – and to turn the unacceptable behavior into acceptable as aligned with Trauma Sensitive Schools. Good behavior is the absence of distractions, frictions, and disturbances that interfere with the functioning of the individual, class, or school. It is the presence of a friendly, yet business-like atmosphere where we all work together for the common good.

It is the intent of the school that any problems arising from the normal operation of Dakota Memorial to be handled on the lowest level possible. If a problem arises at the classroom level, students work first with the teacher(s) to correct the difficulty. If behavior does not improve, communication with the Principal will be the next step.

A student identified as having chronic disciplinary challenges in the school may be suspended or recommended for expulsion on the basis that despite prior intervention, such student has persistently violated the rules of the school even though each prior violation may not alone have warranted suspension or expulsion.

WE EXPECT STUDENTS TO:

- ✓ Always remember that each person is important and deserves our utmost respect.
- ✓ Respect legitimate authority by following school rules as well as the laws of the community, state, and nation.
- ✓ Respect the personal property of others and the school as well as consider the needs and rights of the school and all members of the school community.

WE EXPECT PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO:

- ✓ Assume primary responsibility for the child and his/her behavior.
- ✓ Recognize the school must primarily concern itself with education.

- ✓ Cooperate in conferences regarding health, behavior, or academic progress of their child.

WE EXPECT STAFF MEMBERS TO:

- ✓ Set high standards for student academics AND behavior.
- ✓ Exhibit a respect for students that positively helps them develop good character traits.
- ✓ Plan a flexible program to meet the individual needs of students.
- ✓ Communicate with parents/guardians when a child's academic and or behavior progress indicates a need for improvement.

STUDENT RULES OF CONDUCT

Our school beliefs are grounded in respect, good attitude and pride; therefore, the following are a list of **UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS** that we hope you never experience in our school. The following behaviors are unacceptable to our students and staff of Dakota Memorial School.

BOTTOM LINES...

...These are behaviors which are NOT tolerated in our school

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOTTOM LINE BEHAVIORS

VIOLENCE ISSUES

VIOLENCE/THREATS: Dakota Memorial School respects the health and safety of all individuals. Physical violence, verbal or written threats, or any activity which could cause harm to others, will lead to disciplinary action.

FIGHTING/HORSEPLAY: Dakota Memorial School does not allow ANY FIGHTING among students. A student who takes any physical action toward another student is considered a participant in a fight. Students are to keep their hands to themselves at all times. Pushing, shoving and other aggressive behavior will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action.

HARASSMENT/EXTORTION: Harassment by students at Dakota Memorial School is prohibited. Any student who is a victim of harassment or related activities is expected to report such actions to the Principal. Physical or verbal threats against other individuals will not be tolerated. Students are always to respect the individual rights of others. When a student or group of students verbally and continually torment another student, the action will be considered harassment. This also includes bullying. Bullying is defined as "A person is being bullied or victimized when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more persons." Bullying is unacceptable as it leads to disrespect and threats to other individuals and will result in disciplinary action.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES

SMOKING/POSSESSION OF TOBACCO & RELATED PRODUCTS: Dakota Memorial School prohibits smoking and possession of tobacco and tobacco related products (e.g. e-cigarettes and look-a-like devices) by students. This also means students may never bring matches or lighters on school property or buses; to

do so is a safety violation. A police referral may be required. For additional information refer to the POLICIES section of this handbook.

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL: Dakota Memorial School does not tolerate the use or possession of illegal drugs or look-alike drugs, marijuana, narcotics, controlled substances, alcoholic beverages or intoxicants of any kind, or drug apparatus or paraphernalia. Using, possessing, or being under the influence of any of the items listed above, by any student while on school property or at any function connected with Dakota Memorial School, will result in suspension, notification of civil authorities, and initiation of expulsion procedures in accordance with Dakota Memorial School Drug and Alcohol Policies. For additional information refer to the POLICIES section of this handbook.

POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL OR DANGEROUS OBJECTS: Dakota Memorial School forbids the possession and/or use of any items that are considered illegal or dangerous. Possession and/or use of any item that could be considered a weapon or explosive (including fireworks) will result in disciplinary action and notification of civil authorities. Possession of a weapon of any kind and/or the use of a tool or school supply with the intent to use as a weapon will result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the weapon. NDCC 15.1-19-10

OBSCENE/ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES: Students are prohibited from engaging in any activity that is obscene or any activity that is prohibited by local, state, or federal law.

