

# **SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS POLICY**

**2025-2026**

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English  
Athletics  
Special Education

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# FOREWORD

## **To Students:**

This handbook has been prepared by the Administration of Sandra Day O'Connor High School in cooperation with the Superintendent and the Board of Trustees of the Northside Independent School District. It is for your guidance in understanding some basic policies around which your school functions. All students are expected to read carefully and abide by these rules and regulations in addition to all campus expectations and administrative directives.

## **To Parents:**

The home is the greatest influence on the child during the formative years; from these influences the child develops his first habits and obtains most of his ideals and attitudes. The influence of a good home environment cannot be duplicated within the classroom; therefore, it is imperative that the home and school work cooperatively for the maximum development of your child.

Please make every effort to encourage your child to attend school regularly and punctually. Failures are often attributed to irregular attendance, while tardiness tends to develop the wrong habits and attitudes toward life and its responsibilities.

The purpose of this handbook is to supply you and your child with information about O'Connor High School. Frequent reference to this handbook will acquaint you with the functions of your school. Please feel free to confer with teachers and the administration when you deem it necessary. The cooperation of school patrons, based on the knowledge of the functions of the school, will result in a more efficient and successful school program. \*O'Connor High School is fully accredited by the Texas Education Agency.

## **SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR (1930-2023)**

Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to serve as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. President Ronald Reagan named her to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Potter Stewart in 1981.

As a Supreme Court Justice, O'Connor has generally sided with conservative members of the court. However, she has been sympathetic to liberal views on a small number of issues.

O'Connor was born in El Paso, Texas. She received a law degree from Stanford University in 1952. In 1965, she became an assistant attorney general of Arizona. In 1969, she was appointed to an unexpired term in the Arizona Senate. She won election to the state Senate in 1970, was reelected in 1972, and was Senate majority leader in 1973. O'Connor was elected a judge of a Maricopa County trial court in 1974. In 1979, the governor appointed her to the Arizona Court of Appeals, the second highest court in the state.

**Our Mission:** Collaboratively ensure high-levels of learning for all.

**Our Vision:** A diverse community empowered by a culture of learning.

## **ALMA MATER**

To Thee Our Alma Mater  
To Thee We Sing  
As We Pledge Our Loyalty  
To O'Connor High  
The Blue And Gold  
We'll Wear With Pride  
As We Walk The Halls Of  
Our O'Connor High

## **SCHOOL COLORS**

Navy Blue and Gold

## **MASCOT**

Panther

## **A CODE FOR THE GOOD CITIZEN OF THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL**

I realize that, as a student in an American high school, I owe an obligation to parents or relatives, whose sacrifices have given me the foundation upon which I am building, to the school which offers me an opportunity to develop my natural powers, and to the community which makes my educational advantages possible, to my country which gives me liberty under law, to my own future as an individual and as a citizen.

As a token of my determination to discharge this obligation, I promise:

That I will use the facilities offered by the classroom to enlarge and broaden my interests, to increase my knowledge, to bring me closer to truth, and to cultivate habits of industry and sound thinking.

That I will broaden my sympathies and practice the arts of sociability, true friendliness in my home, in the school and in all my association; avoiding snobbishness in my own conduct and condemning it in others.

That I will develop habits of reading and conversing which will broaden my culture and enable me better to understand the problems of community, state and nation.

That I will carry on discussions in and out of classroom, not to overcome opponents and gratify my pride but that I may grow in knowledge and wisdom.

That I will avoid every form of cheating or dishonesty and will undertake to discourage all dishonorable practices.

That I will obey every rule or law of school, city, state, and nation, reserving the right to criticize rules and law constructively, but respecting them so long as they prevail.

That I will use my powers and influence for the common good. That I will pursue happiness myself and strive to establish conditions under which happiness and opportunity may be hopefully pursued by everyone in my home, my school, my community, my country, and the world.

*Adopted by the National Association of Student Councils.*

*“We pay a price when we deprive children of the exposure to the values,  
principles and education they need to make them good citizens.”*

...SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

## **PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP YOU**

### **Your Principal**

The Principal is responsible to the Superintendent of Schools for proper administration of Sandra Day O'Connor High School. It is his duty to organize, supervise, and administer all of the affairs of the school as they affect students, teachers, and patrons. He will be glad to help you with any of your problems or concerns.

### **Associate Principal, Academic Dean, and Assistant Principals**

The Associate Principal, Academic Dean, and Assistant Principals work directly with the Principal in the administration and organization of the school. They are in charge of student academics, attendance and discipline. They assist in the counseling program and assume the responsibility of the Principal in his/her absence.

### **Teachers**

Teachers are specialists in the field in which they teach and are eager to help students experience diverse learning opportunities. Teachers are charged with the responsibility of carrying out the rules and regulations of the Board of Education and any additional policies set up by the administration. Teachers will be on duty each school day at 8:45 a.m. and will remain after classes from 4:20 to 4:35 p.m. for the purpose of helping any student desiring to report at this time. Teachers are the classroom leaders and are charged with the responsibility of supervising and directing all students in the pursuit of their education.

### **Counselors**

The counselors are responsible for the comprehensive guidance program of Sandra Day O'Connor High School. The Counseling Department supports the educational, career, personal, and social development of all students grades 9 - 12, and is designed to include the following components: Guidance Curriculum, Individual Planning, Responsive Services, and System Support.

Counselors will be available to all students before and after school and during all lunch periods. Students can also make appointments to meet with their assigned counselor by email, online submission form, or at the counseling office.

**Guidance Curriculum** - School counselors provide classroom guidance lessons that facilitate student growth and development in the areas of educational, career, personal, and social development in four curricular content areas: Intrapersonal Effectiveness, Interpersonal Effectiveness, Post-Secondary Education and Career Readiness, and Personal Health and Safety.

**Individual Planning** - The individual planning component guides students to plan, monitor, and manage their own educational, career, personal and social development. Each student is provided with necessary steps toward his/her established goals.

