

DOCTORS CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK AND CODE OF CONDUCT 2009 – 2010 CLARIFICATIONS

The purpose of this page is to clarify various practices and policies referred to in the 2009– 2010 Student/Parent Handbook and the Student Code of Conduct.

Code of Student Conduct

1. Cell phone confiscations (pg. 4, “USE OF PORTABLE ELECTRONIC DEVICES”) Cell phones that are confiscated on a Friday may not be available for retrieval until the following school day.
2. Absence from school without permission (pg. 5, Group 3 Infractions) Students absent from school without the knowledge and permission of a parent or guardian will be considered to be skipping school. Such absences will fall under Group 3 Infractions.
3. Forgery (pg 5, Group 4 Infractions) Forgery shall be defined as “The signing of another person’s name without their permission and/or with the intent to deceive.”
4. False Accusation The Miami Dade-County Public Schools Code of Conduct defines false accusation as “the intentional making of false accusations that may jeopardize the professional reputation, employment or professional certification of a teacher or member of the staff.” Doctors Charter School adopts this definition and places false accusation within group 6 infractions.
5. Disorderly Conduct The Miami Dade-County Public Schools Code of Conduct defines disorderly conduct as conduct that “significantly disrupts all or portions of the campus’ activities, school sponsored events and school bus transportation” and “Disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, and/or welfare of others.” Doctors Charter School adopts this definition of disorderly conduct and places it within group 6 infractions.

Student / Parent Handbook

1. Enrollment Requirements (pg. 9) The list of items that must be provided by the student in order to complete the enrollment process shall also be required prior to attending classes at Doctors Charter School.
2. Academic Policies (pg. 9) The evaluation of a student’s GPA at the end of a school year for purposes of determining whether or not that student shall be placed on academic probation is based only upon *that year’s* unweighted GPA, which will not be reflected on the report card. A cumulative average consisting of more than one year’s work is not considered.
3. Graduation Credit Requirements (pg. 18) The number of Elective credits required to graduate from Doctors Charter School is 8.5. A Capstone Project is currently not required by the school.
4. Attendance: Students on campus (pg. 22) After school, students who are not involved in supervised activities after 3:45 must report to the designated after school area to wait for pick-up. At 5:00 p.m. all students not involved in a school-sponsored activity under the direct supervision of an adult must leave the campus.
5. Attendance Policies: Accumulation of absences (pg. 22) Students who accumulate 10 or more unexcused absences in full-year courses and students who accumulate 5 or more unexcused absences in semester courses are subject to temporary or permanent withholding of final grades and course credit. In keeping with Miami-Dade County Schools policies, these students may also be placed on attendance probation. Students who have had grades or credit temporarily withheld may be required to complete a school service project prior to release of grades or assigning of course credit. Students who accumulate 10 or more absences for any reason may be barred from participating in extracurricular activities.
6. Medical Appointments (pg. 24) When it becomes necessary for a student to leave school during the school day for a medical appointment, a parent, guardian, or other authorized adult must come to the school and sign the student out before they leave campus. This applies to all students. In all cases where a student misses part or all of a school day due to a medical appointment, the student must present appropriate documentation of his or her medical visit upon return to school. Appropriate documentation consists of a note on the medical professional’s office stationery including the student’s name and the time and date of the appointment. The note must be signed by the medical practitioner or the office staff.
7. Tardy to School (pg. 24) Appropriate documentation of illness or doctor’s appointment resulting in being tardy to school must be presented upon the student’s arrival in order to have the tardy considered excused.
8. Driving Privileges/On Campus Parking (pg. 26) Students parking on the DCS campus must have a valid parking permit issued by the Office. Seniors will receive priority in the assignment of parking spaces, though not all seniors will receive permits. Receipt *and maintenance* of a parking permit will be conditioned on an applicant’s academic achievement, behavior and attendance. Permits will not be issued to students owing the school fees.
9. Illness (pg 27) A student who leaves class or is out of bounds due to illness or personal reasons must report immediately to the Office. Administrative staff may then allow that student to remain in the office or the clinic for a short time, require them to resume their daily schedule or require them to go home. Students who are sent home must follow the sign-out procedures outlined under the “Medical Appointments” section (item #5 above).
10. PE Uniform (pg 30) The 2009/2010 DCS PE uniform adds a white t-shirt with the DCS logo.
11. Vending Machines (pg. 30) Vending machines may be used only before and after school.