FALSE FIRE ALARM: Misuse of fire alarms or fire equipment is a violation of public codes. The fire alarms and equipment are to be used only in case of fire. Violators will be disciplined.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS

(listed alphabetically)

CHEATING / PLAGIARISM: The copying of work written by someone other than yourself and claiming it as your own is called plagiarism, and is a serious moral and legal offense, which may result in disciplinary action. In addition, when using internet references, to merely copy and paste information, is plagiarism and not tolerated for school assignments.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY/VANDALISM: Dakota Memorial School will not tolerate damage to school property or intentional damage to property and/or possessions of another individual. Any littering on school property is prohibited. Such damage will result in disciplinary action and compensation for damages. In addition, the student may face possible prosecution by civil authorities.

DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES: Students shall not participate in any activity that could be considered disruptive to the educational process. The school will not tolerate any reference to violence or gang affiliation.

GAMBLING/SELLING: Any form of gambling is strictly prohibited. This includes card games, flipping coins, or selling chances for personal gain. Students are also prohibited from unauthorized selling of any item at Dakota Memorial School.

HALLWAY MISCONDUCT: Orderly hallway conduct is required of all students at Dakota Memorial School. Running, pushing, or shouting in the hallways is prohibited. Students are to move to assigned classrooms without loitering. Any student who is in the hallway during class time must have an escort.

INSUBORDINATION: All students are to follow all instructions and directions, both written and verbal, given to them by teachers, the Principal and staff members (administrative assistants, custodians, cafeteria personnel, bus drivers, etc.). Failure to follow the instructions or directions of any staff member is considered insubordination.

PHYSICAL DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION: Dakota Memorial School prohibits public displays of affection such as holding hands, kissing, and hugging.

PROFANITY: Profanity and/or obscene language (written or verbal) by any Dakota Memorial School student will not be tolerated.

SNOWBALLS: Throwing snowballs is dangerous to others and to the building; and is **NOT** acceptable behavior.

THEFT OF PROPERTY: Dakota Memorial School will not tolerate theft of school property or possessions of another individual. Such thefts will result in disciplinary action and compensation for losses. In addition, the student may face possible prosecution by civil authorities.

TRESPASSING: Trespassing is unauthorized presence on school property without the direct supervision of school personnel. No student is to be on any Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (DBGR) property during or after school hours, unless under the supervision of DBGR personnel.

TRUANCY: It is the responsibility of all students at Dakota Memorial School to attend school every day that he/she is physically able to do so. All students are expected to be in their assigned area or assigned activity from the time they arrive on school property until they leave school property. A student who is not in attendance when he/she is physically able or who is not in his or her assigned area or activity while in the school is considered truant. Credit may not be given for work missed due to truancy.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Violation of Student Rules of Conduct could result in one or more of the following actions being taken by school authorities.

STUDY OF RULES / RESTITUTION: Teacher clarifies the expected behavior. The Principal may also restate and work with behavior.

PARENT CONFERENCES / PHONE CALLS: Parents are often asked to come to school for conferences when student behavior is unacceptable. Teachers and/or the Principal can facilitate these conferences.

DETENTIONS: A teacher may recommend a student detention on designated days during the week. The classroom teacher will monitor the student during detention. Teachers must notify Administration when a detention is warranted.

IN SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS): Student behavior that warrants ISS is located in this handbook. Suspensions will be at the discretion of the Administration. Students with repeated behaviors will be referred to the Building Level Support Team (BLST). Parents/Guardians/Residential Staff will be contacted when students are placed in ISS.

OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS): A student may be suspended from attendance at Dakota Memorial School. Repeated or severe violation of any rules for student behavior could result in suspension. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are responsible for at-home supervision of suspended students. Students are NOT allowed on school property during the out of school suspension unless permission is granted by Administration.

The student and parent/guardian/residential staff must meet with administration immediately upon return to school after suspension.

Students will be provided a suspension meeting (Due Process) on the alleged misconduct, which includes:

- 1.) A summary of the charge(s) against the student.
- 2.) A summary of the evidence against the student.
- 3.) An opportunity to explain the student's conduct.

Suspension from school attendance is a serious matter. Suspension is an excused absence; however, the student will be required to make up assignments.

CITATION FOR WILLFUL DISTURBANCE: The Principal may cite students or adults for willful disturbance of schools under North Dakota Century Code 15-49-08. Any person, whether pupil or not, who willfully molests or disturbs a public school when in session, or who willfully interferes with or interrupts the proper order or management of a public school, by act of violence, boisterous conduct, or threatening language, so as to prevent the teacher or any person from performing his duty, or who, in the presence of the school children, upbraids, insults, or threatens the teacher, shall be guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL: A student may be expelled from Dakota Memorial School for one or more semesters. Expulsion is preceded by suspension from school and a due process hearing. Repeated or severe violations of any rule for student behavior could result in a request for expulsion.

