

BRUCE MULKEY, PRINCIPAL
901 North Street West
Vidalia, Georgia 30474
(912) 537-7931

VIDALIA HIGH SCHOOL
2024-2025
Student Handbook



"Invest, Ignite, Inspire, Impact"

STRATEGIC PLAN		
	Vidalia City Schools	Vidalia High School
Vision:	Setting the pace in equipping our students to be productive citizens.	VHS will become a high-functioning Professional Learning Community in order to set the pace in equipping our students to be productive citizens.
Mission:	Invest in relationships, Ignite learning, Inspire excellence, Impact community	
We are committed to:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Investing in diverse and inclusive relationships to create a positive and safe learning environment for all. ➔ Igniting purposeful, innovative, and reflective practices through a culture of collaboration and professional learning. ➔ Inspiring excellence by demonstrating critical thinking abilities, upholding ethical standards, and pursuing academic and extracurricular interests ➔ Impacting our community through partnerships with all stakeholders and shared accountability for student success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Working in collaborative teams with collective responsibility for student learning. ➔ Ensuring a guaranteed and viable curriculum for ALL students. ➔ Using common assessments to monitor student learning. ➔ Using common assessment data to strengthen teaching and learning. ➔ Providing systematic interventions and extensions.
Strategic Initiatives:	<p>I. Academic Achievement and Student Success</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To increase students' readiness for post-secondary options ➔ To increase mastery of content in all areas ➔ To improve use of effective instructional strategies in all content areas ➔ To improve data driven instructional practices <p>II. Quality Staff Learning & Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To recruit highly qualified staff ➔ To improve and sustain staff knowledge ➔ To retain highly qualified staff <p>III. Communication & Stakeholder Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To increase partnerships with community agencies and organizations ➔ To increase quality family engagement ➔ To increase effective internal and external communication <p>IV. Organizational & Operational Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To improve facility safety and security ➔ To maximize financial efficiency and effectiveness ➔ To develop and improve cohesive operational processes and practices <p>V. Positive Culture & Climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To develop and sustain positive relationships ➔ To improve practices promoting a positive learning culture ➔ To improve mental health, wellness, and social emotional supports for staff and students 	

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

The Vidalia Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or handicapping conditions in education programs, activities or employment.

Welcome to Vidalia High School!

We're excited to welcome you to Vidalia High School. At VHS, we are committed to ensuring high levels of learning for all of our students and to providing an education that will prepare them for post-secondary success. We're proud of the academic opportunities that we offer including Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, Honors, and a variety of CTAE courses and pathways.

Our staff is also committed to providing a first-class high school experience that engages our students in opportunities to learn and experience success beyond the classroom. We encourage all of our students to get involved in as many extracurricular activities as possible. We have opportunities for all students - no matter their interests or experiences. The advisors and coaches in all of our fine arts, clubs, athletics, and other organizations are eager to work with your family.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Go Indians!

Bruce Mulkey
Principal
Vidalia High School

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Table of Contents

[Equal Education Opportunities](#)..... pg. 4

[Public Participation Procedure](#)..... pg. 4

[Vidalia City Schools System Calendar](#)..... pg. 5

[Vidalia High School Bell Schedule](#)..... pg. 6

[Expectations for Learning](#)..... pg. 7

[Honor Code](#)..... pg. 13

[Expectations for Behavior](#)..... pg. 14

[Students Rights, Responsibilities, and Limitations](#)..... pg. 14

[General Information and Procedures](#)..... pg. 16

[School Parking](#)..... pg. 17

[Directory Information](#)..... pg. 17

[Visitors, Children, Friends or Relatives](#)..... pg. 17

[Non-Resident Tuition](#)..... pg. 18

[Employment Certificates \(Work Permits\)](#) pg. 18

[Financial Obligations](#)..... pg. 18

[Medical](#)..... pg. 20

[Media Center](#)..... pg. 21

[Cafeteria Program](#)..... pg. 24

[Guidance, Counseling, Attendance, and Standardized Testing Programs](#)..... pg. 25

[Graduation Requirements](#)..... pg. 30

[Special Programs](#)..... pg. 33

[Federal Programs](#)..... pg. 34

[Parents Right to Know](#)..... pg. 34

[Athletics and Extracurricular Activities](#)..... pg. 35

[Criteria For Lettering](#)..... pg. 38

[Gender Equity in Sports - Grievance Procedures](#)..... pg. 43

[Clubs and Organizations](#)..... pg. 44

[Student Dress Code](#)..... pg. 48

[REP the V Matrix](#)..... pg. 51

[Vidalia City Bus Expectations](#)..... pg. 53

[Harassment](#)..... pg. 53

[Guidelines for Student Misconduct](#)..... pg. 54

Equal Educational Opportunities

The Vidalia City School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color or national origin, sex or disability in any student program. It is the policy of the Board of Education to comply fully with the requirements of Title VI, Title IX, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and all accompanying regulations. Any student, parent or other person who believes he or she or any student has been discriminated against or harassed in violation of this policy must make a complaint in accordance with the procedures outlined in VBOE Policy JAA - Equal Educational Opportunities. This policy and all policies of the Vidalia City Board of Education can be viewed on the following web site: vidaliacityschools.org

Public Participation Procedure

[Public Participation Procedure](#)

Please click on the link above to find information regarding Public Participation at a Vidalia City School Board Meeting.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

VIDALIA CITY SCHOOLS 2024-2025 School Calendar	
Preplanning/Staff Professional Learning	July 29 - August 1
First Student Day	August 2
Labor Day Holiday	September 2
Staff Professional Learning/Student Holiday	September 3
Progress Reports (K-12)	September 5
Parent Conference Day (Student Holiday)	October 3
Mid-Term	October 4
Staff & Student Holiday (K-12)	October 4-7
Staff Professional Learning (Student Holiday)	October 8
Mid-Term Reports (First Semester)	October 10
Progress Reports (K-12)	November 14
Thanksgiving Holidays	November 25-29
Staff Professional Learning (Student Holiday)	December 2
First Semester Ends	December 18
Christmas/New Year Holidays	December 19 - January 1
Staff Professional Learning (Student Holiday)	January 2-3
First Day for students Second Semester	January 6
First Semester Report Cards (K-12)	January 9
MLK Holiday	January 20
Progress Reports (K-12)	February 6
Student Holiday/Staff Professional Learning	February 14
President's Day Holiday	February 17
Mid-Term (Second Semester)	March 7
Parent Conference Day/Student Holiday	March 13
Staff Professional Learning (Student Holiday)	March 14
Mid-Term Reports (K-12)	March 20
Staff Professional Learning (Student Holiday)	March 28
Spring Holidays	March 31 - April 4
Progress Reports (K-12)	April 17
Second Semester Ends/Last Student Day	May 21
Graduation	May 23
Post-Planning	May 22-23
Second Semester Report Cards (K-12)	TBA

Bell Schedules for 2024-2025

	FULL Mondays & Fridays	W.I.N. Tuesdays - Thursdays
AM Detention ISS Room	7:00 - 7:25 AM	7:00 - 7:25 AM
1st Block	7:30 AM - 9:00 AM	7:30 AM - 8:50 AM
AM Break	9:00 - 9:10 AM	8:50 - 8:58 AM
2nd Block	9:10 AM - 10:40 AM	8:58 - 10:18 AM
W.I.N.		10:23 - 11:03 AM
3rd Block	<p>1st Lunch 10:45 - 11:20 AM (Lunch) 11:25 - 12:55 PM (Class)</p> <p>2nd Lunch 10:45 - 12:20 PM (Class) 12:20 - 12:55 PM (Lunch)</p>	<p>1st Lunch 11:06 - 11:40 AM (Lunch) 11:45 - 1:05 PM (Class)</p> <p>2nd Lunch 11:08 - 12:28 PM (Class) 12:31 - 1:05 PM (Lunch)</p>
4th Block	1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	1:10 - 2:30 PM
PM Detention Cafeteria	2:35 PM - 3:00 PM	2:35 PM - 3:00 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Due to state testing & assemblies, bell schedules are subject to change. All changes will be announced & posted in grade-level Google Classrooms. → The first 11 days of school of first semester, we will be on a W.I.N. schedule. → The first day of second semester will also be a W.I.N. schedule. 		

Expectations for Learning

Tier 1 Instruction-

Tier I Instruction is defined by the teaching and learning given to ***all students*** during their regularly scheduled class time. During the daily teaching and learning process, teachers gather evidence of student learning using a variety of formative assessments and checks to determine student understanding. Students are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate mastery of academic content, academic skills, and academic behaviors. Measurable goals are set content teams for the whole class and for individual students displaying difficulties. Initial interventions (called preventions) are attempted in the classroom to address the academic and/or behavior concerns.

*Students not requiring additional support will receive extensions during W.I.N.

Tier 2 Instruction/Intervention (W.I.N.)-

***W.I.N= What I Need**

If a student is not successful using preventions employed at Tier 1, the student will receive Tier 2 support during our W.I.N. period. Content teams will determine if the student has or has not met proficiency during Tier 1 instruction, exhibits a significant difference from his/her grade-level peers in academic or behavioral issues, and/or is learning at a much slower rate and at risk of falling further behind. During Tier 2, the teacher collaborates with their content level teams to seek out assistance from other colleagues concerning the struggling student (team leader, social worker, counselor, case manager, speech pathologist, psychologist, other teachers, for example).

Grading System

Grades will be issued accordingly:

90-105	A
80 - 89	B
70 - 79	C
Below 70	F
Incomplete	I

Honor Roll

In order to be named to the Vidalia High School Arrow Honor Roll, a student must earn a **90.0 or higher in each individual academic class**, which are English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language. To be named to the Honor Roll, a student must have earned an **academic average** of 90.0 or higher in academic classes as mentioned above.

Report Card

Mid term report cards are issued each nine weeks. Progress reports will be sent home approximately four and a half weeks into each semester. Report cards are issued at the end of each semester.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students need the following number of credits to be promoted to the next grade:

5 credits for 10th grade

11 credits for 11th grade

17 credits for 12th grade

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Final Exams: Make-Up Tests

A student who missed taking a final exam needs to contact the principal for approval to make up the final exam. The principal may use his discretion based upon knowledge of the student by teacher input and/or his personal knowledge of the situation in determining excuses for examinations. Excuses from the proper authorities may be required and parental contact may be made to determine the legitimacy of the student's request to make up a test.

If the decision is made for a student to make up a test, it will be the student's responsibility to make up the test/exam at the convenience of the teacher. Once the student contacts the teacher, the teacher may set the test/exam time. The test/exam will be made up within one week of the regular school exam time, or a zero will be given for the exam. A twenty-four hour minimum will be followed, unless agreed upon by both parties. Exceptions to this rule will be allowed in the case of an extended hospital stay or other extenuating circumstances which would prevent the student from coming to school to make up the test/exam.

If a student has prior knowledge of missing a scheduled final exam, the absence must be approved by the principal.

Retests will not be considered once an exam has been taken.

The principal reserves the right to make a decision on what is in the best interest of VHS. Any appeal of the principal's decision may be made to the superintendent within 24 hours of receiving that decision.

The weight of all final exams will be averaged as 20% of the student's final semester grade.

Challenging A Course Grade

Students who challenge a grade for a course must do so within 90 school days of when the grade was earned or the challenge **will not** be addressed.

Final Exams

All students will be required to take and complete their final assessment in each course.

There will be no exemptions for final exams.

Graduating seniors whose final exam resulted in their final grade dropping below a 70 must make an appeal to the principal stating why they wish to retake a final exam. Only valid excuses will be considered and the principal reserves the right to make decisions on what is a valid excuse or to request written notes from the proper source. This appeal must be made within three days of taking the original final exam. After compiling and reviewing the information, the principal will make a decision on whether the student is eligible to retake a final exam.

Should a student disagree with the principal's decision, he/she may appeal that decision to the superintendent within 24 hours of notification of the principal's decision. If a student disagrees with the decision of the superintendent, he/she may appeal to the Vidalia City Board of Education. This appeal must be made to the Board Chairperson within 24 hours of the student's receiving notification from the superintendent.

Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment (DE):

Vidalia City Schools offer advanced courses specifically designed for our most academically capable students. These rigorous courses are designed to provide these students an opportunity to acquire the content and skills necessary to be successful in postsecondary institutions.

An additional 5 rigor points will be awarded to a student's grade when the student takes and earns a grade of 70 or higher in an honors, advanced placement, or dual enrollment course. Those who earn a grade of below 70 will not be awarded rigor points and will not earn credit for the course.

Honors:

Honors courses taken at Vidalia High School offer more rigorous and in depth coursework that challenges students. Students taking honors level courses will be required to be more proficient grade-level material with the intent to extend student learning further than what the state standard requires. Participation in honors courses will help students to be more prepared and successful in Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, and ultimately college classes.

Advanced Placement:

Taking AP classes and exams can help students get ahead in high school and college. Students will:

- **Build skills and confidence:**
 - AP students learn essential time management and study skills needed for college and career success.
 - They dig deeper into students that interest them and learn to tap their creativity and their problem-solving skills to address course challenges.
- **Stand out to colleges.**
 - Students who take AP courses send a signal to colleges that they're serious about their education and that they're willing to challenge themselves with rigorous coursework.
 - 85% of selective colleges and universities report that a student's AP experience favorably impacts admission decisions.
- **Succeed in college.**
 - Research shows that students who receive a score of 2 on their AP Exams are ready for college work.
 - Research shows that students who receive a score of 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and have higher graduation rates than their non-AP peers.
 - 3 out of 4 AP students enrolled in a four-year college start school with some AP credit.

Universities around the world recognize AP when making admission decisions, course requisites, and awarding university credit. In fact, half of students entering four-year colleges are now starting school with some credit from AP courses.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Dual Enrollment

Dual Enrollment is designed to prepare students for college and career opportunities leading students to postsecondary institutions for an industry recognized certification or licensure, an associate and/or higher college degree, and successful employment. Georgia has created a singular program known as Dual Enrollment for students in grades 10-12 who qualify to participate. Students may enroll on a part-time or full-time basis as a Dual Enrollment student and take college courses at their high school or on a postsecondary campus. Students will receive high school and college credit simultaneously when attending and passing approved college classes.