**Responsive Service** - In this component, school counselors intervene with or on behalf of students whose personal circumstances, concerns, or problems are threatening to interfere with or are interfering with their healthy educational, personal, social, career and/or educational development.

**System Support** - The System Support component describes management activities which assure the delivery of a high quality school counseling program, and service which indirectly benefit students by supporting other programs.

## **BELL SCHEDULE**

	<b><u>Start</u></b>	<b><u>End</u></b>
<b>1st Period</b>	9:00	9:46
<b>2nd Period</b>	9:52	10:37
<b>Flex</b>	<b>10:43</b>	<b>11:13</b>
<b>3rd Period</b>	11:19	12:04
<b>4th Period</b>	12:10	12:55
<b>5th Period</b>	1:01	1:46
<b>6th Period</b>	1:52	2:37
<b>7th Period</b>	2:43	3:28
<b>8th Period</b>	3:34	4:20

## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

O'Connor is a comprehensive high school designed to serve the needs of all students, regardless of their background and goals. The curriculum is as varied as the student body, with course offerings designed to prepare students for their "next step," whether that step be a job, technical school, the military, college, or a combination of these. Enrollment in the O'Connor High School Agriculture Program, like other specialized programs and magnet schools in Northside, is a privilege not a right.

Transfer students, including ASTA transfers, are accepted as space allows based on the following criteria: grades, attendance, discipline record, and proven interest in the area of study. That criteria will continue to be monitored each grading period for all transfer students and OHS students enrolled in the Ag program. Students who fail to maintain one or more of the standards may be placed on a contract, lose privileges, or have their transfer revoked. Additional information, pertaining to ASTA, can be found in the OHS Ag Program Handbook.

### **A. Course Selection**

1. Students have access to an electronic version of a Northside Independent School District Course Description Catalog to assist them in making course selections. Suggested sample four-year plans to aid students and parents in preparing individualized programs are also available.
2. Students will receive sufficient help from their counselor in preparing the type of program they desire. Parents and students are encouraged to make individual appointments with counselors and the Career Technician as the need arises.
3. Seniors are seen early in the fall of their senior year for help in finalizing post-graduation plans.
4. Counselors will prepare a comprehensive handbook for seniors.
5. When senior appointments are concluded, counselors schedule small group junior conferences to discuss career and educational plans.

6. Freshmen and sophomores are seen in small groups for planning and decision-making.
7. Students are encouraged to utilize the Career Center to obtain information regarding careers, colleges, job placement, etc.
8. Students may go to the Guidance Office before or after school and during lunch to make an appointment to see their counselor.

#### B. Policies

1. Students are assigned to counselors alphabetically.
2. All students must carry at least five classes unless they are in one of the career and technology cooperative programs.
3. Correspondence courses to be used for graduation should be completed on or before April 1 of the student's senior year. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to see that final correspondence grades are submitted to the Registrar.
4. Students wishing to take courses in summer school, or by correspondence must obtain written permission from their counselor before enrolling.

### **College & Career Center**

The College and Career Center is an important resource for O'Connor students. It is located in B103 in the library and is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every school day to service students, faculty and parents. The Center is staffed by a full-time College, Career, & Military Advisor.. The advisor works closely with the counselors in scheduling individual students or group guidance activities related to college and careers. The advisor will assist 9-12 grade students with all but not limited to: SAT/ACT Preparation and Registration, College Admission Applications, Financial Aid, Scholarships, College and Career Fairs, ASVAB, Military, Career Exploration, and Post Secondary Planning.

### **Library**

Each campus library supports the curriculum and provides a wide variety of materials suitable to the interest and abilities of students in their pursuit of knowledge and love of reading. Information literacy skills for life-long learning are taught, practiced, and applied. Home access to the online card catalog is available at <http://webcat.nisd.net/>. In order for each school to maintain a high-quality collection, students learn responsibility in caring for library materials. If library materials are lost or damaged the student is expected to pay for them.

The library collection consists of quality books, AV materials, periodicals and electronic resources to be utilized for research, reading and viewing. Courtesy and cooperation in all library relations will assure all students equal opportunities to use the library materials in an atmosphere conducive to learning.

The library is maintained in order that school life be made more meaningful, enjoyable, and valuable to each member of the student body. The library is not a place to conduct social activities.

The investment in the library is enormous. Students are expected to show respect for and to take good care of this property.

1. The library will be open each school day from 8:20 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.
2. Upon entering the library from the study hall or classroom the student will sign-in on the computer. Students coming from classes or study halls must present a pass signed by the subject teacher. No more than four students may be sent to the library on a pass. Passes are not needed before or after school. Passes are required during the lunch periods. (Passes to the library are required from 1st period through 8th period.) Passes must be turned-in and stamped upon arrival and when returning to class.
3. Books are checked out for a two-week period and may be renewed for an additional two weeks. No more than two books may be checked out at a time.
4. When checking out books, the student will present his/her O'Connor ID card at the circulation desk. For security purposes, an O'Connor High School I.D. card is required to checkout materials from the library.
5. Each student is responsible for all materials checked out in his/her name. Students should never check out books for their friends.
6. The library does not charge for overdue library books.
7. Students must pay for books lost or damaged. If a book, which has been lost and paid for, is found in good condition, the money paid will be refunded if the student shows a receipt for the payment of the item. If a book is damaged beyond repair, a replacement fee will be charged.
8. All accounts must be settled at the end of each semester.

9. Overdue notices and bill notices will be sent every two to three weeks. Students receiving notices are expected to come to the library to settle accounts as soon as possible. Failure to receive notices does not, however, exempt students from their obligations.
10. Students searching for titles to read or materials for research projects will find eager library staff ready to assist. Inter-library loan services are also available to students when materials from other Northside ISD campuses are needed for research or reading.

# ATTENDANCE

## ABSENCES

### Minimum Attendance for Class Credit Law

The Minimum Attendance for Class Credit Law (Texas Education Code 25.092) STATES THAT A STUDENT MAY NOT BE GIVEN CREDIT FOR A CLASS UNLESS THE STUDENT IS IN ATTENDANCE FOR AT LEAST 90% OF THE DAYS THE CLASS IS OFFERED, EXCEPTIONS PROVIDED IN SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICY. (Please refer to Section "D" of this booklet for a complete explanation of the law.)