SEARCHES: Although not deemed "disciplinary action," a search may be utilized as an aspect of student conduct and behavior. To ensure the safety of students and staff, coats, backpacks, and individual students will be searched on a daily and/or random basis for contraband such as tobacco products, medication, drugs, alcohol, pornography, weapons, or any material that is deemed objectionable or inappropriate in a school setting. If there is reasonable suspicion that a student has contraband on his/her person, the student will be escorted to the restroom by two staff members of the same gender as the student, and the student will be searched.

Anytime a search of this magnitude is conducted, the parent/guardian will be notified and informed of the reason for the search as well as the results of the search. If contraband is found during any search, it will be confiscated, and parents may be requested to come to the school to retrieve it. Consequences for possession of contraband may include in school suspension, out of school suspension, criminal charges, and/or an education meeting to complete a functional behavioral assessment and/or to determine appropriate educational placement. Due process will be provided.

DMS Technology Conduct

We believe that all technology use by students is an important privilege. The school will attempt to provide opportunities for technology use as often as possible. With increasing technology, there is also an increase in the responsibility of students to be ethical in the use of the computers. Student misuse or unethical practice may result in the disciplinary and/or legal action and the loss of technology use. The Dakota Memorial School technology policy can be viewed in the policy section of this handbook.

NETWORK ETIQUETTE

- Be polite.
- Use appropriate language.
- Keep your personal address, phone number, and/or passwords private.
- Use the network in such a way as to not disrupt others.
- All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be private property.
- Illegal activities are strictly forbidden.
- Discuss on-topic subjects in appropriate topic-designated discussion areas.

Policies and Forms

(listed alphabetically)

Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug Use

All students have a right to attend school in an environment conducive to learning. Since alcohol, tobacco and other drug use is illegal and interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of children and adolescents, Dakota Memorial School recognizes its basic legal and ethical obligation to prevent alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and to maintain a safe and drug free educational environment.

The school also has an obligation to provide drug prevention education units which are an integral part of the standard curriculum. These units are necessary to prepare students for decision making against alcohol, tobacco and other drug use. These units are based on accurate information concerning health and developmental hazards.

Dakota Memorial School, in accordance with the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act Guidelines, recognizes that the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol, or tobacco by students on school premises or as part of any of its activities is wrong and harmful. It is mandatory that students refrain from the use or possession of illicit drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.

- Active users of drugs and/or alcohol or any DMS student found in the use of or possession of alcohol/drugs, or found guilty by a court of law for the use or possession of alcohol/other drugs will be required to obtain an assessment by a licensed addiction counselor and follow through with the recommendations of that assessment in order to remain enrolled at DMS.
- The student and/or parent/guardian is expected to sign a release of information from the licensed addiction counselor to DMS authorizing the release of the results of the assessment, the recommendation for any follow-up services and confirmation that the services occur.
- Costs associated with the assessment and any subsequent treatment will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian/student chooses not to follow through with the assessment/ recommendations and/or the release of information is denied, an education meeting will be held to determine appropriate educational placement of the student.

Records on the use of student drug/alcohol use/treatment will be confidential and not made part of the student's permanent educational record. North Dakota law requires these records be confidential and they may not be released without the written consent of the student, or if the student is less than fourteen years of age, without the written consent of the student's parent or guardian.

Minors who are fourteen years of age or older may obtain alcohol or other drug treatment counseling without parental consent and without notification of the minor's parent under North Dakota Century code 14-10-17.

NORTH DAKOTA'S COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL POLICY FOR TOBACCO USE

Updated November 22, 2017

Definitions

For purposes of this policy:

- *Electronic smoking device* means any device that can be used to deliver aerosolized or vaporized nicotine to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, vape pen or e-hookah.
- *Possession of Tobacco Products means:*
 - a. Actual physical possession of the tobacco product while on school property;
 - b. Use or consumption of the tobacco product while on school property;
 - c. Tobacco product located in the student's locker, car, handbag, backpack, or other belongings while on school property; or
 - d. Appearance by a student on school property after having consumed or ingested the tobacco product that is noticeable by breath odor.
- *Smoking* means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco, nicotine, or plant product intended for inhalation, including hookah and marijuana, whether natural or synthetic. "Smoking" also includes the use of an electronic smoking device. This excludes any FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy.
- *School property* is defined in NDCC 15.1-19-10 (6)(b) as all land within the perimeter of the school site and all school buildings, structures, facilities, and school vehicles, whether owned or leased by a school district, and the site of any school-sponsored event or activity.
- *Tobacco product* means any product that is made from or derived from tobacco, or that contains nicotine, that is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether smoked, heated, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, a cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus. Tobacco product also includes any electronic smoking device.
- *Tobacco use* means smoking and the heating, inhaling, chewing, absorbing, dissolving or ingesting any tobacco product.