Vidalia High School Dual Enrollment Policy:

- Dual Enrollment students are enrolled in two schools at the same time.
- If you fail or withdraw from any course, it may affect your graduation status, extracurricular and/or athletic eligibility.
- If you receive a grade in a DE class, the grade will be on your high school transcript.
- You must notify your counselor prior to changing or withdrawing from any class.
- You are responsible for keeping up with all school events and activities. (Cap and gown order, pictures, registration, club meetings, voting for senior awards, etc.) Make sure you regularly check your Google Classroom Account and all school social media sites.
- If you are on campus, you are expected to follow the school rules and dress code. This applies to all DE classes on campus.
- Beginning summer 2020 several colleges will provide letter grades instead of numerical grades for each student. The conversion chart below will be used for these grades.
- Weighting Policy: 5 rigor points will be added to the letter grade for degree level academic CORE courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies & Modern Language).
 - Any elective course (including academic electives like PSYC 1101) will **not** receive any extra points and will only use the conversion chart below.
 - The conversion chart and the awarding of weight for core classes will be used for all colleges that provide letter grades to VHS.
 - Rigor points will only be added if the student earns a final grade of 70 or higher or if the institution assigns letter grades a C or higher.

Dual Enrollment	Grade Conversion Chart for Letter Grades:
Grade at College	Grade at High School
A	95
B	85
C	75
D	65
F	60

Georgia Virtual School

The Georgia Virtual School is a program of the Georgia Department of Education's Office of Technology Services. The program operates in partnership with schools and parents to offer middle school and high school level courses across the state. Georgia Virtual School provides a teacher led, virtual classroom environment. Students at Vidalia High School are permitted to pursue opportunities at Georgia Virtual School, with the understanding that courses they choose

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

to take are a part of their schedule and the grade they receive goes on the VHS transcript. If a student takes a Georgia Virtual class and fails it or withdraws from it, they will not be permitted to take another GVS course.

Parent Teacher Communication

Parents may request a conference with their child's teacher by emailing, writing a note to the teacher or calling the school to make an appointment.

Work-Based Learning (WBL) Program

The WBL program connects classroom learning with real workplace interactions. WBL serves as the first-hand opportunity for high school students to use the knowledge learned during the 3-courses of a chosen career pathway and complete the duties, tasks, and job responsibilities as a productive member of the workforce.

In order to enroll in WBL, a student must meet the following requirements:

1. Complete a WBL Application
2. Be a Junior or Senior
3. Complete a 3-Course Career Pathway
4. Gain approval from Administration (Discipline/Attendance Record)
5. Gain approval from Guidance Counselor (on track for graduation)

Once a student has met the enrollment requirements, he/she must complete the following:

1. Submit Required Documents (Training Plan and Training Agreement)
2. Maintain acceptable Discipline/Attendance/Grades Records)
3. Work at least 10 hours per week (1 block) or 15 hours per week (2 blocks) hours per week
4. Work at an approved worksite (Tax ID # required-approved by WBL Coordinator)
5. Attend WBL monthly meetings
6. Submit monthly assignments (Time Cards, Assignments, and Worksite Pictures)
7. Participate in onsite evaluations
8. Optional: Participate in a CTSO

There are four different WBL categories:

1. Cooperative Education (Co-op) - A student works and completes job tasks that relate to a CTAE Career Pathway he or she is CURRENTLY enrolled (ex. works at a salon-enrolled in Cosmetology, works at a restaurant-enrolled in Family & Consumer Science)
2. Internship - A student has successfully completed a CTAE Career Pathway and is working at a job that connects classroom learning and job tasks.
3. Employability Skills Development (ESD) - Student participation in ESD is limited to 25% and a student may only be classified as ESD for one semester. ESD students work in a job that does not relate to classroom learning.
4. Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) - YAP is considered to be the most prestigious of all WBL categories. Similar to Internships, YAP students connect classroom learning with job tasks. In addition to completing a 3-course career pathway, YAP students must earn an industry recognized credential and work at least 720 hours in a related career. The YAP Coordinator is primarily responsible for supervision while the student is still in high school as well as maintaining contact after graduation in order to document the conditions of completion. YAP students must have a very specific and well-defined career interest that can be explored in the local community.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Teaching as a Profession (TAP) Program

Teaching as a Profession is a career pathway for high school students wishing to enter the field of education. Students will be given the opportunity to request a school (J. D. Dickerson, S. D. Meadows, or J. R. Trippe), a subject, and a mentor teacher. Students will participate in an off-campus field experience under the direct supervision of a certified teacher (mentor teacher) during their TAP block. During the TAP block, students will have the opportunity to observe highly qualified teachers, assist with classroom development, and acquire personal traits for becoming a successful teacher. TAP students will complete weekly and monthly activities including assignments, journals, and classroom pictures with their mentor. The TAP Coordinator will complete observations throughout the semester for all TAP students.

In order to enroll in the TAP program, students must:

1. Gain approval from Administration and Guidance Office
2. Complete the TAP Application
3. Submit required documentation

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Honor Code

Students attending Vidalia High School are expected to conduct themselves honorably in pursuit of their education. Cheating, plagiarism, and fraud violate ethical codes of conduct and will not be accepted at Vidalia High School. The Honor Code expressly forbids academic violations. Students who commit themselves to upholding the Honor Code will be instilled with a sense of integrity and personal achievement that will last beyond their high school years.

Responsibilities

Students will...

- exercise academic honesty in all aspects of their work
- prepare sufficiently for all types of assessments
- seek extra help from teachers
- avoid engaging in cheating, plagiarizing, and lying
- use sources in prescribed manner
- report any violations of the Honor Code

Teachers will...

- develop, model, and sustain ethical practices within the classroom setting
- report violations to counselors and administrators
- confer with those who violate the Honor Code
- contact the student's parent or guardian regarding a violation
- record a failing grade for the assignment

Parents will...

- discuss the Honor Code with their child to ensure understanding
- encourage their child to maintain high standards with regard to integrity, honesty, and personal responsibility
- support faculty and administration in enforcing the Honor Code

Administrators will...

- ensure that all faculty, students, and parents receive the Honor Code
- help contribute to school- wide environment that encourages adherence to the Honor Code
- require teachers to enforce the Honor Code
- maintain accurate records of the Honor Code violations
- ensure that the Honor Code is being applied consistently throughout the school

Pledge

Vidalia High School students pledge to uphold the values of academic integrity with each submission of student work.

“I pledge that the work I submit is my own work. I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid or unfair advantage.”

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Expectations for Behavior

At Vidalia High School we believe that respect, excellence, and professionalism are crucial for maintaining a positive environment and fostering personal growth. These principles should guide behavior across all school settings:

- 1. Respect:** Make positive connections with others by treating them with kindness, consideration, and empathy. Be aware of personal space and boundaries in all interactions. Acknowledge differences in opinions, backgrounds, and identities. Listen actively and attentively during class discussions and group activities. Be good visitors and good hosts. Demonstrate good sportsmanship as players and fans.
- 2. Excellence:** Strive for academic, personal, athletic, and ethical excellence in all endeavors. Encourage others to demonstrate excellence in all interactions. Set high standards for yourself and pursue goals with grit and perseverance. Manage your time well. Seek opportunities for growth and improvement both inside and outside the classroom. Help keep our facilities top notch by reporting problems and taking care of our school.
- 3. Professionalism:** Conduct yourself with maturity, responsibility, and integrity. Be where you are supposed to be when you are supposed to be there. Be prepared for class, assemblies, club activities, and events. Engage actively in learning activities and contribute constructively to group work. Dress appropriately and adhere to dress codes during school functions and events. Be conscious of your conversations and use language that is appropriate to the setting. Represent yourself and your school with dignity and pride.

Whether in class, assemblies, pep rallies, the cafeteria, field trips, athletic events, or hallways, uphold these principles consistently. By embracing these values, you contribute to a positive and successful high school experience for yourself and others. REP the V in all we do!

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Limitations

The Board of Education is a political subdivision created under the laws of Georgia, charged with the obligation and duty of operating the public schools located in the school district. The Board, in collaboration with its professional staff, has the primary responsibility for the development of an understanding and appreciation of our representative form of government, the rights and responsibilities of the individual, and the legal processes whereby necessary changes are made.

The school is a community, and the rules and regulations of a school are the laws of the community. All those enjoying the rights of citizenship in the school community must also accept the responsibilities of citizenship. A basic responsibility of those who enjoy the rights of citizenship is to respect the laws of the community.

Recent court decisions have clearly indicated that young people in the United States have the right to receive a free public education, and the deprivation of that right may occur only for just cause and in accordance with due process of law.

The courts have also stated that students have the rights of citizenship and that these rights may not be abridged, obstructed, or in other ways altered in accordance with the due process of law. The First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution prohibits states from unduly infringing upon the rights of speech and expression. In the school setting this restriction on state action limits the manner and extent to which the schools may limit the speech and expression of students.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Administrators and teachers also have their rights and duties. The teacher is required by law to maintain a suitable environment for learning, and administrators have the responsibility for maintaining and facilitating the educational program.

Teachers have the authority to discipline students in their classes. The principal is authorized to suspend students for cause. The Board of Education is also authorized to suspend or expel students for cause. The following rules and due process procedures are designed to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties.

It should be noted that certain acts listed in the rules governing student conduct are punishable under local, state and federal laws.

The Board has the responsibility to provide protection for students and employees and to provide and maintain a safe and orderly environment for education to take place.

OFF CAMPUS DURING OR AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

Students may be subject to disciplinary action for incidents that occur off campus during or after school hours. A student who has been arrested, charged, or convicted in a court for a felony or for an offense which would be considered to be a felony if the student were an adult may be subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, short-term suspension and referral to a disciplinary tribunal which may result in the student being excluded from school.

Also a student whose presence at school is reasonably certain to endanger other students or staff or cause substantial disruption to the educational climate may be subject to disciplinary action, including in-school suspension, short-term suspension and referral to a disciplinary tribunal which may result in the student being excluded from school.

If a student has any problem, complaint, grievance, sexual harassment charge, etc., he/she needs to report the incident to the administration. Local board policy(s) will be followed. Any incident that involves sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

A new student attempting to enroll at Vidalia High School may be denied admission if they fit any of the following criteria:

1. Has committed a felony (may or may not have been adjudicated by the courts); the student does have the right to demand a hearing before the disciplinary tribunal.
*OCGA Section 20-2-768.
2. Has been permanently expelled from another school system or owes another school system ISS/OSS time
3. Has been permanently expelled from another Alternative school.
4. Or any other action that the administration deems refusal of admission; the student does have the right to demand a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal.

General Information and Procedures

These are daily requirements for students at Vidalia High School. Please follow these guidelines for success.

Announcements - All general announcements are scheduled daily. The office will not interrupt classes with announcements unless approved by administration.

Assemblies - Assemblies are held at various times throughout the year for awards presentations and informational purposes.

Emergency Drills - Fire and natural disaster drill instructions are provided to staff and students and practiced monthly. Procedures are discussed with students. When an alarm is sounded, all students must proceed as directed in a quick, quiet and orderly manner, remaining quiet to hear any possible change of instructions. An announcement will be sounded when the drill is complete or it is safe to return to class.

The Vidalia City School System has adopted and trained staff in the use of Centegix Emergency Response System. Centegix routes requests for help to key personnel and emergency response agencies instantly to lessen response time.

Lockdown procedures are discussed and taught to students and drills are conducted on an annual basis.

Copy Fees - Any request for copies of documents that government entities can provide (examples: birth certificates, social security card, immunization records, etc.) will incur a fee of \$3.00 per document, or notarization of documents.

Social Events - There are several social events held each year for the benefit of the students. All school rules apply. Graduates or students from other schools are guests and are required to get permission to attend. The school reserves the right to refuse anyone on the grounds during social events.

Solicitation - Selling products, materials, etc. by organizations other than those sanctioned by the board is prohibited. Fundraising or selling of items by clubs must be approved by the principal.

Messages - Messages received in the office will be given to the student between classes, at lunch and after school. Classes will not be interrupted unless it is an emergency. The office phone may only be used with the administration's permission.

Medicines - Medicine will not be administered by the front office. Students will report to the nurse's station if medications are to be administered. They should have a hall pass from their respective teacher indicating the destination. The nurse will provide admission slips back to class. The phone may only be used with the administration's permission. (More in "Medical".)

Automobiles on Campus - Students cannot park on campus without a parking permit. Doing so can result in the car being towed at the owner's expense. Permits must be purchased at lunch or before or after school during the first week of school. Permits may also be purchased throughout the school year when the student acquires their license. **Cost is \$20.00 and proof of a valid driver's license and insurance is required to park on campus.** (Refer to the school parking regulations.)

School Parking Regulations

All students that drive are subject to our drug testing policy. Students will be assigned a parking space. Parking permits must be placed on the rearview mirror and visible at all times. Failure to do so could result in the car being towed at the owner's expense. Vidalia High School reserves the right to search any car on campus and to suspend or revoke parking privileges due to discipline (including attendance).

1. It is a privilege to park personal vehicles on school grounds subject to control of the school authorities.
2. All automobiles parked on school grounds must be registered with the school authorities and display a current school-issued decal.
3. In order to obtain a decal, a student must apply with proper school officials. You must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance on the vehicle.
4. Students understand that by parking on campus, any vehicle parked on campus may be subject to search and seizure by designated school officials at any time, according to state law.
5. Parking rules will be strictly enforced.
 - Students can only park in their assigned spot.
 - Students cannot park in the teachers' parking lot.
 - Identification must be visible, no rear-parking.
6. The posted speed limit on campus is 10 mph.
7. Failure to comply with state driving laws, rules, and regulations may result in disciplinary action from the school and referral to the appropriate authorities.

Directory Information

Vidalia High School hereby gives notice that it is our policy to disclose Directory Information to the public. Directory information in this school consists of a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most previous educational agency or institution attended by a student. The military has the same access to a student's records as the Post-Secondary institutions or prospective employers.

Schools are required to provide the military with a list of the student's name, address and telephone number. **Contact the principal or counselor at (912) 537-7931 no later than September 1st if you do not want your child's directory information to be disclosed.**

Visitors, Children, Friends or Relatives

Children, relatives, etc. of students may not be brought to school. This applies to out-of-town as well as local friends/relatives. Graduates of Vidalia High School may visit faculty members at the conclusion of the school day.

Upon arrival on the VHS campus, all visitors must report to the office to check with the administration. Approved visitors will be given a visitor's badge and a designated time to remain on campus.

Students will not be released to anyone during emergency procedures. Once it is safe to move students, we will follow all standard dismissal procedures or our family reunification plan.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Non-Resident Tuition

The Vidalia City Board of Education has set the Non-Resident Tuition for the **2024-2025 school year at \$200 per child**. This fee applies to students who reside outside the city limits of Vidalia, Georgia... refer to VBOE Policy JBCB.

Tax credits are allowed for non-resident students whose parents pay school taxes for the City of Vidalia, Georgia. Tuition may be partially or fully paid by presenting a City of Vidalia Ad Valorem Tax Receipt from the preceding year. (The school tax portion of the bill will be deducted from tuition.)