### Due To Missing a Bus

A student who misses the bus must make every effort to get to school because all classes missed are counted against their required attendance.

### Verification of Absences

When a student is unable to attend school, the parent is requested to send a note upon return to school. The note should include the reason for the absence, the date, and a parent contact number and should be submitted to the Attendance Office in the A Building before school the day the student returns. Parents may email notes, in lieu of hard copies, to [oconnorattendance@nisd.net](mailto:oconnorattendance@nisd.net)

### Readmission Procedures Following Absences

1. On the day following an all-day absence the student will report to the Attendance Office and present a note signed by the parent or guardian stating the reason for the absence, student ID number, and the date of the absence or send an email to the above address.  
*Examples of excused absences are:* personal illness, family funerals, medical appointments, court appointments with a subpoena, religious holidays with documentation, and family emergencies with explanation.  
*Examples of unexcused absences are:* trancies, car trouble/flat tire, missing the bus/ride, oversleeping, renewing a driver's license, caring for a sibling, heavy traffic, court appointments for traffic violations, family vacations, and notes without all pertinent information.
2. Students must present a note within the 3 days of the absence or the absence may remain as unexcused. A student who has a verified truancy will be referred to the Assistant Principals' office for disciplinary action. Parents and students should be aware that unexcused absences are in violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law (Texas Education Code 21.032) and may result in legal action.
3. A student attending only part of the school day must sign in or out of school through the attendance office when they arrive or leave. A parental note is required to sign in or sign out. If a student arrives after the school day starts the parental note will be replaced with a pass to class. If a student must leave before the end of the school day the parental note will be replaced with a dismissal slip. **Students should inform their teachers about any planned absences prior to the absence.**
4. A health appointment absence may be completely excused, and not count towards a student's totals for credit purposes, if they are present at least one period in the school day and submit a healthcare professional note upon their return.
5. The Attendance office will retain all notes and slips related to absences.
6. Students who arrive after 9:00 a.m. due to tardiness must follow the campus tardy policy.
7. A student missing more than fifteen minutes of any class is considered absent for the period and will need a pass to class from the Attendance Office.
8. A legal guardian, with identification, may check their student out of school by visiting the attendance office. **Sign-out cut off time: 3:50 pm.**
9. If there is a question concerning the validity of any note the student will be referred to the assistant principals' office for

verification.

## **Absences and Grades**

Students are expected to make up work from all absences, regardless of reason. Tests or work not made up may result in a grade of "0" for that assignment or test. Work assigned during unexcused absences and trancies may be made up, although the grade may be reduced (as would be the case for late work). Trancies may void any opportunity for a waiver from the state attendance policy. If the absence is long term, parents are encouraged to request assignments through the Attendance Office. Please see other sections of the handbook for district guidelines on make-up work. Students who miss class due to excused school business must contact their teachers prior to the absence to ensure work missed can be completed in a timely fashion. Seniors who plan to go on a college visit must complete necessary paperwork available in the attendance office prior to the visit. If a child exceeds the number of absences required to earn credit, they may be eligible for attendance recovery.

## **Attendance Recovery**

Districts can adopt a provision that allows a student who is in attendance for at least 75 percent but less than 90 percent of the days a class is offered to be given credit or a final grade if the student completes a plan approved by the school's principal that provides for the student to meet the instructional requirements of the class. Educ. Code § 25.092(a-1) It is the responsibility of the student to keep track of their absences. Once a student is over the 90% rule, they must make up hours with their teachers. If a student's absences exceed 25% of the course days offered, they will not be eligible for attendance recovery and must retake the course.

## **Arrival at School**

Once the students arrive on campus they are not to leave without checking with the attendance office. For permission to leave school refer to Section D of this handbook or the Readmission Procedure above.

## **Tardy to Class**

A student is marked tardy to class if he/she is not in his/her assigned place when the tardy bell rings. Between class periods there is an interval for passing, and a student is tardy to the next class or study period if he/she is not in the assigned place at the end of this interval. If a student is detained by a teacher, that teacher should provide the student with an excused tardy admit to the next class. Tardiness to school, with few exceptions, is inexcusable. Students who are tardy to class will be subject to disciplinary action. Students who are more than fifteen minutes late to school/class are considered absent, and must report to the Attendance office. Students who drive to school and are consistently tardy are subject to losing their campus parking/off campus lunch privileges until on-time attendance becomes consistent.

# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

## **Balloons, Flowers, Celebrations, and Matched Clothing**

Gifts of any kind will not be delivered to students. This includes corsages, flowers, or balloons. Students will not be allowed to carry balloons and large items from class to class, as these items may distract from the learning environment or cause congestion during passing periods. Furthermore, students should not bring birthday cakes or baked goods (cupcakes, brownies, muffins, etc.) or large bottles of soda or other drinks to share with other students because of the risk that a prohibited substance or allergy causing ingredient might be included in the food. Students are also not allowed to have loud, vocal celebrations that disrupt the school environment, or come to school as large groups wearing nearly identical clothing for the purpose of drawing attention to themselves on birthdays, personal celebratory days, or to show a type of fraternity not approved by the school administration.

## **Bus Transportation**

If a student arrives on campus after the first bell rings due to a late bus, they must sign in at the late bus station in the cafeteria. Students may pick up breakfast and report directly to class. At dismissal bus riders must report to the cafeteria by 4:30 pm to wait for their bus. Due to supervision constraints after school hours, bus riders are not allowed to wait outside of the cafeteria. If students are outside of the cafeteria, it will be assumed that they are waiting for parent pickup and will not be allowed to board the bus. Students who ride buses to and from school will be expected to conduct themselves in a courteous/proper manner. Any student who cannot abide by campus or district transportation rules of conduct will be subject to disciplinary action that could result in loss of bus riding privileges. For more information, visit the NISD Student Code of Conduct, Section C.