Rationale for Regulating Possession & Use

The health hazards of tobacco use have been well established. This policy is established to:

1. Reduce the high incidence of tobacco use in North Dakota.

2. Protect the health and safety of all students, employees, and the general public.
3. Set a non-tobacco-use example by adults.
4. Assist in complying with smoking restrictions in state and federal law (NDCC 23- 12-10 and 20 U.S.C. 7973).

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in North Dakota. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students, the **Dakota Boys & Girls Ranch** Program Board establishes the following tobacco-free policy.

Use & Possession Prohibitions

1. **Students:** Possession and/or use of tobacco products by students on school property is prohibited.
2. **Staff/Visitors:** The use of tobacco products by all school employees and visitors on school property is prohibited.

This policy includes all events on school property that are not sponsored by, or associated with, the school.
3. **Additional:** Dakota Memorial School will not allow advertising of tobacco products on school property or in any school publications. This includes clothing that advertises tobacco products.

Dakota Memorial School will not accept any gifts (such as curriculum, book covers, speakers, etc.) or funds from the tobacco industry.

Communicating to Students, Staff, & Public

This policy will be printed in employee and student handbooks. Dakota Memorial School shall comply with all smoking prohibition posting requirements in NDCC 23-12-10.4 and post such notices in other highly visible places in all campus schools and property, such as, but not limited to: school playgrounds, athletic fields and school-sponsored events (on campus property). Parents/Guardians will receive notification of policy in the Parent/Student Handbook.

Responsibility for Violations

All individuals on the campus’s premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the enforcement and implementation of this policy.

Tobacco Cessation Services

Individuals requesting assistance with tobacco cessation services will be referred to NDQuits, the North Dakota Department of Health multi-media tobacco cessation program. This is a free cessation service provided to citizens of North Dakota.

Updated 12.2018

Bullying Policy

Definition

For purposes of this policy Dakota Memorial School will follow NDCC 15.1-19-17.

1. Bullying is defined as conduct prescribed in NDCC 15.1-19-17.
 - a. "Bullying" means:
 - 1) Conduct that occurs in a public school, on school district premises, in a district owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school

sanctioned or sponsored activity or event and which:

- a) Is so severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive that it substantially interferes with the student's educational opportunities;
 - b) Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of harm;
 - c) Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of damage to property of the student; or
 - d) Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the public school; or
- 2) Conduct that is received by a student while the student is in a public school, on school district premises, in a district owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school district sanctioned or sponsored activity or event and which:
- a) Is so severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive that it substantially interferes with the student's educational opportunities;
 - b) Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of harm;
 - c) Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of damage to property of the student; or
 - d) Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the public school.
- b. "Conduct" includes the use of technology or other electronic media.

The Superintendent of Dakota Memorial School will place this definition, in its entirety, in student and staff handbooks and will develop guidelines to assist students and staff with identifying this conduct.

Prohibitions

While at Dakota Memorial School, on school premises, in a public school, or in Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch vehicle a student may not:

- Engage in bullying; or
- Engage in reprisal or retaliation against:
 - A victim of bullying;
 - An individual who witnesses an alleged act of bullying;
 - An individual who reports an alleged act of bullying; or
 - An individual who provides information or participates in an investigation about an alleged act of bullying.
- Knowingly file a false report with Dakota Memorial School

Reporting Procedures for Alleged Policy Violations

Reporting requirements for school staff: Any school staff member with knowledge or suspicion of a violation of this policy or who has received an oral or written report of a violation of this policy from a student, community member, or anonymously shall contact the building Principal to inform him/her as soon as possible. If the alleged violation implicates the building Principal, the school staff member shall report it to the Superintendent. If the alleged violation implicates the Superintendent, the school staff member shall file it with the Corporate Compliance Officer of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch.