- No prorated tuition refunds will be given for students who move out of the city during the school term.
- Tuition is due within the first 20 days of enrollment, those not paid in full by this date will be withdrawn.

Tuition should be paid to the school where the child will attend. Each school will begin receiving tuition payments the first day of pre-planning during regular business hours and must be paid in full (or arrangements made with the building principal) on or before the last day of pre-planning. Tuition is non-refundable. No progress reports or report cards or other school documents will be issued to a non-resident student until tuition payments are current.

If you have any questions regarding non-resident tuition, please call your child's school.

The district reserves the right to not accept all students in the same household, if the students are out of district and do not meet the requirements for enrollment. Non-residence students will be accepted on a by school basis.

Employment Certificates (Work Permits)

All work permits are handled through Vidalia High School's front office. Please see Mrs. Howard.

Financial Obligations

Any student who has any type of financial obligations with Vidalia High School must take care of that obligation before transcripts will be sent or before the student will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises. There will be a \$25 charge on all returned checks received by VHS.

Vidalia City Schools FERPA Directory Notice

The *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Vidalia City Schools, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Vidalia City Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised Vidalia City Schools to the contrary in accordance with Vidalia City Schools' procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow Vidalia City Schools to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.
- Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.
- If you do not want Vidalia City Schools to disclose any or all of the types of information designated below as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify your student's school in writing by August 09, 2024. Vidalia City Schools has designated the following information as directory information:
 - Address
 - Telephone listing
 - Electronic mail address
 - Photograph
 - Date and place of birth
 - Major field of study
 - Dates of attendance
 - Grade level
 - Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
 - Weight and height of members of athletic teams
 - Degrees, honors, and awards received
 - The most recent educational agency or institution attended
 - Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user
 - A student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student ID badge, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a PIN, password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

Medical

Dispensing of Medication

At the written request of the parent/guardian, the school nurse or staff may administer medication in accordance with the following procedures:

- The parent/legal guardian must complete the required “Medication Authorization Form” when medication must be administered during the school day. For prescription medication, a physician must sign the form. The form can be obtained from your school nurse when the medication is delivered to the school. The completed form **MUST** accompany all medication. Any changes in medication or the dosage will require a new authorization form.
- All medications administered at school must be in the original container and given to the school nurse or office personnel **ONLY**. Students may not have medication in their possession, except with a physician’s written request/order. Under no circumstances should medication be shown or shared with other students. Aspirin products must also have a physician signature prior to administration.
- Unused medication should be obtained from the school nurse within one week after medication is discontinued; otherwise the school nurse will dispose of the medication.
- A daily record will be kept on all prescribed and non-prescribed medication. This record will include the student’s name, date/time, medication administered, and signature of supervising personnel.
- The nurse can only give medication at prescribed times. Any changes must be in writing.

Student Illness

Sick students who are considered contagious must not be sent to school. If your child has a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, please do not send the child to school. A child must be free of fever without medication for 24 hours to be able to return to school. When a student becomes ill at school, the parent must make arrangements to pick up the student **IMMEDIATELY**.

Student Injuries

If your child sustains an injury at school and it is reported to the school nurse, the following procedures will be followed:

- Minor injuries, scrapes, and cuts will be treated. Parents will be called as deemed necessary.
- In cases of more serious injury, parents will be notified. If unavailable, the emergency contact will be notified. If neither of these persons can be reached, the child will either be transported to the hospital emergency room or an ambulance will be called depending on the circumstance and the school’s assessment of the situation.

The function of the school in relation to sudden illness and accident is one of emergency handling of these situations. School personnel shall act promptly and intelligently in emergencies for the saving of life, the prevention of further injury, and the alleviation of pain. As soon as possible, the parent or guardian shall be notified. The school is not responsible for subsequent treatment. All records of accidents occurring at school will be kept on file.

Communicable Diseases/Health Concerns

Because schools bring large numbers of children into close daily contact they serve as a focal point for the transmission of all kinds of communicable diseases. Some of the most common diseases/health concerns would include the common cold, influenza, chicken pox, head lice and measles.

Control of these illnesses depends to a great extent on observant caring parents and teachers. However, some communicable diseases require a trained eye and special treatment as well as

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

monitoring by a physician in order for one to regain good health. If a student becomes ill during school hours, the nurse will contact the parent or guardian to pick up the student. If a parent cannot be contacted, an emergency number provided will be called. If no contact can be made, the student will be kept in the office until contact can be made or until dismissal time.

When a child has symptoms of a communicable disease, such as obvious rashes or sores, nausea, high fever or similar symptoms, the parent or guardian of the child will be contacted and required to take their child home. In cases concerning head lice, a child will not be readmitted to school until first bringing some form of proof of treatment, such as a shampoo box top and a note from the Health Department, school nurse, or a physician. In addition, proof of a second treatment will be required in ten days and the child will be rechecked by the nurse. Failure to provide proof or complete follow up, (i.e. nits/head lice found in hair) will result in the child not being allowed to return to school.

The Vidalia City Schools are concerned with your child's well being intellectually, emotionally and physically. For this reason, we solicit your good judgment in keeping your child home when they are not well and seek a cooperative spirit in helping them return to school when they regain good health.

Media Center

Reading is a foundational literacy skill and is at the heart of the library environment. The Vidalia High School Media Center is committed to providing equitable access to resources in all formats for students and staff to connect, wonder, investigate, construct, express, and reflect as they grow and develop their personal and professional selves.

Policies and Procedures

- The Media Center is open Monday-Friday from 7:30-2:30.
- Respect for fellow students should be evident in the Media Center.
- Students coming from class must have a hall pass signed by their teacher.
- Please finish all food and drinks before entering the Media Center.
- Students may visit the Media Center during their lunch time for the following reasons:
 - Check out a book & read
 - Play a quiet game (Uno, checkers, Mancala, Connect 4, and Jenga)
 - Relax with a puzzle or coloring book (high school appropriate)
 - Use a desktop computer for schoolwork, research, or printing
 - Work on a project
- Students can use their lunch number or provide their first & last name to check out books and resources.
- Books may be checked out three at a time for two weeks. At the end of two weeks, books should be returned or renewed.
- All materials must be returned by the end of the school year.

Lost or Damaged Books

Students are expected to return books in the same condition as received. If books are lost or damaged, students will be responsible for the cost of replacing the book.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Lost or Damaged Chromebooks

Chromebook Cost Matrix:

- Chromebooks that are lost must be paid for.
- Students will be charged to repair or replace chromebooks that are damaged due to horseplay, negligence, or intentional actions.

Part/Repair Description	Approximate Repair Cost
AC adapter/broken	\$15.00-\$40.00
Touchpad/Keyboard	\$20.00-\$80.00
Damaged Shell	\$15.00-\$40.00
Broken Screens	\$35.00-\$75.00
Motherboard	\$135.00
Camera	\$10.00-\$20.00
Damaged Case	\$30.00
Replacement Computer Due to Neglect	\$200.00-\$250.00

Technology Policies

- Desktop computers in the Media Center are available for completing school work, conducting personal research, and for printing. (Please ask permission before printing.)
- Be sure to follow the Internet Access guidelines listed below. There should be no downloading, installing or uninstalling shall take place in the Media Center. Failure to follow these requests could result in loss of Media Center privileges.

Project Supplies

The Media Center has a modest collection of project supplies for student use. Students may use crayons, markers, the die cut machine, poster board, and a variety of paper types and colors with permission from the Media Center staff.

Internet Access

The Internet is available in the school to be used by all students and staff. It is the school's intent that the Internet be used strictly for instructional purposes. In order for students to be allowed use of the school's Internet, the parental permission portion of the Parent/Guardian Permission related to Internet usage must be completed and returned. **Failure to follow guidelines may result in disciplinary actions as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct.**

According to Vidalia City Schools Policy IFBGA, the following guidelines have been approved:

1. Transmission of copyrighted material, material which is obscene, or material which is protected by trade secret is strictly prohibited.
2. Inappropriate use will result in cancellation of the privilege of using the Internet.
3. Use of profanity and other inappropriate language is prohibited.
4. Electronic mail (e-mail) and telecommunication are not to be utilized to share confidential information about students or other employees.
5. Electronic mail (e-mail) is not private, and inappropriate or illegal messages will be reported to the authorities.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

6. Use of the network in such a way that use of the network by others is disrupted is prohibited.
7. All communications and information accessible via the network should be assumed to be subject to copyright laws.
8. Users are never to use other individual's accounts. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be denied access to the network/internet.
9. Vandalism will result in revocation of access and disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as a malicious attempt to harm or destroy equipment or data of another user, the Internet, or any other networks. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.
10. No student may install, upload, or download software without the express consent of the system administrator. Users and their parents or guardians specifically agree to indemnify the Vidalia City School District and the administrators for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of any breach of the regulations by the user.
11. Electronic mail transmission and other use of the electronic communication system by students and employees shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by the system administrator to ensure appropriate use for education or administrative purposes.
12. Parental permission form must be signed in order for a student to have access to the Internet. If there is no form on file, the student will automatically be denied the privilege of having Internet access.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Vidalia High School Cafeteria Program 2024-2025

We welcome your child to the School Nutrition Program in the Vidalia City School System. Our food service program is self-supporting, meaning we operate from monies received through payments for meals by students and staff as well as reimbursements from USDA programs. All schools offer at least two lunch choices daily. All meals are planned for children and selections are based on the food's children prefer. New foods are introduced occasionally in order to expose children to different tastes. Current monthly menus are sent home with students and posted on the system website. All menus must meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture requirements and guidelines. Our meals also meet the new meal guideline requirements set forth by USDA. Parents of students at all Vidalia City Schools, please be aware of the following:

- Behavioral expectations will follow rules designated in the REP the V matrix at each school.
- All lunches purchased in the cafeteria will be eaten in the cafeteria or designated area.
- Students cannot bring or have catered/fast food brought to them to be eaten in the cafeteria. Lunch should be brought from home if a student chooses not to participate in the free CEP meals in the NSLP at the school. Per State and Vidalia City School board policy, sack lunches can in no way promote restaurants or fast food establishments through the use of wrappers, cups, bags, etc. All foods from restaurants must be rewrapped at home and placed in a lunch box or sack.
- All students who bring lunch boxes to school will also be offered a regular meal and a “grab n go” supplement for their lunchbox as well. Fresh fruits and vegetables will be available for all students at these schools. If they choose to pick up a meal, they will be required to pick up 3 components which could be a vegetable, fruit, and plain or flavored milk.
Note: Students are NOT required to pick up milk for their plate! That is your child's choice. Water is available in all of our lunchrooms.
- Per USDA guidelines, students are encouraged to drink milk. If your child is allergic to milk, a doctor's diagnosis (NOT a parent note) is required. Water is always available.
- System and state guidelines do not allow students to bring glass containers or cans in to the cafeteria.

Extra Purchases or a la carte Items:

- Your child's student number is on their schedule & report card and is their lunch number, except JDD Primary which does not use student numbers.
- Sally D. Meadows and J.R. Trippe, and Vidalia High School students must know their student number to purchase extras.
- If a student has a negative balance, they may not charge or purchase extra items.
- You can check your child's account balance and put money on their account at www.k12paymentcenter.com

Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) at K-12

All students eat free at JDD, SDM, JRT, and VHS as we are participating in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs which allow students to eat free in Kindergarten through 12th grade. As such, no actions are required of you at these schools except to encourage your child to eat with us to maintain this program for all students.

REMINDER: Extra Entrée's or a la carte items are not included under the CEP program. Students must have cash or have money on their account.

Guidance, Counseling, Attendance, and Standardized Testing Programs

Guidance Department

The school guidance program is a comprehensive, developmental education program which is responsible for assisting the individual development of all students. There are eight areas of human growth and development for which the guidance program is responsible. They are:

1. self-understanding
2. expressing ideas,
3. interpersonal skills,
4. gathering and using information,
5. individual rights and responsibilities,
6. values and decision-making,
7. achieving employability skills, and
8. problem-solving.

QR Code for Scheduling
Appointments with a Counselor:

COUNSELOR CHECK-IN



Enrollment Requirements

In order to enter Vidalia High School, students must reside with their parents or legal guardian. In addition, the student must have been in attendance at an established secondary school within the preceding five (5) days of entry (to enter during a semester). Students not living with a parent or guardian may be allowed to enter upon investigation by a committee appointed by the Superintendent. Students must be in "good standing" from a discipline standpoint in their previous school in order to enter VHS.

Students who reside outside the jurisdiction of the Vidalia City School System must complete an application to attend Vidalia High School. A tuition fee must be paid where applicable. Additional information regarding out of city students may be obtained from the principal or superintendent's office. Certain other information regarding school admission that deals with grades, attendance, previous school accreditation and discipline must also be met. Board policies JBC (1) and JBC (2) will be followed. More information may be obtained from the principal's office or guidance office.

Proof of Residency

This must be provided at the time of registration. Examples of proof of residency include: current lease, property tax notice, homeowner's insurance bill, mortgage statement, current vehicle registration form, letter from shelter, letter from employer if employer provides housing, any utility bill listing the residence as the service address, current Peachcare eligibility documents for the child. A cell phone bill or a driver's license is **not** acceptable proof of residency. If a student's family is living with someone else, parents should provide a notarized affidavit from the property owner stating where the child's family is residing, plus a copy of the property owner's proof of residency.

The district reserves the right to not accept all students in the same household, if the students are out of district and do not meet the requirements for enrollment.

Withdrawal From School

A student wishing to withdraw from Vidalia High School must obtain a withdrawal form from the Guidance Office at least 24 hours prior to that student's departure. Current grades, library and homeroom information must be completed. Appropriate signatures must be on the form in order for official transcripts to be forwarded to the student's new school.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Any student voluntarily withdrawing from school may not be allowed to re-enter until the corresponding semester unless re-entering is approved by the Board of Education.

Attendance Policy

Based upon Georgia law, students ages 7 to 16 must attend school. Students who enroll in school prior to age 7 are subject to the same attendance law. Students may have excused absences under Georgia law such as illness, death in the family, etc. Unexcused absences are subject to investigation by the school system. Unexcused absences in excess of 5 school days and excessive excused absences will be referred to the Pupil Services Coordinator for investigation. Parents/legal guardians may be asked to supply a doctor's note for excessive absences. School counselors, the school system psychologist, and administrative staff are available to assist parents with attendance problems. If attendance problems are chronic and/or persistent, Vidalia City School System will pursue an attendance warrant against the parent/legal guardian of the student(s) having attendance problems. Parents should contact the school counselor if their child/children is/are experiencing attendance problems. Reasonable attempts will be made to work with a parent/legal guardian to improve a student's attendance before an attendance warrant is pursued by the Pupil Services Coordinator. The school system staff would prefer to have a student in school rather than a parent fined or possibly in jail. Please work with us as our goal is to educate our students to be independent and productive citizens.