## **Campus Safety**

Adults and students should follow all NISD safety protocols. Exterior gates and doors are to remain closed during school hours. When exiting the campus, students may only go through main gates. Exterior/Emergency doors may not be used to exit the campus. Propping doors or gates open or exiting through emergency/exterior doors breaches campus safety and WILL result in consequences, including but not limited to suspension. All students must be supervised while on campus and must avoid unauthorized locations. The use of metal detectors will be used randomly throughout the school year. Their use will allow the random checks of students, staff, or visitors, and will be coordinated by NISD police and campus administration. This will also support the work of our police canine unit on campuses.

## **Cell Phones/Personal Electronic Devices/Chromebooks**

In compliance with state law, the use of personal communication devices by students is not allowed at any NISD campus during the school day, from the first official bell to the last official bell. Usage of these items will also not be allowed during passing periods or lunch periods. Personal communication devices include cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, tablets, or any other similar items. Devices of this nature should be powered off and placed into student backpacks and kept in a designated location in each classroom. Students without a backpack will be required to place their device(s) into an identified storage container in the classroom. Students in violation of this State law and district policy will be subject to progressive disciplinary consequences, to include possible confiscation of the device. Confiscated items will be released to the student's parent/guardian.

All students are issued a district chromebook. Chromebooks should be used for academic purposes only. Students are not permitted to use the chromebook to search or distribute inappropriate content. Chats and emails should only be sent to further one's pursuit of academic success. Students are not permitted to spam groups, NISD organizations, or peers with nonessential information. Violators are subject to consequences, including confiscating the property. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged property.

Furthermore, students are also strictly prohibited from using their phones and other electronic devices as video cameras to film activities that have not been approved by campus administration. Filming fights or prohibited activities on campus are considered just as disruptive or prohibited as the activity itself, and likewise will receive disciplinary consequences.

## **Change in Name, Home Phone Number, or Address**

School officials should be informed of any change in a student's name, phone number, or address. It is important that the school has this information in case of an emergency. These changes will be made at the registrar's office, the attendance office, and the nurse's office and should begin in the Counseling Office.

## **Class Dismissal**

The dismissal bell in the classroom is not a signal for students to move. It is a signal for the teacher to conclude that particular class. The teacher, not a bell, will dismiss students from class.

## **Conference Period & Parent Conferences**

Each teacher is assigned a conference period as part of his or her teaching assignment. This period is set aside to give the teacher opportunity for carrying out plans for both classroom work and individual guidance to students. Another purpose of this period is to provide a teacher with a scheduled time to conference with parents. Parents may make appointments to visit with teachers by contacting the teacher directly through phone or email. Parents who desire a staffing where all teachers are present before or after school to meet about a student's progress can do this by calling the Counselor's Secretary at 397-4832.

## **Confiscated Items (hats, caps, electronic devices, etc.)**

Confiscated items may be picked up in the Associate Principal's office. Any confiscated item (including headwear, cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, other electronic devices, etc.) may require a parent's presence for the item to be returned. The campus administration may hold the confiscated item, including cell phones, for three days on the second offense, and until the end of the semester on the third. Confiscated items may not be available for pickup until the end of the day on which they have been confiscated.

## **Hall Pass**

Students out of any class will be charged with the responsibility of having in their possession a corridor pass signed and dated by a

member of the faculty or staff. Time leaving the class and returning to class will be noted on the pass. Students should avoid leaving the class the first and last 10 minutes of class.

### **Dress Code**

- Shirts must be full-length (no crop, tube, low-cut, tank, halter, or sheer tops)
- Shorts, dresses, and skirts may be no shorter than 5" above the knee.
- Pant rips may be no higher than 5" above the knee
- All apparel must be school appropriate (no spandex shorts, no drug, weapon, alcohol images or affiliated brands)

### **Disruptions on Campus**

Disruption of the school day or educational process will not be tolerated. Any student who participates in a boycott, sit/stand-in, walk-out, show of force/intimidation through fraternity, or other related forms that causes a disturbance to the school will be subject to disciplinary action. Students should also take care not to purposely or repeatedly block student/staff traffic flow areas, doorways, and/or entry ways.

### **E-Cigarettes and Vape Pens**

It is against the law for minors to possess e-cigarettes and vape pens. Students are not allowed to have in their possession or utilize e-cigarettes or vape pens on the campus. Students in violation will be subject to disciplinary and legal action and the items will be confiscated.

### **Finals**

Finals will be during the last 4 days of the semester. NO finals will be given early. Plan to be present for these days. In event of an emergency, the fall finals can be taken at the beginning of the spring semester, and spring finals may be taken during the summer.

### **Financial Obligations**

In order for a senior to participate in senior related activities including but not limited to homecoming, prom, invitation distribution, cap and gown distribution, graduation rehearsal, and project graduation, the student must be in good standing financially with the campus and the school district. Seniors must clear all debts and obligations prior to these events. Debts and obligations could occur from club, class, or organization dues; spirit, fine arts, and athletic organization supplies and activities; uniforms; textbooks; fundraising events; and any other financial debt or obligation from school owned items checked out to the student. Underclassmen must clear all financial obligations at the end of the school year or during the summer before Prep Days in order to attend and participate. Please contact an administrator early to discuss a payment plan in case of financial hardships.

### **Food Deliveries**

In order to maintain campus security, food/restaurant deliveries will not be allowed from parents/ friends/ siblings/or any other family members, Uber Eats, DoorDash, Grubhub, Postmates or any other similar service. Food will be disposed of.

### **Fire Evacuation Bell System**

Continuous tone — Move out of the building quickly and quietly.

2 long tones— Move back into the building.

Students will leave the building in the manner prescribed for each classroom and posted in each room. Students should take all belongings and move quickly to the assigned location. When returning to class, students should do so in a timely manner and remain orderly and cooperative.