Should school administration determine that a school staff member knew of or suspected a violation of this policy and failed to report it in accordance with the procedure above, the staff member may be subject to disciplinary consequences including, but not limited to: a reprimand, modification of duties, suspension, or a recommendation for termination/discharge in accordance with any applicable law.

Reporting options for students and community members: Students and community members (including

parents) may report known or suspected violations of this policy using any of the following methods:

1. Completing a written complaint form: A complainant will have the option of including his/her name on this form or filing it anonymously. The form can be obtained from any administrator, teacher, the guidance counselor, or the education office. The form may be returned to any school staff member or returned to the education office.
2. Complete and submit an online complaint form. A complainant will have the option of including his/her name on the form or submitting it anonymously.
3. File an oral report with any school staff member.

A complaint filed anonymously may limit the school's ability to investigate and respond to the alleged violations.

Reporting to Law Enforcement and Other Forms of Redress

Anytime a school staff member has reasonable suspicion that a bullying incident constituted a crime, s/he shall report it to law enforcement. Nothing in this policy shall prevent a victim/his/her family from seeking redress under state and federal law.

Documentation and Retention

Dakota Memorial School shall develop a form to report alleged violations of this policy. The form should be completed by school staff when they:

1. Initiate a report of an alleged violation of this policy; or
2. Receive an oral report of an alleged violation of this policy.

All reports of an alleged violation of this policy received by Dakota Memorial shall be forwarded to the appropriate school administrator for investigation and retention.

Report forms and all other documentation related to an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy shall be retained by Dakota Memorial School for six years after a student turns 18 or graduates from high school, whichever is later. If a student does not graduate from Dakota Memorial School, such reports and investigation material shall be retained for six years after the student turns 18.

Investigation Procedures

School administrators (i.e., a Principal, or the Superintendent) are required to investigate violations of this policy (as prescribed under "Prohibitions"), when in receipt of actual notice of an alleged violation. Actual notice of an alleged violation occurs when alleged bullying, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting is reported using the applicable method(s) prescribed in the reporting section of this policy.

Upon receipt of a report of an alleged policy violation, the designated administrator shall first determine if the alleged policy violation is based on a protected class—whether actual or perceived. Reports involving a protected class shall be investigated in accordance with Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch harassment/discrimination policy, including the timelines contained therein.

In all other cases, administration shall determine the level of investigation necessary based on the nature of the alleged violation of this policy after considering factors such as, but not limited to: the identity of the reporter and his/her relationship to the victim/alleged perpetrator; the ages of the parties involved; the detail, content, and context of the report; whether this report is the first of its type filed against the alleged perpetrator. Based on the level of investigation the administrator deems necessary, investigations may include any or all of the following steps or any other investigatory steps that the administrator deems necessary:

1. Identification and collection of necessary and obtainable physical evidence (NOTE: In some cases physical evidence may be unobtainable, e.g., a private social networking profile);
2. Interviews with the complainant, the victim, and/or the alleged perpetrator. At no time during an investigation under this policy shall the victim/complainant be required to meet with the alleged perpetrator;
3. Interviews with any identified witnesses;
4. A review of any mitigating or extenuating circumstances;
5. Final analysis and issuance of findings in writing to the victim and bully and, if applicable, implementation of victim protection measures and disciplinary measures under this or other applicable policies.

Investigations shall be completed within 60 days unless the administrator documents good cause for extending this deadline. Such documentation should be sent to victim and alleged perpetrator during the investigation.

Disciplinary and Corrective Measures

Students that Dakota Memorial School have found to have violated this policy shall be subject to disciplinary consequences and/or corrective measures. When determining the appropriate actions to be taken the administration will consider the totality of the circumstances. Measures taken include, but are not limited to:

- Written documentation in Power School
- Referral to school counselor
- Student phones parents/guardians in the presence of administration
- Develop a behavioral adjustment plan
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Referral to law enforcement
- Modification of the perpetrator's schedule
- Conference with perpetrator, parents/guardian, and school administration
- Referral to law enforcement
- If applicable, contact the administrator of the website on which the bullying occurred to report it
- Bullying curriculum completed

For bullying that occurs outside of Dakota Memorial School and received in school (e.g. cyber bullying), Dakota Memorial School only has the authority to impose disciplinary measures if the bullying disrupted the educational process or posed a real threat. A threat is defined as a statement that would be interpreted by a reasonable person as a serious expression of intent to harm or assault another or to damage property.

If the perpetrator is a school staff member, Dakota Memorial School shall take appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to a reprimand, modification of duties, suspension, or a recommendation for termination/discharge in accordance with any applicable law.