A student may accumulate no more than five absences, excused or unexcused, per block per semester. After five parent notes per semester, students must turn in a doctor's note in order for an absence to be considered excused. All notes, including medical, submitted three days after an absence will not be accepted. All absences in excess of five will be unexcused.

- This excludes a death in immediate family, personal illness with a doctor's note, dentist visits with a dentist's note, or a verifiable emergency illness in immediate family.

A student's absence will be counted as excused when it complies with the Georgia State Policy governing excused absences. Such absences include:

1. Personal illness
2. Death in the immediate family
3. Recognized religious holidays
4. Any absence that has prior approval of the administration
5. Mandated court order
6. Serve as a Page in the General Assembly
7. Register for or go to vote
8. Military exams or physical exams
9. Conditions rendering attendance impossible or hazardous to student health or safety

The principal may also approve an absence beyond five if it is beyond the student's control, example: mandated court order, military exams, and other just reasons.

Any other absence shall be deemed as unexcused. Students may submit a five day note for an anticipated absence which does not comply with the Georgia State Policy for review and approval by the administrator. If that absence is allowed, it shall be considered unexcused but academic make-up work shall be allowed, preferably before the absence. Five-day notes will not be permitted for those with attendance problems or a past history of attendance problems. Also, five-day notes will not be permitted during standardized testing time or during finals unless approved by the building principal.

Seniors will be allowed 2 days, to be marked Activity, to make college or Armed Services visits. Students will return to school with the appropriate signed documentation from the college in

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

order for their attendance to be marked Activity. Required documentation to take to the college can be found in the Guidance Department.

Based upon an agreement with Juvenile Court Judge, the following procedures are in place in the Vidalia City School System:

- After 5 unexcused absences, a letter is mailed to the parent(s) from the student's school informing the parent about the absences. The school also notifies the Pupil Services Coordinator that a letter has been sent. The parent is urged to discuss the attendance problem with the principal or assistant principal.
- The Pupil Services Coordinator sends another letter to the parent which includes a copy of the student's attendance report. This letter informs the parent of the Vidalia City School System attendance policy. Again, the parent is urged to discuss the attendance problem with the principal or the assistant principal.
- If absences continue, the school notifies the Pupil Services Coordinator. The Pupil Services Coordinator sends a second letter warning the parent that the parent will be prosecuted in Juvenile Court if the student accumulates five absences. (We do not prosecute in court if the five absences are due to illness or other excused absences according to State law.)
- If the student accumulates five unexcused absences, the school notifies the Pupil Services Coordinator. The Pupil Services Coordinator sends a third letter, regular and certified mail. This letter tells the parent that if the attendance problem is not discussed with the principal or assistant principal within a week and a resolution of the problem is not reached, then Vidalia City Schools will prosecute the parent in Juvenile Court.

Absences

1. When returning to school following an absence, you must bring a note to the front office explaining the reason for the absence. This could be a parent note, medical note, court note, etc.
2. When arriving at school late, you must sign in at the front office or the guidance office.
3. Out-of-school (OSS) suspension shall be recorded as an unexcused absence.

Make-up Work

1. Students should make arrangements with their teacher(s) to complete all work missed during any absence within 5 days.
2. Make-up work, for an excused absence, completed within 5 days of returning to school will be granted 100% of the grade earned.
3. Students will not be allowed to make up work for an unexcused absence.
4. Teachers reserve the right to set up a time for assignments to be turned in.
5. Students with extended absences or absence 3 days or more may contact the office or guidance for assignments.
6. Any previously announced assignments will be due on the due date unless a note from the doctor is provided.

Vidalia High School's clerical and administrative staff does not have the authority to release a student to anyone other than a parent/legal guardian as is indicated on the student information card. The safety of each child is of the utmost importance to the Vidalia City School System.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Sign-Out Procedure

In order to **leave** campus:

1. All sign-outs must do so at the front office.
 - **This includes ALL students who drive.**
2. If you have a **note from a parent/guardian** stating the reason for having to sign out at a specific time that note should be turned into the front office **PRIOR** to first block. **The note must have:**
 - Phone number where parent/guardian can be reached between the hours of 9:00-10:00 AM.
 - The secretary will confirm the reason for signing out during that time.
3. **Excessive sign-outs** will be monitored by the administration.
4. Students **must be in class 60 minutes** in order to be counted present in that class.
5. Students wishing to leave campus during the course of the school day must be **picked up by a parent/guardian only.**
6. No student will be permitted to leave campus with anyone other than a parent/guardian unless otherwise approved by a school administrator.
7. Parents/guardians wishing to pick up their child during the day are requested to try and do so between academic classes.
8. Classes will not be disturbed unless deemed necessary by the administration.
9. **Students are not permitted to sign out for lunch.**
10. All students who sign out must comply with the attendance policy.

Sign-In Procedure

1. Students are required to sign in when reporting to school unless you have been in a class off campus (such as Dual Enrolment or Work-Based Learning).
2. Students who are absent during the day must sign-in upon return, even when arriving at class change.
3. Students can sign in at the front office or to the guidance office.

Medical and Dental Appointment

Parents are requested to try to make medical and dental appointments after school hours.

However, if it is necessary for students to leave school for those reasons, students **should check out of school according to the guidelines presented under “Sign-out Procedure” AND bring a doctor’s or dentist’s note upon return to school.**

Perfect Attendance

Eligibility:

- A. A student must be in school every minute of every day. (This means students must report to class before the tardy bell rings.) *If a student is tardy to any class, he/she does not receive perfect attendance in that class.
- B. Exceptions: Emergency medical or dental treatment (not regular check-ups) accompanied by school personnel.

Standardized Testing Programs

The Guidance Department of Vidalia High School administers a variety of tests to measure student aptitude. The state of Georgia requires high school students to participate in the EOC Milestones. The school also offers students the opportunity to take the Preliminary Scholastic Achievement Test (PSAT) and the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).

The Milestone EOC exams are criterion-referenced tests, aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Each test consists of multiple-choice questions and some tests include constructed response items. The Milestone EOC exams are to assess student achievement on state standards

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

in the core academic classes and to provide diagnostic data in support of improved student achievement. The tests are administered in four areas: American Literature/Composition, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History. Any student enrolled in a course that requires the Milestone EOC exam must complete the exam to receive credit for the class. The mandatory Milestone EOC exam is the final exam for the course and will count 20% of the course grade. Any student who fails to take the Milestone EOC exam will not receive credit for the course.

The PSAT is similar to the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) in that it prepares the individual student for taking a multiple-choice test which measures verbal, mathematical and writing ability. Results on the PSAT make students eligible for Merit Scholarships. This exam is usually offered in the fall semester at Vidalia High School.

The ASVAB is approximately a three-hour exam which features 10 subtests. As the title indicates, this particular exam is a vocational aptitude test designed to measure the examinee's ability in a variety of vocational categories. This exam is administered by the four branches of the armed services.

Standardized Testing Out Option

Criteria to consider for subject area competency "Testing Out" to receive credit for courses using the Milestone EOC exam:

1. Letter of recommendation from previous core teacher or available core teacher who can verify the student's academic performance in the core area being tested
2. Must have an 80/B or above cumulative average in the core area being tested
3. Must not have been or cannot currently be enrolled in a higher level course in the same core area being tested
4. Written permission from a parent to include an agreement to pay the \$50.00 fee if the student does not score at the "DISTINGUISHED" level on the test.
5. If the student does not score at the "DISTINGUISHED" level he/she must enroll in the core class the next semester that it is offered and retake the EOC at the end of the course.
6. Attendance in the prerequisite core area must be 80% or above and the student must have met the system attendance requirements for the previous year to ensure that the minimum requirements for awarding unit credit were met
7. Must have a parent letter on file agreeing for the student to take the EOC course for a full unit of credit if the student scores at the "DISTINGUISHED" level and decides to take the course rather than accept the credit; the student must also take the EOC again upon the completion of the course
8. The student's final grade will be the grade level score on the EOC for which he/she "Tested Out" or if the student chooses to take the course it will be based on the grade earned in the class and the required 20% of the EOC.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Graduation Requirements

GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	
Core Areas	Credits Required
I. English/Language Arts	4
II. Mathematics	4
III. Science	4
The fourth science unit may be used to meet both the science and elective requirement (see note).	
IV. Social Studies	4
V. CTAE and/or Modern Language and/or Fine Arts	3
VI. Health/Physical Education	1
VII. Electives	3
TOTAL UNITS (minimum)	23

Notes:

- Students may choose from the following courses for the fourth science:

– Food Science	– AP Chemistry
– Food for Life	– AP Physics
– Essentials of Health Care	– Game Design
– Human Anatomy	– Approved Dual Enrollment Science

- Two years of the same Modern Language is not a requirement for graduation; however, four-year colleges in the University System of Georgia require two years of the same Modern Language for admission.

Accelerated Career pathways offer qualified students a unique path to high school graduation. Students choose to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and a college Associate Degree, Technical Diploma, or two (2) Technical Certificates of Credit (TCC's) in a specific career pathway. Some of the required high school courses may be taken under the state-funded Dual Enrollment program. *Students interested in pursuing Accelerated Career pathways should contact their high school guidance counselor.*

ACCELERATED CAREER PATHWAY DIPLOMA	
Core Areas	Credits Required
I. English: American Lit (EOC) & another English Course	2
II. Mathematics: Algebra I (EOC) & another Math Course	2
III. Science: Biology (EOC) & another Science Course	2
IV. Social Studies: US History (EOC) & another Social Studies Course	2
VI. Health/Physical Education	1
VII. AND Complete any of the following Technical College Credentials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Any one Associate Degree → 2 Technical Certificates of Credit (TCC's) in sequence → Any one Diploma Program 	
TOTAL UNITS (minimum)	9

For more information, click on the [link](#).

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Graduation Ceremony

All students must satisfy state and local requirements in order to receive a high school diploma. Students meeting these requirements and considered to be in good standing may participate in the graduation ceremonies. Other students who are enrolled in classes at post-secondary institutions during spring semester must be passing those classes in order to participate in graduation ceremonies. Only those classes needed to meet high school graduation requirements will be considered. The school counselors will contact the post-secondary institution on Monday prior to graduation to determine the status of each student to see if he/she is eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Vidalia High School's graduation is a dignified ceremony and attendance may be limited. Due to limited seating, the number of tickets each graduate receives will be determined based on the number of graduates each year. We intend to livestream this event each year for those unable to attend in person.

Early Graduation:

Early graduates must complete a withdrawal form and file it with the Guidance Office. Early graduates are not to come back on campus for any reason without the permission of the administration. Early graduates are responsible for finding out information about graduation exercises, etc. from their grade level Google Classroom. Once a student has graduated, he/she is not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

Honor Graduates

A student shall be considered an honor graduate if he/she has a cumulative academic average of ninety (90) or above. Eighty-nine (89) and a major fraction will not be considered. **Valedictorian, Salutatorian, and honor graduate status will be determined on academic curricular classes only. Academic curricular areas include English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Foreign Language.**

Upon final grades being stored the top 6 students who qualify as honor graduates with distinction and who have been enrolled at Vidalia High School for their last four semesters will have speaking parts in the graduation program.

- **Honor Graduate with Distinction** – 90.0 or above cumulative academic average with at least 8 classes at the Honors, AP, or DE level.
- **Honor Graduate** – 90.0 or above cumulative academic average

For more information or clarification, contact the Guidance Office.

Junior Honor Guard

Junior Honor Guard members are the twelve juniors with the highest cumulative academic average in their class at the end of the first semester of their junior year. These students must be on track to graduate with distinction, and must have at least 5 honors, AP, or DE classes at the conclusion of their first semester of their Junior year. The Junior Honor Guard will participate in the graduation ceremony.

Sophomore Ambassadors

Sophomore Ambassador members are the eight sophomores with the highest cumulative academic average in their class at the end of the first semester of their sophomore year. These students must be on track to graduate with distinction, and must have at least 3 honors, AP, or DE classes at the conclusion of their first semester of their Sophomore year. Sophomore Ambassadors will participate in the graduation ceremony.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Transcripts

First final transcripts of courses taken at Vidalia High School will be sent to requesting educational institutions free of charge. Individuals requesting additional transcripts shall be charged a fee of **\$3.00 per transcript**.

HOPE Scholarship

The HOPE Scholarship is a merit-based award available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement. A Hope Scholarship recipient must graduate from high school with a minimum academic 3.0 grade point average as well as meet the academic rigor requirement. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative postsecondary grade point average to remain eligible for the scholarship. The scholarship provides tuition assistance to students pursuing an undergraduate degree at a HOPE Scholarship eligible college or university in Georgia.

See "GAFutures" for more information: <https://www.gafutures.org/>.

Scholarships

Numerous scholarships are available to graduating seniors through the generosity of various civic and professional organizations of the Vidalia community. The announcement of scholarship winners is a major part of the annual Senior Awards Night Program. A listing of scholarships and deadlines for submission are available from the Guidance Office.

New students enrolling at Vidalia High School for the first time must be enrolled on a **continuous** basis for a minimum of two years and must include the eleventh and twelfth grade to be considered for any local scholarship. Students not meeting these criteria will not be eligible for any local scholarships.

Governor's Honor Program

This program is sponsored by the State Department of Education in the areas of academics, fine arts, and vocational education. Students are nominated by the faculty in each area based upon the student's high interest and aptitude in a chosen area, PSAT scores, good health, and a commitment to participate for the entire summer in the residence program.

Georgia Scholar

The recipients of this academic distinction come from the graduating senior class of a public high school. The student shall have exhibited excellence in all phases of school life, community activities and home life.

Those students selected must also meet the following criteria:

1. A minimum score of 1360 on the SAT and/or 31 on the ACT in a single administration.
2. 23 Carnegie units earned, including three units in science (one unit in chemistry or physics), four units in math (one unit of Algebra II), three units in social studies (economics and citizenship, world history, and U.S. studies), four units in language arts and two units of a foreign language.
3. Appointed by school officials or elected to positions of leadership in a minimum of two different activities sponsored by the school.
4. Throughout grades 9-12, the student has maintained a grade point average of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale or ranks in the upper 10 percent of their graduating class.
5. Participation in three interscholastic events or has achieved significant recognition in interscholastic events.
6. Held a leadership role in at least two extracurricular activities sponsored by the school.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

7. The student is registered to vote if he/she is 18 years of age or older.
8. The student shows evidence of self-esteem and concern for others in day-to-day activities.