### **Graduation**

The graduation ceremony is a school function, and being such is part of the school year. The school year for a senior ends with the completion of the graduation ceremony. Therefore, a graduating senior who violates the Student Code of Conduct, may not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. Graduation is a solemn and dignified ceremony. Students should dress as if they are preparing to interview for an important job. Facial piercing (other than earrings) will not be tolerated. Students are expected to observe proper etiquette during the entire graduation ceremony. While they are on the stage and receiving diplomas, students must keep their hands at their sides at all times. The only time hands may be lifted is when students are receiving

diplomas from school board members and shaking hands with the superintendent. Students who raise their hands above their waists for any reasons other than receiving the diplomas or shaking hands may be removed from the graduation ceremony. Students demonstrating any other behaviors that serve to lessen the dignity of the event may be removed from the graduation ceremony. All students are expected to demonstrate a high degree of maturity and behave appropriately. Don't cause embarrassment to yourselves, your parents, and your fellow classmates by being removed from this very special event.

## **Health Services**

The school nurse gives first aid only. She does not diagnose illnesses, but takes note of symptoms and notifies the parents of her observations. Students are to be kept at home when ill, and they should return only after they have had a normal temperature for 24 hours after any illness. This is important for the health of the student and for the health of all students at school.

If a student becomes ill or is injured while at school, he/she will be given first aid and his parents will be notified. In no case will a child be sent home until the parent or the person indicated by the parent has been contacted. Every effort will be made to contact the parent first. If the parent is unable to come for the student, arrangements must be made for his care by the parent. In an extreme emergency, EMS or an ambulance will be called. It is the parents' responsibility to renew the Medical Information Card each year. Please inform the student's counselor or the nurse of diagnosed medical problems. All medication, including OTC medication, must be taken to the nurse by an adult and remain in the nurse's office. Students are not allowed to carry medication on their persons.

## **I.D. Cards**

Upon enrollment, all students will be issued an O'Connor High School student identification card through the Assistant Principal's Office. The first card is issued free of charge. Lost or stolen cards will be replaced for a \$5.00 fee. Students must wear their school I.D. card at all times while on campus and bring it to all campus events. I.D.s should remain visible while students are on campus. Students must sign in with an administrator if they forget their IDs. Persistent violators will be issued consequences. Students must identify themselves if asked by faculty or staff. Failure to follow ID mandates may result in consequences.

## **In-School Suspension (ISS)**

In-School Suspension (ISS) will be used as a disciplinary measure by the Assistant Principal's Office to help students assume more responsibility for their actions. Students who are assigned ISS must arrive on time and report directly to the APO. Students must stay the duration of his/her ISS assignment. Students will be expected to successfully complete assigned ISS course work and demonstrate their ability to follow rules. Failure to follow ISS rules may result in suspension and a parent conference before a student can return to school. IDAEP will have additional guidelines.

## **Items Forgotten at Home**

If a student forgets books, money, research papers, PE shorts, etc., the administration will not interrupt the instructional process in order to deliver such items to the students; however, properly identified items may be left in the Attendance Office where it will be the responsibility of the student to obtain such items between classes or with a pass from a teacher.

## **Locker Assignment**

Upon request, lockers are assigned to students at the beginning of the school year. NO SHARING OF LOCKERS WILL BE PERMITTED. Lockers are NOT the student's personal property and are subject to inspection by school personnel.

Lockers are provided as a service for storage of books and school needs. They are not intended for the safe keeping of valuables. The school district has no insurance to cover items lost or stolen from the lockers.

## **Long Term or Major Projects**

Teachers will communicate the following to students at the beginning of a long-term project: Name of project; project due date; project grade weight. Students are encouraged to turn in the assignment early to avoid penalty or inconvenience should unforeseen circumstances cause an absence on the due date. The project will receive a penalty of no more than 10 points per day after the due date, regardless of the reason, excused or unexcused, for a student's absence. If a student has an extenuating circumstance for non-completion, the student must communicate with the teacher prior to the final completion date, except for death in the family, serious accident, or a long-term illness. Students who may be absent on the final completion date must make arrangements to have the project delivered to the teacher during that school day (prior to 4:00 p.m.)

## **Lost and Found**

If anything of value is found on the grounds or in the buildings, please turn it in to the APO staff, which will attempt to find the rightful owner. If you have lost anything, check in the APO. Unclaimed items will be donated at the end of each marking period.

## **Lunch**

There will be three (3) lunch periods. Students may leave the cafeteria at lunch, but they must remain in the courtyard area or the library. No horseplay, running around, or throwing items, including balls. Students are expected to properly dispose of trash and disposable items. No food or drink is allowed in the classroom buildings. Lunch periods are on the closed campus concept. A parent or guardian may eat lunch with their child with administrative permission. A parent/guardian must have any extenuating circumstances outside of this cleared with school administration first. (See Senior/Junior lunch policies for information about off-campus lunch privileges.) Students are not allowed to go into or near the parking lot at lunch or during the school day without the proper ID or administrator permission.

## **Medical Emergencies**

Students must report to the CLINIC with a pass if they become ill or are hurt in any way during the school day. ILL STUDENTS ARE NOT TO LEAVE SCHOOL, WITH OR WITHOUT PARENTS, UNLESS THEY HAVE SIGNED OUT THROUGH THE CLINIC. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to provide the school with an emergency phone number so that parents may be notified immediately should such a need arise.

## **Metal Detectors**

The use of metal detectors will be used randomly throughout the school year. Their use will allow the random checks of students, staff, or visitors, and will be coordinated by NISD police and campus administration. This will also support the work of our police canine unit on campuses.

## **Off-block**

Eligible Juniors and Seniors *may* be granted off-block/work privileges. Students that have privileges to leave early are expected to do so at the appointed time and are responsible for their own transportation. If a student must remain on campus to utilize school resources, they must do so in the library and follow all library expectations. Failure to adhere to this policy would result in a loss of off-campus privileges and/or disciplinary consequences.