Victim Protection Strategies

When Dakota Memorial School confirms that a violation of this policy has occurred Dakota Memorial School will inform the parents/guardians and implement the victim protection strategies. These strategies will be implemented on a case-by-case basis. Strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- Additional education for all students and applicable staff on the implementation of this policy

- Notice to the victim’s teachers and other staff to monitor the victim and his/her interactions with peers
- Assign a staff member to escort the student between classes
- Assign staff to areas of the school where bullying has occurred
- Modify the perpetrators schedule to avoid contact with the victim
- Alternative placement of the perpetrator within Dakota Memorial School
- Alternative placement of the perpetrator outside of Dakota Memorial School

Prevention Programs & Professional Development Activities

Dakota Memorial School will dedicate part of each fall workshop for teachers to review the bullying policy. Students will review the bullying policy on the first day of school each fall with their teachers. Professional development could include, but not be limited to:

- Conducting a school survey and have one of the math classes tabulate and graph the results to be posted in the school
- Teach tolerance at teachable moments
- Role Play – student vs. student, teacher vs. student, etc
- Employ a prevention program as suggested by NCDDPI

Complementary Documents:

Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch Human Resource Manual- See Bamboo HR

**Dakota Memorial School
Student Bullying Complaint Report Form**

Reporting person (optional): _____

Name of victim: _____

Name of any adult already contacted: _____

Today’s date: _____

Name(s) of bully (ies): _____

Date of incident: _____

Where did the incident(s) happen? Check all that apply.

- | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Hallway | <input type="checkbox"/> Restroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Lunchroom | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Bus | <input type="checkbox"/> Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop Escort | <input type="checkbox"/> Lunch Escort |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Softball/Soccer Field | <input type="checkbox"/> Off School Property | | | <input type="checkbox"/> School Escort |

Other (Please describe.) _____

Please check the box that best describe the actions of the bully. Check all that apply.

- Hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting, hair pulling or throwing something at the student
- Getting another person to hit or harm the student
- Teasing, name-calling, threatening in person, by phone, by e-mail, etc
- Putting the student down and making the student the target of jokes
- Making rude and/or threatening gestures
- Excluding or rejecting the student
- Making the student fearful, demanding money or exploiting
- Spreading harmful rumors and/or gossip
- Cyber bullying (bullying by calling, texting, emailing, web posting, etc.)
- Other

If you select other, please describe: _____

Why do you think the bullying occurred?

Please provide the names of any and all witnesses to the incident.

Please describe the physical injuries or property damage that occurred as a result of the incident.

Have you or the victim-missed school or made changes to daily routines as a result of the incident(s).

Thank you for reporting.

Please return this form to a school counselor or the main education office.

-----**For Office Use**-----

Received by: _____

Date received: _____

Date Action Taken: _____

Action Taken: _____

Parent/guardian contacted: _____

Circle One: Resolved Unresolved

Refer further to: _____

Computers, Internet and Electronic Devices

These are guidelines intended to supplement, not replace, all existing laws, regulations, agreements, and contracts which currently apply to the resources of the technology and networks of Dakota Memorial School computers and internet access.

Access to Dakota Memorial School networks and computer systems is granted subject to school procedures and local, state, and federal laws. Appropriate use should always be legal and ethical, reflect agency standards, and show restraint in the consumption of shared resources. It should demonstrate respect for intellectual property; ownership of data; system security mechanisms; and individuals' rights to privacy and freedom from intimidation, harassment, and unwarranted annoyance.

Dakota Memorial Staff will use vigilance in providing appropriate supervision to students while they are accessing the internet and the school will utilize filtering systems in an attempt to block access to inappropriate sites. Any student attempting to and/or accessing inappropriate material will lose computer privileges as deemed appropriate by the Principal. In addition, any student whose core treatment team, parent, guardian and/or court order indicates that internet/computer access is to be denied will not be given internet access while in school.

Appropriate Use: Appropriate use of information technology resources includes instruction, independent study, authorized research, independent research, and official work of the administration, support services, residential programs, and extensions of Dakota Memorial School.

Authorized use of Dakota Memorial School owned or operated computing and network resources is consistent with the education, research, and service mission of Dakota Memorial School.

Authorized users are: 1) faculty, staff, and students of Dakota Memorial School; 2) anyone connecting from a public information service; 3) others whose access furthers the mission of the school and whose usage does not interfere with other users' access to resources.