STAR Student and STAR Teacher Program

The senior with the highest SAT score who is in the top 10% of the class or among the top 10 students numerically will be named STAR student. The SAT score must be from one test administration and be taken by the November test date. The STAR student will choose the STAR teacher.

Prom Requirements

1. No more than 6 total office referrals 1st semester and up to 1 month before prom.
2. No more than the equivalence of 5 unexcused absences in any class taken on campus.
3. No OSS
4. No more than 2 assignments of ISS.

VIDALIA CITY SCHOOLS SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Child Find

The purpose of Child Find is to identify, locate, and evaluate children and youth, birth to age 21, who are suspected of, or have a disability or developmental delay, in order to provide free and appropriate Special Education services. Vidalia City Schools offer comprehensive special education services to eligible students ages three through 21 years of age. Parents of students, who suspect their child may have a disability, should contact the teacher, principal, or the SST/RTI Specialist. All referrals are considered confidential, and services are provided at no cost. The parent, legal guardian, or surrogate parent retains the right to refuse services and are provided other procedural safeguards under federal and state law. Public school services include screening in areas of suspected disabilities, such as vision, hearing, autism, motor skills, speech, language, and general development. Evaluations in the schools are provided for 26 areas of suspected disabilities, including learning disabilities, speech and language development, orthopedic impairments, vision or hearing problems, intellectual disabilities, emotional behavior disorders, autism spectrum disorders, health impairments, traumatic brain injuries, and significant developmental delay. For more information concerning eligibility and referral procedures, contact Katrina Blount-Woodard, Director of Student Services at (912) 537-3008 x2010 or kbwoodard@vidalia-city.k12.ga.us.

Hospital-Homebound Instruction

Students who will be absent from school for ten (10) consecutive days, per doctor's excuse, may participate in the Hospital-Homebound Instruction Program. The Guidance Office/Administrator should be contacted in order to make arrangements. In order to receive a grade, work must be satisfactorily completed as deemed by the individual teacher.

Section 504 Rights and Procedural Safeguards

Notice of Rights of Students and Parents Under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, commonly referred to as "Section 504," is a nondiscrimination statute enacted by the United States Congress. The purpose of Section 504 is to prohibit discrimination and to assure that disabled students have educational opportunities and benefits equal to those provided to non-disabled students. For more information regarding Section 504, or if you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Katrina Blount-Woodard, Director of Student Services at (912) 537-3008 x2010 or kbwoodard@vidalia-city.k12.ga.us.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Gifted Education Program

According to definition, a gifted student is one “who demonstrates a high degree of intellectual and/or creative abilities, or excels in specific academic fields and who needs special instruction and/or special ancillary services to achieve at levels commensurate with his/her abilities.”

Therefore, competencies in the areas of cognitive skills, learning skills, research and reference skills, communication skills and metacognitive skills are extended through gifted education programs beyond what is experienced in the regular classroom. The Vidalia City Schools’ Gifted Education Program was developed under the standards and guidelines provided by the state of Georgia. For more information contact Katrina Blount-Woodard, Director of Student Services at (912) 537-3008 x2010 or kbwoodard@vidalia-city.k12.ga.us.

Federal Programs

For more information, click on the link to access our district Federal Programs page.

[Federal Programs link](#)

This includes information regarding:

- Title I, Part A: Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged
- Title I, Part A Family & Community Engagement
- Title I, Part A Foster Care Provisions
- Title I, Part C: Education of Migratory Children
- Parent Right to Know

Wellness Policy

The wellness policy requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and Special Supplemental Nutrition Program act and has been strengthened by the Healthy, Hungry-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). It requires each LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program and/or School Breakfast Program to develop a wellness policy for students and staff within its district.

Right to Know Notification

Right to Know Professional Qualifications of Teachers and Paraprofessionals Vidalia City School System

Date: August 2, 2024

Dear Parents,

In compliance with the requirements of the Every Students Succeeds Act, the Vidalia City School System would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student’s teacher(s) and/ or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student’s teacher—
 - has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child’s teacher’s and/or paraprofessional’s qualifications, please contact the principal at each school or Tammy McFadden at 912-537-3088 x 2011.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

A student is **eligible to participate** in any high school athletic/extracurricular activity if that student has **passed three blocks the semester preceding the participation**. Furthermore, the **student must be "on track" to graduate in order to participate**. That is, he/she must have earned a sufficient number of units to be promoted to another grade within the course of the year. **Fifth year seniors are not eligible to participate in any athletic/extracurricular activity.**

Further clarification of the "No Pass/Participate" ruling shall be provided by the athletic director or the principal.

Any student eligible to participate must be in attendance one-half of the school day and on the day of said activity - (medical appointments excluded).

Students who are suspended from Vidalia High School will not be allowed to participate in athletic/extracurricular activities that take place during or after school hours. The suspension from said activities will coincide with the out-of-school suspension.

Any student participating in any event is expected to conduct himself/herself properly and in accordance with school policy and expectations. Any violation will result in disciplinary action. A coach/sponsor may suspend a member of an athletic team or extracurricular activity for breaking training rules, practice rules, or other requirements of the organization.

Any student apprehended for violating or attempting to violate Federal or State law or local ordinances which result in arrest, fine or incarceration will be suspended from participating in athletics or extracurricular activities. Examples are breaking and entering, theft, possession, selling or using controlled substances, drunkenness, shoplifting, DUI, etc. Traffic tickets will be exempt except for repeated offenders.

ATHLETIC INSURANCE: Any student participating in sports must have his/her own insurance. **VHS will no longer pay athletic insurance.** The student's guardian must sign a waiver acknowledging that neither VHS nor the Vidalia Board of Education are liable for athletic injuries.

DRUG SCREENING PROGRAM

We believe that the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol can be detrimental to the physical, emotional, and mental health of our students. Also, the use and abuse of drugs and alcohol seriously interferes with the performance of student athletes and teenage drivers, which can pose a danger to the students as well as others. Because of these concerns, the school system has adopted the following goals and procedures for student athletes and parking permit holders.

Goals of the VHS Screening Program

- Give students another opportunity to stay away from drugs and anyone who uses drugs.
- Produce student-athletes who serve as positive role models, influencing their peers to make healthy and responsible choices.
- Seek to encourage students to remain substance-free and establish appropriate habits at an early age.
- Deter the use of illegal drugs in our community.
- Develop a positive, working relationship with parents and guardians to make them aware of any student who may be using drugs and identify the drugs as well as provide referrals for counseling and treatment.

Drug Testing Procedures

1. At the beginning of the school year, students who are interested in participating in interscholastic athletics at any time during the year or would like to purchase a parking pass must sign a consent form which authorizes the school to administer drug testing and allows the results of the test to be released to parents/guardians, administrative officials, and the head coach of the athletic teams on which the student participates.

Note: A signed consent form is a requirement for participation in any GHSA governed inter-scholastic activity that requires an annual physical examination for participation. Parents and students do not have the option of not participating in the drug screen program.

2. The procedures for testing parking permit holders are the same as for student-athletes. **To park on campus, a student must complete a parking permit application. As a part of the application, students must sign that they agree to the following statement:**

I UNDERSTAND THAT AS A PARKING PERMIT HOLDER AT VIDALIA HIGH SCHOOL, I AM SUBJECT TO RANDOM DRUG SCREENING AS ADMINISTERED BY THE SCHOOL. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT PARKING ON CAMPUS IS A PRIVILEGE AND THAT IT MAY BE SUSPENDED OR WITHHELD FROM ME IF I DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE VHS DRUG SCREENING POLICY.

3. Random testing will take place monthly throughout the school year with students chosen through lottery/random selection.
4. Each month numbers will be generated from those in the pool and notify VHS administration of students to be tested. The substances that will be tested include: amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, cocaine, opiates, and propoxyphene.
5. Testing consists of providing a urine sample to the school nurse. A school administrator will supervise students, but will not administer the test. Privacy of the students and confidentiality of the test results will be protected. Specimens will be processed for identity and secured to ensure against tampering.
6. Test results will be reported to the school through the proper chain of command. All parents or guardians of students tested will be notified. In case of a positive result, the parent or guardian will be notified and a conference scheduled.
7. The student must fill out a form delineating any medication that she/he is currently taking.
8. There will be one pool of student numbers from which the student numbers will be selected. The pool will consist of parking permit holders and student-athletes.
9. A student's refusal to test will be considered a positive test result.

What happens if someone tests positive?

1. If a positive reading is returned for a student, the parents or guardians and the student will be notified. The student-athlete will be suspended for 10% of the team's regular season contests beginning with the next scheduled game (this could be a playoff game(s) or a game in the following season; it does not include practice scrimmages). Additional consequences will be left to the discretion of the head coach who is in season at the time.
2. Students with parking permits will be suspended from driving to school for 18 consecutive school days (10% of the year) beginning with the next school day. The student-athlete may remain a part of the team and will be expected to participate in team practices or conditioning sessions.
3. The student and parents must provide evidence of enrollment in a drug-counseling program approved by the principal. The student must agree to another drug test within a timeframe recommended by the Toxicology Lab at the family's expense. The student will be subjected to up to three drug tests over the next 12 months. If all tests come back negative, they return to the regular testing plan.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Second Positive

If a student has a second positive screen, the parents or guardians and the student will be notified. The student will be suspended from the team and/or driving privileges at the time of notification. A meeting will be scheduled with the parents or guardians, the student, the principal, the head coach, and the athletic director (as applicable) to arrange the following:

- a. Agree to participate in a drug treatment and counseling program on a regular basis for a minimum of four weeks. Parents or guardians are expected to participate in the program as well.
- b. Sign an agreement that releases Vidalia City School Board of Education from any liability for injury or illness resulting from drugs and /or treatment.
- c. May apply for reinstatement to the team and/or for driving privileges after a minimum of four (4) weeks if the following provisions are met: (a) provide a negative drug screen to school administration; (b) agree to continue with drug counseling; (c) agree to be subjected to future testing on demand at the student's expense; and (d) understand that the application for reinstatement may be denied. The principal, head coach, and athletic director will decide on reinstatement.

Third Positive

1. A third positive screen will result in suspension from all interscholastic athletics for one calendar year from the date of result. Parents or guardians and the student-athlete will be notified immediately. Continued counseling and treatment during the year of suspension is expected with periodic testing at family's expense. Reinstatement procedures will remain constant, meaning they will have to go through the reinstatement process outlined in the Second Positive.
2. A student who is both an athlete and a parking permit holder will lose both privileges during any time of suspension.

Clarifications and Explanations

1. In the event the student-athlete believes this policy has not been applied to him/her in a manner consistent with the intent, the parents or guardians may appeal the decision to the principal of their school within 72 hours of a positive test result, and the principal's decision in this matter shall be final.
2. This procedure is intended to supplement the existing policies of the Vidalia City Board of Education and the Georgia High School Association regarding the governance of interscholastic athletics. Administrators will not use test results obtained pursuant to this policy for disciplinary or other purposes, other than as set forth above.
3. All students remain subject to the Vidalia City Board of Education Student Code of Conduct and may be subject to established discipline procedures if found in possession or under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol at school or at school-sponsored events.
4. Parents (guardians) of a student testing positive may request to have their student-athletes tested at their expense.
5. This policy is not a part of the disciplinary code but is relative to student participation in areas of parking and participation in interscholastic activities.
6. There is not an appeal process as this policy affects participation and not discipline; therefore, the decision of the high school principal is final in all matters regarding this policy.

Students who are arrested for a misdemeanor offense involving drugs or alcohol will receive the same consequence as a failed drug test. Students who are arrested for a felony offense will be treated per guidelines outlined in the student discipline of the student handbook.

If all suspension requirements are not fulfilled by the end of the season, then the athlete in question will complete his or her suspension in the next sport in which he/she participates.

Criteria For Lettering

Criteria for Lettering in Band

A participant:

1. must attend 90% of all practices, events and performances for two semesters.
2. will earn an additional letter(s) for every two qualifying semesters.

Criteria for Lettering in Baseball

A participant must:

1. complete the entire season. He must attend all practices and games unless excused by the coaching staff.
2. should a player become injured and miss games or practice time, he would be allowed to letter. If physically able he must attend practices and games to help out in whatever capacity needed.
3. be dressing on the varsity team by playoffs
4. any situation may be given special consideration by the Head Coach.

Criteria for Lettering in Basketball

Boys Basketball -

A participant must:

1. complete 80 days of practice time (coach's discretion).
2. An athlete cannot letter if that player failed the first semester.
3. An athlete cannot letter if the player quits before the season ends except for injury.

Behaviors in school as well as academic performance are both key ingredients in the success of any athlete. Chronic discipline problems as well as poor academic performance may cause an athlete to be dropped from this sport. This will be done at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

Girls Basketball -

A participant must:

1. be in attendance at practice 90 percent of the legal number of practice days barring some unforeseen illness or injury.
2. be a contributor in practice and participate in eight (8) games for basketball.

Behaviors in school as well as academic performances are both key ingredients in the success of any athlete. Chronic discipline problems as well as poor academic performance may cause an athlete to be dropped from this sport. This will be done at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director and Principal.

Criteria for Letting in Bass Fishing

A participant must compete in 75% of tournaments.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Criteria for Lettering in Cheerleading

A. Underclassmen

1. Must be in good standing with the coaching staff.
2. Must have participated in ninety (90%) of team activities.
3. Must have twenty hours community service approved and documented.
4. Must have participated at the Varsity level in ninety (90%) of activities.
5. Must have returned uniform and accessory items in good condition.

B. Seniors

In addition to meeting underclassmen requirements, all Seniors must participate in Spring Cheerleading tryouts.

Criteria for Lettering in Cross Country

Boys Cross Country -

A participant must:

1. be present for 95 percent of the practice sessions
2. complete the criteria set for each practice session. The athlete must complete this criteria to the degree that will satisfy the coach. Each athlete's ability will be taken into account when evaluating each practice session.
3. finish the season.
4. male athletes must run a 5k under 26 minutes to qualify for a meet.
5. participate in every meet unless you have prior approval from the coach.

Girls Cross Country -

A participant must:

1. be present for 95 percent of the practice sessions
2. complete the criteria set for each practice session. The athlete must complete this criteria to the degree that will satisfy the coach. Each athlete's ability will be taken into account when evaluating each practice session.
3. finish the season.
4. Female athletes must run a 5k under 30 minutes to qualify for a meet.
5. participate in every meet unless you have prior approval from the coach.

Criteria for Lettering in Dance

A participant must:

1. complete ALL expectations and requirements in accordance with the coaching staff.
2. participate in at least 85% of activities per chosen group; Game Day or Competitive Dance.
3. complete FIVE approved community service hours and have documentation to show.
4. return all uniforms and equipment in good condition.