## **Parking Cars on Campus**

Due to the limited number of spaces and safety concerns, only Junior and Senior students may apply to bring cars to school and park on campus. All operators must have a driver's license and abide by all school safety and parking regulations. Students must present proof of insurance for the vehicle they are driving. All vehicles will be registered through the appropriate Assistant Principal/campus police. Upon arrival at school, cars are to be locked and students are to come IMMEDIATELY onto the campus. The parking lots are off limits during the school day. Students in the parking lot without permission from an administrator will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Restroom Privileges**

Students must use the restroom closest to their classroom. Socializing and/or loitering in the restroom is strictly prohibited. Students may not take their cell phones or bags to the restroom during class time. Students may not share a stall for any reason. Violations will result in consequences/searches.

## **Parking and Traffic Regulations**

### **I. RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. All students, faculty and staff members who park their vehicles on the campus must secure and display a parking permit. THE RECEIPT OF A PARKING PERMIT DOES NOT GUARANTEE A PARKING SPACE. However, it does authorize parking if the space is available.
- B. Strict adherence to rules pertaining to speed and parking will be required to protect pedestrians and vehicles and to provide access to firefighting equipment and ambulances.
- C. Texas laws governing motor vehicle operation are effective on all campus locations.
- D. Cars parked illegally or without permits may be towed at the owner's expense or be ticketed.

## II. PARKING REGULATIONS

- A. Cars must be parked within the stripes on paved surfaces.
- B. Drivers will refrain from parking in places that may obstruct traffic. It is a violation of these regulations to park in the following manner and may result in a citation or towed away:
  - 1. on any curb, sidewalk or island
  - 2. by a red curb
  - 3. in front of a fire hydrant
  - 4. in any place designated as a loading zone or marked "no parking"
  - 5. in front of a movable barrier
  - 6. in any driveway, entrance, or exit
  - 7. double parking
  - 8. parking without a permit fixed to the windshield
  - 9. parking in two spaces
  - 10. parking in **reserved** areas (visitor, **faculty**, etc.)
  - 11. parking on lawn areas
  - 12. parking in designated faculty or visitor spaces
- C. Space is limited – come early for a place to park.
- D. Cars parked illegally or without permits may be towed at the owner's expense.
- E. Failure to follow parking and traffic laws or rules can result in a \$20.00 campus citation.

## III. REGISTRATION

- A. Parking permits will cost \$20.00. Permits are valid for the academic year.
- B. The permit must be attached to the lower right-hand corner of the vehicle windshield.
- C. If a permit is lost or a new vehicle is purchased, another permit must be purchased.
- D. Registration information includes an operator's name and address, a valid driver's license, school identification card, vehicle license number and description. Also, the name of the vehicle's insurance company and policy number are required. A vehicle must be insured before a permit will be issued.
- E. Two-wheel vehicle permits are to be affixed to an area that is easily seen.
- F. One temporary permit good for up to 3 days is available in the Assistant Principal's Office.
- G. Parking permits are available for Juniors and Seniors only.

## **CARS PARKED ALONG THE RED FIRE LANE OR IN TENNIS CENTER MAY BE TICKETED BY THE NISD POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

### **Permission to Leave Campus**

If students plan to leave school during the day for a doctor's appointment, they must present a parental note to the Attendance Office BEFORE SCHOOL. The Attendance Secretary will write a dismissal slip for the student to leave class at the appropriate time. THE STUDENT IS REQUIRED TO COME TO THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE AND OFFICIALLY SIGN OUT BEFORE HE LEAVES CAMPUS. If parents need to take their child out of school during the school day, they should PERSONALLY come to the Attendance Office to check the student out of school. Proper identification is required.

### **Posters and Signs Displayed on Campus**

All posters and signs:

- 1. Must be approved by an administrator.
- 2. Must be no larger than 8-1/2"x14" in size.
- 3. Must be attached to walls using painter's tape only.

### **School Pride**

Students at Sandra Day O'Connor have the privilege of attending one of the most beautiful schools in the country. Please take pride in the school and campus. Let's keep the school clean.

### **School Sponsored Activities**

O'Connor students, while on the school campus or attending a school sponsored activity, will abide by the laws of the Federal Government and the State of Texas as well as the policies and regulations of O'Connor High School and the Northside Independent School District.

### **School Events and Dances**

School events and dances may be held by a financially solvent school organization of O'Connor High School.

**The sponsoring organization must abide by the following regulations:**

1. Decorate or prepare the area after school on the day of the activity.
2. Pay for adequate custodial and police services to support the event and any damages incurred during the activity.
3. Be responsible for all conduct and decorum of everyone who attends the event or dance.
4. If a contract for a band, an entertainer, judges or any other service is entered into, the contract must be approved by the Principal or the Associate Principal prior to the event.
5. Any student organization that enters into a contract must show how they expect to pay for the services for which they intend to contract.
6. All events must be approved by the Principal through the Principal's Secretary using a Facilities Request Form and must be put on the school calendar as early as possible but at least a month prior to the event.

Students are encouraged to attend and participate in campus sponsored activities and events, such as homecoming and prom. Campus administration reserves the right to appoint eligibility requirements, including but not limited to attendance, discipline, and academics.

### **Rules to be observed during events and dances will include:**

1. Once a student has arrived at the activity he or she is NOT to leave the activity until ready to depart for the remainder of the evening.
2. Planned activities are to be for the use and enjoyment of Sandra Day O'Connor High School students ONLY, unless requested and subsequently authorized by an administrator to include guests.
  - a. Guests, where permitted, will be invited by special invitation, and they will be required to abide by all school rules and regulations.
  - b. The student asking to bring a guest will be responsible for the dress, conduct, and behavior of such guest.
  - c. Applications for guest permits will be issued and approved by an administrator.
3. Each organization which chooses to sponsor a party will obtain its own Faculty Sponsors and one additional faculty sponsor for each anticipated 75 students in attendance. These names must be reported on the event form.
4. If admission to the activity is charged, the price must also be approved.
5. If refreshments are to be served, this will also need prior approval and be stated on the event form.
6. If a band or floor show is to be presented or engaged, the format or program must be approved by the sponsor and appropriate administrator.
7. Smoking/Vaping is NOT permitted at school or any school related function.