It is the responsibility of all users and those who access the system to be aware of the potential and possible effects of their computer and network use. The users are responsible for the security and integrity of Dakota Memorial School information stored on their assigned computer systems.

Confidentiality and Privacy: Authorized access to data or information entails both privilege and responsibility, not only for the user, but also for the system administrator. In general, the school will treat information stored on computers as confidential. However, there is no expectation of privacy or confidentiality for documents and messages stored on Dakota Memorial School DBGR-owned equipment. Additionally, e-mail and data stored on the DMS network of computers may be accessed by the school for the following purposes:

- Troubleshooting hardware and software problems

- Preventing unauthorized access and system misuse
- Retrieving school related information
- Investigating reports of violation of these procedures or local, state or federal law
- Complying with legal requests for information
- Rerouting or disposing of undeliverable mail

The privacy or confidentiality of documents and messages stored on Dakota Memorial School-owned equipment cannot be guaranteed. Users of electronic mail systems should be aware that, in addition to being subject to authorized access, electronic mail in its present form cannot be secured and is, therefore, vulnerable to unauthorized access and modification by third parties.

Examples of Prohibited Use: Use of DMS network and computer systems is conditioned upon compliance with this and other school procedures, agency policy and all applicable laws. Though not exhaustive, the following list is provided to emphasize that these activities are NOT allowed on DMS networks or computer systems.

- Using facilities, accounts, access codes, privileges or information for which you are not authorized.
- Accessing or attempting to access sexually or otherwise inappropriate material.
- Sharing your user login and password information with others.
- Viewing, copying, altering, or destroying anyone's files without explicit permission from that individual.
- Representing yourself electronically as another user.
- Unlawfully harassing others.
- Creating and/or forwarding chain letters.
- Posting or mailing obscene materials.
- Game playing that interferes with academic or administrative use by others.
- Making, distributing, or using unauthorized copies of licensed software.
- Unauthorized copying, reproducing, or redistributing others' text, photos, sound, video graphics, designs, or other information formats.
- Obstructing others' work by consuming large amounts of system resources, such as disk space, CPU time, etc.
- Unauthorized testing of systems and/or resources, such as using program loops, introducing destructive software e.g. "virus" software, or attempting loop crashes.
- Running or otherwise configuring software or hardware to intentionally allow access to unauthorized users.
- Attempting to circumvent or subvert any system's security measures.
- Advertising for commercial gain.
- Distributing unsolicited advertising.
- Disrupting services, damaging files or intentionally damaging or destroying equipment, software, or data belonging to DMS or other users
- Using computing resources for unauthorized monitoring of electronic communications.
- Violating any DMS procedures, DBGR policies or any local, state or federal law.

In cases of doubt, users bear the burden of responsibility to inquire concerning the permissibility of external network uses prior to execution. Such questions should be directed to administration.

Reporting Violations: All users should report any discovered unauthorized access attempts or other improper usage of Dakota Memorial School computers, networks, or other information processing equipment to administration immediately.

Sanctions: Persons in violation of these procedures are subject to the full range of sanctions, including the loss of computer or network access without notification, disciplinary action, dismissal, suspension, and/or legal action. Some violations may constitute criminal offenses, as outlined in North Dakota statutes and other local, state, and federal laws; the school will carry out its responsibility to report such violations to the appropriate authorities.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Dakota Memorial School supports the provisions of Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, Title XI of the Civil Rights Act of 1963, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Dakota Memorial School does not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, age, or disability in employment and in those programs and activities offered to its students. It is the expressed intent of Dakota Memorial School to provide equal opportunity for all students free from limitations of race, color, national origin, gender, or disability.

Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act

Dakota Memorial School supports the provisions of Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, which commit all North Dakota schools to the elimination of discrimination on the basis of handicapping condition in those programs and activities which receive federal funds as well as in all other programs and activities offered to its students. It is the expressed intent of Dakota Memorial School to provide equal opportunities for all students, free from limitations based upon handicapping condition.

The concept of equal educational opportunity will serve as a guide for the staff and administration in making decisions relating to employment of personnel, school facilities, extracurricular activities, curriculum, and activities and regulations affecting students and employees.

Dakota Memorial School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or handicap in its educational programs, activities, and employment policies/practices.

Sexual Harassment

A learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment will be maintained at Dakota Memorial School. It shall be a violation for any member of the school staff/agency staff to harass another staff member or students, or for any student to harass another student or staff member through conduct or communication of a sexual nature. It shall also be a violation for a student or staff/agency member to sexually harass through conduct or communication of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- Sex-oriented verbal or written “kidding,” abuse, or harassment
- Pressure for sexual activity
- Remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications
- Unwelcome touching, such as patting, pinching or intentional brushing against another person’s body

Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit promises or preferential treatment or threats concerning one’s employment or education.