Criteria for Lettering in E-Sports

A participant must:

1. compete in 75% of competitions for the students assigned game
2. can participate in either or both season to receive one letter

Criteria for Lettering in Football

A participant must complete the Varsity football season.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Criteria for Lettering in Golf

A participant must:

1. compete in at least one varsity match.
2. excluding a season-ending injury, all golfers shall complete the entire golf season to be eligible for a varsity letter.

Chronic discipline problems as well as poor academics may cause a golfer to be dropped from the team. This will be done at the discretion of the coach, athletic director, and principal.

Criteria for Lettering in Literary

A member must:

1. be present for 95% of practice sessions.
2. be prepared for each practice session and be on time.
3. complete the literary sessions.
4. compete in a literary event for three years.

Behavior in school as well as poor academic performance may cause a student to be dropped from this activity. This will be done at the discretion of the literary coordinator.

Criteria for Lettering in One-Act Play

A cast member must:

1. Be in attendance at 95% of practice sessions and meetings.
2. Be prepared for each practice session and be on time.
3. Participate in Region 2AA One-Act competition and the subsequent state competition if applicable.
4. Participate three years in One-Act to qualify for a letter jacket.

Behavior in school as well as poor academic performance may cause a student to be dropped from this literary event. This will be done at the discretion of the One-Act faculty advisor and/or the director.

Criteria for Lettering in Soccer

Boys Soccer -

A participant must:

1. participate/play in at least three-fourths of the games that the team plays.
2. attend all practices unless excused by the coach.
3. anyone who fails to complete the season for any reason besides illness or injury is automatically off the team and will not letter.
4. abide by other rules and regulations as set by the coach.

Girls Soccer -

A participant must:

1. participate in all Varsity level matches the team is scheduled to play barring unforeseen illnesses, injuries, or death in the family.
2. be in attendance at practice 95 percent of the legal number of practice days barring some unforeseen illness or injury.
3. abide by other rules and regulations as set by the coach.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Criteria for Lettering in Softball

A participant must:

1. be in attendance at practice 90 percent of the legal number of practice days barring some unforeseen illness or injury.
2. be a contributor in practice and participate in four (4) games for softball.

Behaviors in school as well as academic performances are both key ingredients in the success of any athlete. Chronic discipline problems as well as poor academic performance may cause an athlete to be dropped from this sport. This will be done at the coach's discretion.

Criteria for Lettering in Swimming

A swimmer:

1. must complete in at least six meets per season.
2. must attend a minimum of 2 practices per week.
3. must score an average of 2 points per meet.
4. who fails to score points for the team but shows significant time improvement during the season may be considered for a letter if recommended by the coach and approved by the Athletic Director.

Behaviors in school as well as academic performance are both key ingredients in the success of any athlete. Chronic discipline problems as well as poor academic performance may cause an athlete to be dropped from the team. This will be done at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

Criteria for Lettering in Tennis

The participant must:

1. complete the season with the team.
2. attend every REGION match unless hindered by a personal or family serious illness or death and/or a previously scheduled VHS event, with prior approval for the event by the coach.
3. attend all practices unless excused by the coach

Behaviors in school as well as academic performance, are both key ingredients in the success of any athlete. Chronic discipline problems as well as poor academic performance may cause an athlete to be dropped from this sport. This will be done at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.

Criteria for Lettering in Track

A participant must:

1. be present for 95 percent of the practice season.
2. follow rules and regulations laid down by the coaching staff.
3. complete season unless injury forced out and participate in two events.
4. qualify and compete in at least one meet during the season.
5. maintain good behavior in school as well as great academic performance. Not doing so may result in an athlete being released from this sport. This will be done at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director and Principal.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Criteria for Letting in Volleyball

A participant must:

1. be in attendance at practice at least 90 percent of the legal number of practice days barring some unforeseen illness or injury.
2. be a contributor in practice and participate in a minimum of five (5) varsity games.
3. attend every AREA match unless hindered by a personal or family serious illness or death and/or a previously scheduled VHS event, with prior approval for the event by the coach.
4. anyone who fails to complete the season for any reason besides illness or injury is automatically off the team and will not letter.

Behaviors in school as well as academic performances are both key ingredients in the success of any athlete. Chronic discipline problems as well as poor academic performance may cause an athlete to be dropped from this sport. This will be done at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director and Principal.

Criteria for Lettering in Wrestling

A participant must compete in 10 varsity matches.

Awarding of Letter Jackets

There are two options for purchasing Letter Jackets:

- A. An athlete must successfully complete two years in the same program and letter in that program on the varsity level for two years. The athletic department will pay \$50 towards the cost of the jacket.
After 1 year the athlete has the opportunity to purchase the letter jacket at full price.

Other Athletic Procedures

1. Athletes suspended, expelled or who fail to meet academic requirements will not be eligible for a letter jacket during the season.
2. Athletes will not be allowed to drop out of one sport and begin another until finishing the previous sport.
3. Athletes who transfer in must have lettered at least one year in the same sport at their former school.
4. Members of any athletic group, club or activity who have committed an act requiring a disciplinary tribunal hearing could be suspended from that activity pending the decision of the tribunal hearing.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025
Gender Equity in Sports– Grievance Procedures

It is the policy of the Vidalia City Board of Education (“Board”) to prohibit discrimination based on gender in its elementary and secondary school athletic programs, in accordance with the Georgia Equity in Sports Act. The following grievance procedures are hereby adopted to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of written student complaints, including those brought by a parent or guardian on behalf of his or her minor child who is a student, alleging any action which would be a violation of the Georgia Equity in Sports Act.

1. The student, parent, or guardian must submit a complaint on the form included in Exhibit I (see Athletic Director) and submit the completed form to the Sports Equity Coordinator (SEC). The SEC shall stamp-date the complaint when received.
2. The SEC shall take all reasonably necessary steps to ascertain the essential facts regarding the circumstances surrounding the complaint. The SEC may obtain additional information from the complaint and/or other individuals that may have knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the alleged violation. The confidentiality of any information obtained shall be maintained in accordance with federal and state law and the school system’s policies on confidentiality of student and employee information.
3. The SEC shall render a decision in writing no later than 30 calendar days after receipt of the complaint, and such decision shall set forth the essential facts and rationale for the decision.
4. A copy of such decision shall be provided to the complainant within five calendar days of the date of the decision, either by certified mail or hand delivery to the address provided by the complainant on the complaint form.
5. A complainant shall have the right to appeal such a decision to the Board within 35 calendar days of the date of the decision. The request for appeal must be submitted by the complainant in writing to the Superintendent. The Superintendent’s office shall date-stamp the complaint when received.
6. The Board shall review all materials related to the matter and render a decision in writing no later than 30 calendar days or at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting after the receipt of the appeal, whichever is later, and such decision shall set forth the essential facts and rationale for the decision.
7. A copy of such decision shall be provided to the complainant within five calendar days of the date of the decision, either by certified mail or hand delivery to the address.
8. A complainant may appeal a decision of the Board to the State Board of Education in accordance with the procedures specified in O.C.G.A. 20-2-1160.

*Any athlete who voluntarily quits one athletic team may not try out or participate on another team until the season on the team they quit is complete. The coaches involved, athletic director, and principal may jointly agree to waive this rule under special circumstances.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

State law prohibits discrimination based on gender in athletic programs of school systems (Equity in Sports Act, OCGA 20-2-315). Students are hereby notified that Vidalia City School System does not discriminate on the basis of gender in its athletic programs.

The Sports Equity Coordinator for this school system:

*Tommy Dalley
Vidalia High School
901 North Street, West
Vidalia, GA 30474*

**Inquiries or complaints concerning sports equity
in this school system may be submitted to the
Sports Equity Coordinator.
Phone: 912.537.7931*

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Clubs and Organizations

There are numerous clubs and organizations in which to become involved at VCHS. All students are encouraged to be a part of some organizations on this campus. Rules and guidelines are established for each activity, and information can be given to anyone interested in joining a club or organization by contacting the club sponsor of that organization.

Art Club - The Art Club is an organization designed to further develop the artistic talents of Vidalia High School students. The club organizes art shows at the local gallery and school and community libraries.

ADVISOR: Mrs. Elizabeth Wolfe

Beta Club - In order to be named a member of the Vidalia High School Beta Club, a student must meet and maintain the following requirements.

- Membership is by invitation only.
- Students must have a minimum of 3 Carnegie units to participate in the fall induction ceremony.
- Students must have attained an academic grade point average of 90.0 or above (not rounded) and maintain this academic grade point average for each school year.
- Students must be of good character and possess leadership potential.
- All meetings/service projects must be current and academic grade point average be 90.0 or above by the end of the academic year otherwise a member will be placed on probation and/or recommended for dismissal
 - Members may be placed on probation and possible recommendation for dismissal if:
 - academic grade point average falls below 90.0
 - miss three (3) meetings per school year; and/or
 - miss one (1) service project per school year.
- A member may be dropped from membership for moral and disciplinary reasons, such as using/selling illegal substances/ drugs, pregnancy, or any other behavior deemed inappropriate, OSS or ISS. Dismissal will be determined by a majority vote of faculty council.
- A member may be dismissed from membership if he/she is convicted of the commission of an act classified as a misdemeanor or felony by the State Code of GA or the United States Code.
- Students who fail to meet the above requirements after becoming a member of the Beta Club will have one semester in order to meet the requirements. After that semester, students who have not met the requirements will be recommended for dismissal and removed from the Beta Club roll and will not be allowed to participate in any Beta Club activities.

Students will be extended an invitation to join the Beta Club only once in their high school career. If, however, a student does not accept the invitation but wants to join later, the student will be accepted into the club provided he or she still meets and maintains the membership requirements.

In addition, members must be in good standing to be recognized as a Beta Club member at graduation. Good standing is defined as maintaining an academic grade point average of 90.0 or above; meeting all meeting and service project requirements; and all fees are paid in full.

ADVISORS: Mrs. Elissa Blount & Mrs. Jamie Lewis

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Drama Club - The Drama Club is organized to promote an interest in drama and to improve student participation in oral literary events. The club is instrumental in presenting the One-Act Play for community enjoyment and literary competition.

ADVISOR: Ms. Margaret Pournelle

Fellowship Of Christian Athletes - FCA unites two passions, faith and athletics, and gives athletes and coaches a platform to share Jesus Christ through sports. FCA's vision is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes. FCA wants to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. FCA Campus Ministry is initiated and led by student-athletes, with the assistance of coaches, huddle coaches (sponsors), adult volunteers, and local FCA Missionaries. The win for FCA Campus ministry is to see VHS impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes. VHS FCA Meetings are open to anyone on the school campus.

ADVISOR: TBD

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) - FBLA is a student organization for all middle and high school students participating in business programs. FBLA is open to students who have had or are currently enrolled in at least one business course. This activity is required for all WBL students enrolled in a Business Education Career Pathway placement. Students have the opportunity to compete in many events on the local, regional, and state levels. The club also sponsors service projects for the school and community. As an integral part of the business instructional program, FBLA provides opportunities for students to develop vocational and career-supportive competencies. Participation in FBLA activities promotes civic and personal responsibility; helps students develop business leadership skills and establish career goals; and prepares them for useful citizenship and productive careers.

ADVISORS: Ms. Anna Helms & Mrs. Nicole McDaniel

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) - FCCLA is a national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and social issues through family and consumer sciences education. FCCLA is open to students who have had or are currently enrolled in at least one family and consumer science course. This activity is required for all Work-based Learning (WBL) students enrolled in a Family and Consumer Science Career Pathway placement. Through cooperative and competitive programs, FCCLA members develop skills for life including character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communication, practical knowledge, and career preparation. Participation in national programs and co-curricular chapter activities enables FCCLA members to learn cooperation, take responsibility, develop leadership, and give service.

ADVISOR: Mrs. Amanda Mosley & Ms. Morgan Sager

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) - HOSA club's mission is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health occupations students, therefore, helping the students to meet the needs of the health care community. HOSA is open to students who have had or are currently enrolled in at least one healthcare science course. This activity is required for all Work-based Learning (WBL) students enrolled in a Healthcare Science Career Pathway placement.

ADVISORS: Mrs. Shellie Cleghorn & Mr. Blake Brooks

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Hobachee Yearbook - The Vidalia High School yearbook, The *Hobachee*, documents the school year's events in both pictures and text. Membership to the yearbook staff is determined through an application process, and teacher recommendations, grades, attendance, and discipline are also considered. It is recommended that members of the staff possess a strong background in oral and written communication skills. The *Hobachee* is usually published and distributed in late August to fully cover the entire previous school year's activities.

ADVISOR: Mrs. Melonie Windham

Literary Team - The Literary Team is composed of students who compete in artistic and academic events at region and state levels coordinated by the Georgia High School Association (GHSAA). The team is developed in October and begins preparations for competition with various coaches from the faculty. GHSAA Literary events include: One-Act Play, Debate, Spelling, Essay, Vocal Solo, Oral Interpretation, Quartet, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Trio.

ADVISOR: Ms. Margaret Pournelle & Mrs. Kellie Rowell

Math Team - The Math team is an association that needs students with a combination of math skills and the ability to take shortcuts in working equations. During the course of the year the Math Team participates in the Georgia Southern math competition. In competition, team members take written tests and a testing situation called "ciphering." Math team meetings are normally held monthly.

ADVISOR: Mrs. Kristen Champion

Political Science Club - The Political Science Club works to expand student *knowledge of and participation in* politics at the local, state, and national levels. Club members meet to discuss important domestic and international political issues and events and to host educational events including speakers, voter education campaigns, and political debates. The club is also designed to allow students interested in politics to socialize and interact with others who share this interest.

ADVISOR: TBD

Student Government Association - SGA is a body of students elected by their peers to represent them and to serve as a liaison between administration / faculty and the student body. These students learn leadership and integrity through serving the school and community. SGA meetings are held regularly, and the group sponsors several school functions and represents VHS at *various community activities*.

ADVISOR: Mrs. Missy Owens

Georgia SkillsUSA - Members participate in local, state, and national activities provided through trade and industrial, technical, and health occupations courses and programs. Skills USA is open to students who have had or are currently enrolled in at least one CTAE education course. This activity is required for all Work-based Learning (WBL) students enrolled in a CTAE Career Pathway placement that does not offer a career and technical student organization (club). The mission of SkillsUSA is to develop leadership skills and workplace competencies that students will need to succeed in a constantly changing global workplace. The organization provides many opportunities for leadership development and skills training. Competition in over 70 leadership, health occupations, occupationally related, and trade, industrial, and technical contests is offered at the region and state levels, culminating with the SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, Missouri, in June.