### **School-Sponsored Clubs and Organizations**

O'Connor High School has a large number of academic, service, and social organizations which enhance the school program, develop school spirit, and, in general, offer a diversity of opportunity for self-expression and development. Students may participate in school-sponsored clubs and organizations only with written consent from a parent or guardian. A completed permission slip must be on file prior to a student's participation in any club meetings, activities, or events.

### **Requirements for Students Holding Offices and Positions of Honor**

In order to obtain the best possible student leadership, and to prevent interference with scholastic achievement, all students must have the approval of the faculty members before consideration by the students for election or appointment to a student office. The areas suggested to the teachers for consideration and approval are listed below.

1. Scholarship – Each student must be passing in all subjects. The President and Vice President's grades must average "B" or

better. The Secretary and Treasurer's grades must average "C" or better. Candidates for National Honor Society must meet a different standard as outlined in the Chapter's By-laws.

2. Citizenship – Each student must be an above average student citizen, which includes no more than two (2) "Needs Improvement" and no "Unsatisfactory" citizenship grade for the current school year, if election occurs in the spring semester, or for the previous year if election occurs in the fall semester.
3. Dependability – Once elected or appointed, each student is expected to attend all organization meetings and events.
4. Cooperation – Once elected or appointed, each student must cooperate with the organization advisor(s).
5. Conduct – Once elected or appointed, each student must have no serious discipline offenses and meet the attendance requirements set forth by the State of Texas.

Elected officers just like members will abide by the District's Extracurricular Code of Conduct. Additionally, once elected or appointed, any officer failing to meet any of the above criteria will be placed on probation for six (6) weeks. If there is a second probationary period, it will result in removal from office for the remainder of the school year.

### **Dismissal of Officers**

Officers may be disqualified from seeking or be removed from holding office for the following reasons:

1. Failure to comply with rules and regulations of the school.
2. Lack of interest in fulfilling duties of the office.
3. Lack of cooperation with sponsors.
4. Lack of grade average required by the organization.
5. Failure to follow local, state, and national laws.
6. Conduct unbecoming to campus leaders even outside of school activities.

Removal from office may be subject to administrative review.

### **Off-Campus Lunch**

Juniors and Seniors of O'Connor leaving campus for lunch may be released on the following conditions:

1. Students must have parent's permission with a permission form on file.
2. Students leaving campus must be back in the required time. No tardies will be accepted. Illness or accidents must be reported immediately by a parent, not the student. Loss of off-campus lunch will occur if students are repeatedly tardy.
3. Students may not visit any other campus.
4. Lunches for students participating will be divided into three periods. Students without off-campus lunch permission will continue on the regular schedule.
5. Students with permission to have lunch privileges will have their student I.D. cards appropriately coded so school personnel will know they are permitted to leave. Off-Campus ID stickers must be renewed every semester, and students must obtain the new sticker no later than the end of the first week following the end of the semester. Students who do not qualify for off-campus lunch at the beginning of the semester may subsequently qualify at the beginning of the next six weeks if specified criteria are met.
6. Students may not transport students who do not have lunch privileges off campus during the lunch period. Drivers are responsible to know the status of any passenger regarding off campus privileges. Students who walk off campus must also have a lunch pass to leave and should obey all traffic signs and laws when walking off campus.
7. Grades, attendance (three or more unexcused absences in any class for the six weeks), and discipline will be reviewed at the beginning and end of the first semester, and those students who are found to be in unsatisfactory status by campus administration in any or all of these areas will lose their privilege, but may reapply at the start of the next six weeks. Furthermore, students may have no more than five absences in the semester prior to the semester of implementation. Discipline or attendance appeals should be directed to the assistant principal.
8. Students and parents should also realize that a student's actions while off campus during lunch are reflective of the high school, and accordingly students may lose their off-campus lunch privilege for actions that are considered dangerous, unsafe, or unbecoming of an O'Connor High School student. Decisions regarding the consequences for off campus lunch behavior are at the discretion of the campus principal or his/her designee.

SENIORS AND JUNIORS MAY FORFEIT THEIR OFF CAMPUS LUNCH PRIVILEGES FOR ANY VIOLATION OF THE ABOVE

### **Students Selected for Popularity Courts**

Students are elected to courts in conjunction with various events held on the high school campus. Examples include but are not limited to homecoming court, dance and ball courts, and prom court. It is the position of the district that these selections are based on popularity. However, if these court representatives are involved in activities that are extracurricular, or if the activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered extracurricular (i.e. Homecoming Court), then the students must meet all eligibility rules relating to extracurricular activities. Student participation in courts that are not considered extracurricular (i.e. dances, ball courts, prom court) must follow the guidelines as specified by the activity sponsor, or the campus principal. Students' participation on any popularity court will ultimately be at the discretion of the campus principal.

### **Telephones**

Telephones are available for student use in an emergency. Students will not be called to the telephone during class hours, nor will they be permitted to leave class to use the telephone. Only in cases of an emergency will a message from a parent or guardian be delivered to a student.

### **Textbooks**

Students are issued a textbook for each subject they are taking if a textbook is needed or issued a personal log-in for online textbooks. The books are numbered, and it is the student's responsibility to take care of the books. Any lost or stolen books are the responsibility of the student. The books belong to the State of Texas and are loaned to the student. Students will not be issued a new book until any lost or stolen book is replaced by payment.

### **Tutoring & FLEX**

FLEX is 2.5 hours of embedded tutoring/enrichment during the school day each week. Students must report to their flagged location each FLEX day. Failure to do so will result in consequences. Teachers will offer additional tutoring opportunities before and/or after school by appointment. Students should contact their teacher for further information about tutoring. Lunch tutoring is also available in the library in the B102 "tutoring center" every lunch, every day. Students are encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity. Opting out of FLEX is not an option. Failure to report to the assigned location will result in consequences.