Student Health and Safety Policy

Immunization

Law requires students be immunized under Section 23-07-17 of the North Dakota Century Code. DBGR Nursing Services will ensure proper immunization of residential students and the Day Program Coordinator/Coordinator of Student Services will assist in obtaining proper immunization for Day Program students. If there are no forms and an epidemic breaks out in school, the parent/guardian of Day Program

students will be contacted and the child will need to go home. Dakota Memorial School requires verification of immunizations and accepts statements from physicians or health authority. The school or county health unit can provide information in regard to the minimal requirements. Dakota Memorial School requests all immunization records from a student's home school district.

Communicable Disease

Research shows that the risk of getting a significant contagious disease in a school setting is extremely small. However, school staff will decrease the possibility of exposure to blood borne pathogens including HIV by using universal precautions. Universal precautions mean protecting oneself from exposure to blood or body fluids through the use of latex gloves, masks, or eye goggles; cleaning blood and body fluid spills with soap and bleach solution and water; and disinfecting and decontaminating infected waste before disposing in a sanitary landfill. All staff at DMS are trained in the proper procedures to reduce risks when coming in contact with blood borne pathogens and will treat all bodily fluids as if they are contaminated. Students will receive education in regard to contagious disease, blood borne pathogens and HIV/Aids.

Pandemic

In the event of a pandemic epidemic where the North Dakota Health Department closes statewide schools, Dakota Memorial School will continue to provide education services via alternative methods.

Medications and Drugs

School personnel may not dispense nor administer medication to a student except upon the written authorization of a parent/guardian. Any medication that is requested by a parent/guardian to be administered at school may be given using the following procedure:

- The medication brought to school must be promptly given to school staff and never left with the student, in school bags or coats.
- The medication sent or brought to school must be accompanied by a signed authorization from the parent/guardian for its dispensation.
- The medication must be in the properly labeled pharmacy container that includes the student's name, physician's name, time, and dosage to be administered.
- The medication will be kept in a secure location. A staff member will be assigned to dispense and monitor consumption of medications.
- The staff member administering the medication will record the time and medication dispensed as well as their initials.
- Over-the-counter medications will be dispensed as authorized. The staff member administering over-the-counter medication will record the time, medication and dose of the medication as well as their initials.

Student Records

Students' permanent education records are maintained at their school district of residence or in the last North Dakota public school attended for those students who are the financial responsibility of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. Dakota Memorial School (DMS) maintains an education record for each student that contains pertinent scholastic records from the permanent education records, attendance, health records and any education documents generated by Dakota Memorial School. Copies of official documents generated by DMS regarding a specific student are provided to the student's parent, legal guardian, school district of residence, special education unit of residence, and any other authorized individual.

A record locator is maintained in the DMS electronic file indicating the location of all other known locations of education records for the student under their legal name.

During the 2018 – 2019 school year, DMS transitioned to an electronic student record system.

Electronic copies of all reports will be maintained at DMS for no less than 6 months and no more than 12 months from a student's date of withdrawal from DMS and/or discharge from DBGR. A notice is sent to the student's parent/guardian if the student is less than 18 years-old and directly to the student if age 18 or older, indicating that the education records are no longer needed to provide educational services to the student. Individuals have the right to request records be destroyed or be provided to them should they need them for any purpose. The **only** information retained at Dakota Memorial School will be the student's name, grade level completed, dates of attendance, transcript, diploma, and the record locator. Records of students who did **not** respond to the notice will be destroyed after 12 months.

All academic and personal records pertaining to individual students are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), are confidential and can only be inspected by students (if age 18 or older and eligible), parents (until the student reaches 18), and school officials. DMS reserves the right to have a teacher, counselor, or school administrator present when records are inspected to interpret the contents of the file. Copies of records will be made within 10 school days of an authorized request. Parents/Guardians or students (if age 18 or older and eligible) shall have the opportunity for a hearing to challenge the contents of their child's school record to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or contains otherwise inappropriate data.

DMS cannot permit access to or release student records to any individual, agency, or organization other than the following without the written consent of their legal guardian:
Other school officials within the school.
Officials of other schools or school systems in which the student intends to enroll.

Parents/Guardians or students (if age 18 or older and eligible) have a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA. FERPA Administrative Office: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.