ADVISORS: Mrs. Amy Gillies & Mr. Gray Meredith

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Technology Student Association/ Robotics - The purpose of TSA and Robotics is to prepare students to be successful leaders and responsible citizens in a technological society through co-curricular activities within the technology/ engineering education program. Robotics is a subset of TSA and attached to some of the various competitions in TSA. There are over 70 different competitions that students can compete in including areas such as prepared presentation, video game design, and designing and racing CO2 cars. All students are welcome to join, but it will be helpful if a student has taken at least one video game design or engineering course.

ADVISOR: Mr. Kevin Head

Writers Incorporated – Writers Inc. is a student-founded, student-centered organization at VHS. This unique writer’s guild is devoted to the enhancement of the creative and technical skills of written expression. Students are encouraged to share their writings, whatever the genre, with fellow classmates and to seek publication beyond the local realm. Writers Inc. sponsors the annual Young Georgia Authors and Poetry Out Loud competitions for Vidalia High School.

ADVISOR: Mrs. Erica Palmer

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Vidalia City Schools Dress Code

2024-2025

Listed are all approved items that may be worn by students enrolled in Vidalia City Schools.

General Guidelines

- Clothing or accessories that depict inappropriate messages of any kind, to include, but not limited to, violence, gambling, gangs, prejudice, racism, sexual innuendos, political messages, alcohol, drugs, and/or tobacco are not allowed
- Clothing that is disruptive or distracting to the learning environment is not allowed
- No clothing may draw attention to the anatomical parts
- Proper undergarments must be worn at all times and must not be visible
- Clothing must be worn on the correct side
- No bandana print on any clothing or accessories
- Midriffs are not allowed to be visible at any time

Tops

- All tops must be solid including no writing and no pictures
- Clothing brand logos must be smaller than 2 inches
- All tops must be Vidalia City dress code colors: maroon, gold, black, white, or gray
- Tops and bottoms must be contrasting colors
- Undershirts must be maroon, gold, black, white or gray with no wording or pictures
- Shirts must be collared, polo-style, button up, or crew neck shirt with short or long sleeves
- Crew Neck shirts must be around the base of the neck.



- The base shirt (shirt that touches the skin first) MUST be around the base of the neck
- Shirts that button up the front must have attached collar (see above)
- Only the top two buttons can be unbuttoned and must be within three inches from the top of the placket.
- Shirt length must reach past the waistband, but within the student's arm length.
- No hoodies are allowed
- Vidalia City Schools' spirit wear is allowed as long as it is dress code color, dress code shirt style (collared, polo, button up, or crewneck), and is not homemade (see examples below). Spirit wear hoodies are not allowed.



Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Bottoms

- All bottoms (pants, shorts, skirts, capris) must be appropriate size and solid dress code color: Denim, Black, Gray, Khaki, or Maroon
- All shorts, pants, and skirts must be denim (includes black or white) or khaki/chino style button up. No athletic pants or shorts are allowed, with the exception of JD Dickerson Primary and Sally D Meadows students. Due to developmental needs of these students, athletic pants and shorts will be allowed.
- All bottoms must be without frays or holes
- All bottoms must be without words or pictures
- All bottoms must, at minimum, touch the top of the knee when standing and pants at appropriate waistline
- Tights must be solid (no fishnet) black, gray, or khaki and can only be worn under approved bottoms.



Dresses

- Must be a solid Vidalia City dress code color (maroon, gold, black, white, or gray)
- Must, at minimum, touch the knee when standing up

Outerwear

- Students can wear their choice of outerwear to and from school. However, any outerwear worn inside the building must follow dress code policy described below
- Jackets, sweatshirts, or sweaters worn during the school day must be solid Vidalia City dress code colors (maroon, gold, black, white, gray, or blue denim) or “spirit” outerwear. No hooded sweatshirts, shirts, jackets, or spirit wear is allowed.
- Trench coats are not allowed at any time – before, during, or after school

Shoes

- Bare feet, slippers, bedroom shoes, or cleats will not be allowed.
- Shoes with shoelaces must be tied. Shoes with Velcro must be fastened
- Sandals with a back and open toed shoes are allowed – Slippers, athletic slides, and flip flops are not permitted

Headgear/Jewelry/Accessories

- Headgear wider than two inches may not be worn in the building unless for a special day designated by the school. Headgear includes, but is not limited to, hats, beanies, bandanas, scarves, shower caps, and bonnets.
- No writing or pictures allowed on headgear with the exception of the brand logo
- Hair must be free of all grooming items
- Body paint or writing on skin is not allowed
- No clothing accessories or jewelry with spikes or protruding studs are allowed and no chains hanging from clothing or pockets are allowed
- No objects should be attached to clothing unless school related (ribbons, buttons, towels, etc...)

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

- Items, accessories, and tattoos that signify or are related to gangs, gang membership, or gang activity or are disruptive to school safety and discipline are prohibited and are required to be covered
- Items, accessories, and tattoos that contain vulgarity, political advertisement, sexual innuendos, tobacco products, alcoholic products, firearms, or illegal substances are prohibited and are required to be covered
- Earrings and studded nose rings are allowed. All other piercings must be covered or removed while on campus

Any accommodation for dress code due to medical issues will require a doctor's note and communication with the school nurse. Any student requiring accommodation for dress code due to religious affiliation must file for variance with administration. Administration has the right to make adjustments to the dress code for the benefit of students and/or for safety.

**REP the V Matrix
Expectations of Students**

	Hallway/ Restrooms	Classroom/ Academics	Cafeteria	Athletics/ Special Events
R (Respectful)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Positive Connections with others → Demonstrate self control → Appropriately resolve conflict → Keep moving towards your destination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Follow classroom expectations → Communicate appropriately with teachers & peers → Stay in your areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Follow cafeteria expectations → Maintain personal space → Clean area & replace chairs → Be respectful of cafeteria staff & their work → Stay in assigned areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Be good guests & hosts → Demonstrate good sportsmanship as players & fans
E (Excellence)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Be courteous & clean → Encourage others to think before they act → Maintain facilities & report problems → Use closest restroom & return to class promptly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Engage in the learning process → Invest in & take ownership of your work → Demonstrate grit, persevere & believe in yourself → Manage time well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Use proper table manners → Make healthy meal choices → Be sure to include all students → Ensure all areas are clean → Be helpful to lunchroom staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Be Loud, Be Proud, Be Positive → Be a role model for others
P (Professional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Respect each other's privacy → Stay in assigned areas → Use appropriate language & conversations → Dress for success 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Respect each other's privacy → Arrive on time, be punctual → Be prepared to learn → Use technology appropriately → Respect School/others property 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Know your lunch number & have your payment ready 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Attend club meetings & events → Be prepared to compete → Be a good teammate & fan

Behaviors and Skills to be Successful

ACADEMIC BEHAVIORS	
Skill	Requirement
Metacognition	Awareness of your thoughts when making a decision and learning.
Self-Concept	Believing in your abilities.
Self-Monitoring	Awareness of you are planning, preparing, and continuing your learning.
Motivation	Your ability to initiate and maintain tasks.
Strategy	Your ability to organize and memorize knowledge and to apply learned skills.
Volition	The ability to pull from within to stay motivated and engaged in your learning.

SOCIAL BEHAVIORS	
Skill	Requirement
Awareness of appropriate verbal and physical interactions with peers and adults.	Social responsibility, honesty, compassion, respect, self-regulation, and self-control. *empathy
Appropriate language	Self-awareness, communication, civility, and character.
Respect for property and materials	Appreciate and take care of shared property and limited materials.
Independently staying on a required task	Your ability to initiate and maintain on-task behavior and self - monitoring.
Regular attendance	Skills that demonstrate punctuality, time management, and accountability.

Vidalia City Schools Bus Expectations

Please click on the link to access

[Vidalia City Schools Safe Rider Program for Middle/High School Students](#)

Harassment

It is the policy of this School District to prohibit any act of harassment of students by other students or employees based upon race, color, national origin, sex, or disability at all times and during all occasions while at school, in the workplace or at any school event or activity. Any such act by a student or employee shall result in prompt and appropriate discipline, including possible termination of employment or suspension or expulsion of the student.

Sexual harassment may include conduct or speech which entails unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, taunts, threats, comments of a vulgar or demeaning nature, demands or physical contact which creates a hostile environment. There may be other speech or conduct which employees or students experience as inappropriate or illegal harassment which should also be reported; harassment can take many forms and it is not possible to itemize every aspect of the harassment forbidden by this policy.

Any student, parent, employee, or other individual who believes that a student has been subjected to harassment or discrimination by other students or employees of the School District as prohibited by this policy should promptly report the same to the principal of their school or to the appropriate coordinator designated in policy JAA, who will implement the board's discriminatory complaints procedures as specified in that policy. Students may also report harassment or discrimination to their school counselor or any administrator. Students and employees will not be subjected to retaliation for reporting such harassment or discrimination. If at any point in the investigation of reported sexual harassment of a student, the coordinator or designee determines that the reported harassment should more properly be termed abuse, the reported incident or situation shall be referred pursuant to the established protocol for child abuse investigation.

It is the duty of all employees to promptly report harassment forbidden by this policy. All supervisors will instruct their subordinates as to the content of this policy and, through appropriate professional learning activities, enlighten employees as to the varied forms or expression of prohibited harassment. The principals of all schools shall ensure that students and parents are informed through student handbooks and verbally that such harassment is strictly forbidden, how it is to be reported and the consequences for violating this policy.

In-School Suspension (ISS)

ISS is designed as a disciplinary action for students who violate the school's discipline code. The ISS program has been created as a service to our students in that it allows them to remain in school so that they may be counted present and continue to keep up with their classes and receive credit for their work. **Violation of the rules that follow will result in the student being suspended out of school (OSS) AND the remainder of the time in ISS shall be served upon his/her return. In order to take advantage of the ISS program, the student must abide by the rules and regulations of the ISS Coordinator.**

Out of School Suspension (OSS)

Students receiving OSS may not be on school grounds or at school functions for the entire period of their suspension. **Doing so could result in referral to tribunal.**

PARENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IF THEIR CHILD HAS BEEN GIVEN ISS OR OSS.

Search and Seizure

Delegated school officials may, according to law and board policy, have access to student lockers, automobiles, and personal belongings while on the school campus when there is a reason to suspect that the welfare of students and other personnel may be threatened.

The search shall be made in the presence of at least one witness except in emergency situations or if dangerous or illegal materials are in plain view. Discovery of dangerous or illegal materials shall be reported to the proper authority.

Guidelines for Student Misconduct LEVELS OF DISCIPLINE

The Code of Conduct is generally organized into four (4) levels of prohibited behaviors: Level 1 Violations, Level 2 Violations, Level 3 Violations, and Level 4 Violations. **However, it is important for students and parents to note that the circumstances of a particular violation may warrant more severe consequences, even on the first violation. The Vidalia City School District reserves the right, in the administration's sole and exclusive discretion, to take any and all action necessary to protect its students, provide a safe and secure learning environment, and to ensure the orderly operation of all educational facilities. This includes, but is not limited to, treating a violation as a higher-level violation and/or providing for more severe consequences.** Additional information regarding prohibited behaviors and disciplinary actions follows these sections.

Level 1 Discipline: Level 1 Discipline is generally used for minor acts of misconduct which interfere with the good order of school. Level 1 violations are generally minor violations and may represent a failure to demonstrate universally accepted expectations or social skills. It is the responsibility of all staff to address minor violations as soon as practicable within the environment in which the misbehavior occurred. Following appropriate teacher alternative resolutions, the student may be referred to an administrator. **However, it is important for students and parents to note that the circumstances of particular violations may warrant an administrative referral with more severe consequences, even on the first violation.** The accumulation of multiple Level 1 violations could result in more severe consequences. **A student may be taken to a Disciplinary Hearing or placed on a behavior contract for chronic Code of Conduct violations.** This may result in long-term suspension or expulsion.

Level 2 Discipline: Level 2 Discipline violations are generally mid-level acts of misconduct. Mid-level infractions are addressed by administrators. Repeated (two or more) violations of any Level 2 violation can result in that violation being considered a Level 3 violation and referral to a disciplinary hearing. Consequences range from a minimum of a long-term suspension to expulsion and possible opportunity to attend the District's alternative school.

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Level 3 Discipline: Level 3 Discipline violations are generally serious acts of misconduct including, but not limited to, repeated misbehaviors of a similar nature, serious disruptions of the school environment, threats to health, safety, or property, and other acts of serious misconduct. Level 3 violations are generally major infractions and are serious safety violations. Major infractions should be reported to the school administrator immediately after the incident and may result in the immediate removal of a student from school. Level 3 violations may result in a referral to a Disciplinary Hearing with consequences ranging from long-term suspension to expulsion and possible opportunity to attend the District's alternative school. Administrators will notify the appropriate district personnel, school resource officers, and law enforcement or state agencies deemed appropriate and required by law.

Level 4 Discipline: Level 4 Discipline violations are the most egregious acts of misconduct and generally constitute a serious violation of the law (for example, conduct which would be considered a serious felony criminal act if the student were an adult), and pose a significant safety risk or result in serious bodily injury. Committing a Level 4 violation will result in a referral to a Disciplinary Hearing resulting in consequences of up to permanent expulsion.

Students currently enrolled at the alternative school who commit a Level 2, 3 or 4 violation may receive a long-term suspension or expulsion from all Vidalia City Schools without the opportunity to attend the alternative school.

Depending on the severity of the violation, school administrators have the authority to send a student to a Disciplinary Hearing for any violation regardless of the level of disciplinary violation.

Only the Vidalia City Board of Education has the authority to allow a student who is under a permanent expulsion from any school system to enroll in Vidalia City Schools.

A student who receives a consequence of permanent expulsion from the Disciplinary Hearing Officer for violating a Level 4 Violation during a school year may not enroll into an alternative unless the student, pursuant to an appeal to the Vidalia City Board of Education, receives permission from the Board to re-enroll into the Vidalia City School District. The Board may grant the re-enrolled student the opportunity to enroll in an alternative school. A student who receives a consequence of permanent expulsion from the Disciplinary Hearing Officer for committing a Level 4 Violation may not attend any Offense Intervention Programs unless the student, pursuant to an appeal to the Vidalia City Board of Education, receives permission from the Board to re-enroll into the Vidalia City School District.