### **Visitors**

All Parents and Visitors are required to register in the Administrative Office in the A Building with the Associate Principal's secretary as soon as they arrive on campus and indicate the reason for the visit. They are also required to sign-out prior to leaving the campus. Upon sign-in, all parents and visitors should receive and wear the designated Visitor's Pass. O'Connor is a closed campus, so parents and visitors should have pre-arranged appointments if they plan to visit a teacher during the school day to ensure that staff members are available and not in class. Repeated or extended campus visits without a valid educational or administrative purpose may be limited or denied in order to protect instructional time and campus operations. The school administration reserves the right to limit or deny campus access to any visitor whose presence is deemed disruptive, unnecessary, or contrary to student safety and well-being.

### **Withdrawing from School**

When it becomes necessary for students to withdraw from school, they should report to the state attendance secretary in the counselors' office with their parent or documentation from their parents stating the reason and date to be withdrawn. Once verified, students are issued a withdrawal form to be filled in by designated staff. After this form has been completed, the student reports back to the office for the signatures of an assistant principal, a counselor, and the Registrar.

It is imperative that every student who withdraws from school follow all of the necessary procedures and obtain all of the necessary signatures pertinent to withdrawal. Failure to do so will delay the student's transcript being sent to other schools, jobs or military service.



Review of Expectations	Show P.A.W.S
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain Academic Integrity.</li> <li>2. Be in the classroom before the tardy bell rings.</li> <li>3. Don't leave the classroom the first or last ten minutes of class.</li> <li>4. Use the restroom closest to your classroom. One student per stall. No Cell Phone or Bags during class time</li> <li>5. Keep bags and backpacks in the classroom for the duration of the class period.</li> <li>6. Exit parking lot upon arrival. Parking lots are off-limits during your class time and passing periods.</li> <li>7. During lunch, while on campus, ALL students must remain in the courtyard or cafeteria.</li> <li>8. Off-campus lunch privileges are for eligible Juniors and Seniors ONLY.</li> <li>9. Food delivery services are NOT allowed.</li> <li>10. All students must follow the dress code.</li> </ol>	<p>Prepare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be present and punctual.</li> <li>• Prioritize learning.</li> <li>• Have supplies and assignments ready.</li> </ul> <p>Attitude Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be ready and willing to learn.</li> <li>• Give maximum effort through positive participation.</li> <li>• Resolve to be successful.</li> </ul> <p>Work Responsibly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistently complete quality work on time.</li> <li>• Proactively seek support.</li> <li>• Demonstrate academic integrity.</li> </ul> <p>Show Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For themselves, others, and the campus.</li> <li>• Treat others with kindness.</li> <li>• Resolve conflict peacefully.</li> </ul>

## Campus Policy for the Use of AI Programs

This policy aims to establish guidelines for the responsible and ethical use of AI programs, including ChatGPT, in our learning environment. The use of AI programs can enhance our educational experience when used appropriately and with prior teacher approval. However, if used incorrectly, the use of ChatGPT and other tools can severely limit the potential learning goals for students.

### Guidelines:

1. **Prior Teacher Approval:** All usage of AI programs requires prior approval from the teacher. Before incorporating any AI tool into an assignment or activity, you must discuss your intent with the teacher.
2. **Responsible Use:** AI programs should complement learning, not replace it. Use AI as a tool to assist your understanding and creativity, but do not rely on it exclusively for assignments.
3. **Originality and Attribution:** All work generated with the assistance of AI programs must be original. Plagiarism, even if AI-generated, is not acceptable. Properly attribute AI-generated content if it is used in your assignments.
4. **Academic Integrity:** Maintain academic integrity in all AI-assisted work. Any violation of academic honesty will be subject to appropriate consequences.
5. **Privacy and Data Security:** Respect the privacy and data security of yourself and others when using AI programs. Do not share sensitive information or engage in any unethical activities.

**6. Assistance, Not Substitution:** AI programs are tools for assistance. They are not a substitute for your own critical thinking and understanding of the subject matter.

**7. Verbal Review:** Any assignment created with or without the use of AI programs is subject to a verbal review with the teacher. Be prepared to explain and discuss the content of your work, without the contributions or assistance of AI. If you can not adequately represent your work, consequences will be subject to the teacher's discretion. See the Academic Dishonesty policy for more information.

We embrace the use of AI programs as a means to enhance our learning experiences. However, it is crucial to maintain the integrity of our academic work and follow ethical guidelines. Remember that **prior teacher approval** is necessary for any AI-related activities, and all assignments created with AI assistance are subject to a verbal review.

By adhering to these guidelines, we can harness the power of AI to support our educational journey responsibly and effectively.

## **Custody and Legal Access Guidelines**

Our school is committed to supporting all families while ensuring student safety, privacy, and legal compliance. For families with shared custody or legal agreements in place, the following policies apply:

Parents/guardians must provide the school with a current copy of any custody agreements, court orders, or parenting plans that specify legal custody, physical custody, and visitation rights. The school cannot enforce custody arrangements unless official documentation is provided. A parent who does not have custody or visitation rights on a particular day may not come to campus to visit, pick up, or interact with the student without prior written permission from the custodial parent or as permitted by the court order unless they are employed at the school. Custodial rules still apply before and after school hours. Parents must follow the legal custody schedule even during drop-off and pick-up times. Any attempt to circumvent the custody schedule may result in the school contacting the custodial parent and/or local authorities. School staff are not mediators in family or custody disputes. If disagreements arise, parents will be directed to resolve them through the appropriate legal channels. Until then, the school will follow the custody documentation on file. Any parent or guardian who disregards custody agreements or causes disruption on school grounds may be denied campus access and referred to law enforcement if necessary.

## **Booster Club**

Booster Club members, officers, and volunteers are expected to model respectful, ethical, and supportive behavior at all times. All interactions should reflect positively on the school, avoid personal agendas, and maintain professionalism both in person and online. Members must respect school decisions, follow all campus and district policies, avoid conflicts of interest, and communicate constructively with staff, students, and fellow parents. Behavior that disrupts the school environment, violates policies, or disrespects others may result in removal from the Booster Club or loss of privileges.