Definitions of Terms

1. **Warning:** This is the First step in addressing inappropriate behavior, which may lead to additional consequences if not followed, as per the guidelines in the student handbook.
2. **After School Detention** – Students will be required to stay after school for a period of designated time with supervision by one or more teachers.
3. **In-School Suspension** – (Alternative Learning Setting) – exclusion of a student for a minimum of one class period.
4. **Suspension** – the short-term suspension of a student from a public school for not more than ten school days pursuant to Code Section 20-2-751. (Code 1981, § 20-2-764, enacted by GA. L. 1995, p. 240, § 2; Ga. L. 1996, p. 6, § 20)
5. **Long-Term Suspension** – Suspension of a student for more than ten consecutive school days but not beyond the current school quarter or semester. Due process procedures must be followed. (Code Section 20-2-751)
6. **Expulsion** – expulsion of a student from a public school beyond the current school semester or term. Due process procedures must be followed.
7. **DJJ** – Department of Juvenile Justice

PRE-K - Discipline steps in Pre-K are left up to the discretion of the administration in accordance with state guidelines.

CLASSROOM/SCHOOL DISCIPLINE GRADES K-12

Classroom Level Discipline

Teacher's choice will be utilized for classroom level discipline. Teacher choice may include but is not limited;

- Conference with the Student
- Conference with the Parent
- Detention
- Loss of Privileges
- Referral to Office
- Recess Reflection
- Student Reflection
- "You break it, you fix it"

Office Referral Discipline Options

- Administrative Conference and Parent Contact
- Referral to Counselor
- Detention/ Administrative Timeout
- Saturday School
- In-School Suspension
- Loss of Privileges
- Short Term - Out of School Suspension (1 period – to 10 days)
- Long Term - Out of School Suspension (Out of school suspension for more than 10 school days but not beyond the current school quarter or semester. (Subject to due process hearing.)
- Expulsion - Expulsion of a student from a public school beyond the current semester. (Subject to due process hearing.)

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

LEVEL 1

These behaviors should be handled by the teachers, then the team, and followed by the administration.

Key: CT= Classroom Teacher A= Administration

Categories of Misconduct/ Rule #	Discipline Steps	
	Description	6-12
Academic Dishonesty Rule 32	Receiving or providing unauthorized assistance on classroom projects, assignments, or exams. No student shall forge signatures of other parties nor alter information on any documents.	CT
Attendance Related Rule 30	Repeated or excessive unexcused absences or tardies; including failure to report to class, skipping class, leaving school without authorization, or failure to comply with disciplinary sanctions.	CT/A
Hall Passes/ Restricted Areas Rule 47	Students are not allowed to visit other students during class hours or in restricted areas deemed by the administration.	CT
Bus Conduct Referral Rule 53	<p>The code of conduct outlined in the Transportation and Parking section must be followed. Due to the severity of the offense, the administration reserves the right to determine the level of consequence. Restitution for damages will be at the discretion of the Transportation Director.</p> <p>The following actions at the bus loading/unloading areas and on the bus will result in suspension based on their position in the referral process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Students who refuse to provide their correct name and address. → Students caught throwing objects off/on the bus. → Fighting on the bus or at the bus loading areas. <p>Student abusing (verbally/physically) the driver will result in immediate bus suspension for the remainder of the year and based on the severity of the actions, may lose all future riding privileges.</p>	See bus matrix
Cell Phones Rule 34	<p>K-8 Cell phones should be off and not visible.</p> <p>HS-Cell phone use is limited to outgoing calls, which may be made before and after school and during lunch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → No phone usage is allowed on school buses AT ANY TIME. → Extra-curricular buses will be handled by coaches, per state law. <p>* If a student refuses to turn cell phone or any electronic device over to certified staff upon request, the following discipline will apply:</p>	CT
Earbuds/ Headphones Rule 34	Earbuds/Headphones cannot be worn in the school building unless it is part of instructional delivery.	CT
Electronic Equipment Rule 34	Electronic devices are not allowed at school or any school function or activity. Electronic equipment such as Ipods, DVD's, handheld video games, video game consoles and any other electronic device are not allowed.	CT
Internet Usage Rule 34	Internet Usage: No student shall visit any inappropriate, unauthorized website while on school property. This includes, but is not limited to pornographic sites, chat rooms, and unsupervised email checks. Inappropriate sites will be determined by the teacher, media specialist, and/or administrators.	CT A

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Dress Code Rule 31	Students will not violate the dress code as outlined in the student handbook. *Chronic dress code violations will be handled by the administration.	A
Food & Drinks Rule 48	No student shall have outside food or drinks in the halls, classrooms or restrooms unless approved by administration. DE students will adhere to the same policies as full-time students.	CT
Improper Use of Motor Vehicle Rule 49	Driving too fast for conditions, reckless driving, and improper parking will not be permitted. Georgia Rules of the Road will be adhered to while operating a vehicle on campus or at any school function.	6-8 N/A 9-12 A Alt- N/A
Lunchroom Conduct Rule 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Lunch purchased at school will be eaten in the school lunchroom or designated outdoor areas. → Inappropriate behavior in the lunchroom will not be tolerated. (Loudness, breaking in line, horseplay, etc.) → Loud talking and laughing in the lunchroom will not be tolerated. → Food scattered on the table and floor. 	CT
Physical Contacts Rule 45	Such as pushing, shoving, tripping or other behavior that does not result in threats, intimidation, or fight. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Intent to Harm B. No intent to Harm 	A CT
Possession of Unapproved Items Rule 34	The use or possession of any unauthorized item disruptive to the school environment. Whistles/water pistols and/or similar items. Students cannot supply, possess, transmit, and/or discharge any item that is disruptive or potentially dangerous.	CT
Public Display of Affection/ Inappropriate Touching Rule 46	Students shall not engage in inappropriate physical display of affection or touching on school property or at school activities. This includes, but is not limited to kissing.	A
Student Incivility Rule 33	Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff member instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, and misrepresentation of the truth. Student Incivility 1- General disrespect or failure to follow instructions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Those refusing to carry out reasonable instructions of faculty or staff members, or failure to identify themselves upon request, are unacceptable. → Students shall not report to class without appropriate materials. This includes, but is not limited to: textbooks, pencils, notebooks, class projects and any other items deemed necessary by the teacher. → Dressing appropriately and participating in physical education classes is a requirement. Students are not allowed to place their heads on desks or sleep in class. → Isolated remarks to peers. 	CT
Vandalism Rule 20 * contact proper authority	The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it. Examples include graffiti, carving initials or words in desktops, or spray-painting on walls. Level 1- Vandalism that the student is able to clean up or correct themselves. *this does not apply to graffiti that includes gang activity	CT

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

Vulgar Language Rule 56	Students shall not use profane, vulgar or obscene words, gestures or actions in a classroom, school campus, school events or functions . Not toward students or staff.	CT
Classroom Disturbances Rule 58	Students shall not engage in action which disturbs the flow of teaching activities in a classroom.	A

LEVEL 2		
Categories of Misconduct/ Rule #	Discipline Steps	
	Description	6-12
Computer Trespass Rule 05 * contact proper authority	Unauthorized use of a computer or computer network with the intention of deleting, obstructing, interrupting, altering, damaging, or in any way causing the malfunction of the computer, network, program(s), or data.	A
Harassment	Any act of harassment of students by other students based upon race, color, national origin, sex, or disability during school, on the bus or at any school event or activity. This also includes demeaning comments, threats or demands of physical contact which creates a hostile environment.	A
Non-disciplinary Incident Rule 40	Can only be used to report "physical restraint" with Action "95"	A
Other Discipline Incident/ or a state Reported Discipline Action Rule 24	Any other discipline incident for which a student is administered corporal punishment, in-school or out-of-school suspension, expelled, suspended from riding the bus, assigned to an alternative school, referred to court or juvenile system authorities, or removed from class at the teacher's request.	A
Refusal to Report Rule 51	No student shall fail to carry out assigned consequences for misconduct or fail to report to teachers or administrators for disciplinary actions. This includes failure to attend after-school detention.	A
Repeated Offenses Rule 36	A collection of offenses not previously assigned a state reportable action that occurs on a single or across multiple school days that leads to a state reportable disciplinary action.	A
Student Incivility Rule 33	Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff member instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, and misrepresentation of the truth. Student Incivility 2- Blatant insubordination; profanity directed toward school staff	A
Threat/ Intimidation Rule 17	Unlawfully placing another person in fear of bodily harm through verbal threats without displaying a weapon or subjecting the person to actual physical attack.	A

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

<p>Tobacco Rule 18</p>	<p>Possession, use, distribution, or sale of tobacco products on school grounds, at school- sponsored events, and on transportation to or from school.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Vape Pens and Electronic Cigarettes Rule 42</p>	<p>Any device used to deliver nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that may be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the device. This includes an vape juice or liquid used to put in a vaporizing device.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Includes any product that dispenses nicotine to the consumer * contact proper authority</p>	<p>* any vaping device with THC or any other illegal drug will be handled under drugs.</p> <p>Any device or product that contains nicotine including but not limited to nicotine pouches, nicotine gum, nicotine patches- unless medically prescribed.</p> <p>Any devices discovered will be confiscated and turned over to local law enforcement.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Trespassing Rule 19 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Entering or remaining on a public school campus or School Board facility without authorization or invitation and with no lawful purpose for entry including students under suspension or expulsion, and unauthorized persons who enter or remain on campus after being directed to leave by the chief administrator or designee.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Vandalism Rule 20 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it. Examples include graffiti, carving initials or words in desktops, or spray-painting on walls.</p> <p>Level 2- Participating in the minor destruction, damage, or defacement of school property or private property without permission.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Verbally Abusing Students Rule 55</p>	<p>Verbally abuse of a repetitive and/or aggressive nature. This includes, but is not limited to, verbal behaviors such as name calling, insulting remarks, or unwanted comments and jokes, gossiping, teaching, rumors, and unwanted notes.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Vulgar Language Rule 56</p>	<p>Students shall not use profane, vulgar or obscene words, gestures or actions in a classroom, school campus, school events or functions toward students.</p>	<p>A</p>

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

LEVEL 3		
Categories of Misconduct/ Rule #	Discipline Steps	
	Description	6-12
Alcohol Rule 01 * contact proper authority	Violation of laws or ordinances prohibiting the manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, or use of intoxicating alcoholic beverages or substances represented as alcohol, during the school year.	A
Arson Rule 02 * contact proper authority	Unlawful and intentional damage or attempted damage to any real or personal property by fire or incendiary device. Examples include firecrackers, fireworks, and trash can fires if they are contributing factors to a damaging fire. Without a fire, firecrackers and fireworks are included in the Discipline Incident Type code '23' Weapons-Other. This code does not include a simple act of lighting a match.	A
Battery Rule 03 * contact proper authority	Actual and intentional touching or striking of another person against his or her will or intentionally causing bodily harm to an individual. For example, one individual physically attacks or "beats up on" another individual including an attack with a weapon or one that causes serious bodily harm to the victim. Includes the actual placement of a bomb or one sent through the mail, regardless of whether the bomb explodes. This code should be used only when the attack is very serious, serious enough to warrant calling the police or bringing in security, where the intent is to do bodily harm to someone. Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or school personnel that results in OSS will result in a student having their driver's license suspended until his/her 18th birthday.	A
Breaking & Entering Burglary Rule 04 * contact proper authority	Unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a crime. This applies to school buildings or activities related to a school function.	A
Bullying Rule 29 * contact proper authority	A pattern of behavior, which may include written, verbal, physical acts, or through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology occurring on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions that is so severe, persistent, or pervasive so as to have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, threatening the educational environment, or causing substantial physical harm or visibly bodily harm.	A
Disorderly Conduct Rule 06 * contact proper authority	Any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment, or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare of students, staff, or others. If the action results in a more serious incident, report it in the more serious incident code.	A
Drugs, Except Alcohol or Tobacco Rule 07 * contact proper authority	Unlawful use, cultivation, manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, possession, transportation, or importation of any controlled drug or narcotic substance, or equipment or devices used for preparing or using drugs or narcotics. Includes being under the influence of drugs or substances represented as drugs. Code includes over-the-counter medications if abused by the student. Code does not include tobacco or alcohol.	A
Extortion or Attempt to Extort Rule 57 * contact proper authority	Students shall not extort or attempt to extort property from other students or school employees. Extortion is defined as obtaining property from another student, teacher, or employee) by force or threat of force.	A

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

<p>Fire Alarm-Activating a fire alarm under false pretense Rule 54</p>	<p>No student shall activate a fire alarm under false pretenses</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Failure to Provide Notification * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Upon any student being charged, adjudicated, or convicted of a felony violation the student shall immediately notify the principal and the superintendent of said charges, adjudication, or conviction and shall provide to the Principal and Superintendent a copy of all documents received by the student concerning said charges, adjudication, or conviction, including any probation terms. This includes any violation held in abeyance or given first offender status. Failure to provide the required documents shall be grounds for disciplinary action.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Fighting Rule 08 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Mutual participation in a fight involving physical violence where there is no one main offender and no major injury. This does not include verbal confrontations, tussles, or other minor confrontations.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Gambling Rule 43 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Students will not gamble on school property or while attending an activity under school supervision. Gambling includes playing cards, betting, matching, etc., for money, property, or recreational purposes. No cards of any kind are permitted on school grounds.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Gangs Rule 35 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Category A- Students shall not engage in any gang activities, included but not limited to: gang gestures, symbols, colors, hair design, eyebrow designs, clothing styles, body art.</p> <p>Category B- Group gatherings for intent to harass, recruit, intimidate, harm or bully.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Larceny/ Theft Rule 11 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property of another person without threat, violence, or bodily harm. Included are pocket-picking, purse or backpack-snatching if left unattended, theft from a building, theft from a motor vehicle, theft from a coin-operated machine, and all other types of larcenies. The Larceny / Theft code should be used only when theft is serious enough to warrant calling the police or bringing in security.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Motor Vehicle Theft Rule 12 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. Code includes theft of car, truck, motorcycle, dune buggy, RV, or anything that is self-propelled.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Robbery Rule 13 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Taking, or attempting to take anything of value that is owned by another person or organization, under confrontational circumstances by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear. An essential difference between robbery and larceny is that a threat or battery is involved in a robbery. Examples include extortion of lunch money.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Serious Bodily Injury Rule 27 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>The term “<i>serious bodily injury</i>” means bodily injury which involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss of impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Sexual Harassment Rule 15 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Deliberate, repeated, and unsolicited physical actions, gestures, or verbal or written comments of a sexual nature, when such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with a student's academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive learning environment. Examples include behaviors such as leering, pinching, grabbing, suggestive comments, suggestive jokes, or pressure to engage in sexual activity.</p>	<p>A</p>

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

<p>Sex Offenses Rule 16 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Sexual intercourse, sexual contact, or other unlawful behavior or contact intended to result in sexual gratification without force or threat of force and where the victim is capable of giving consent including indecent exposure and obscenity. Examples include entering or downloading pornographic content onto school computers.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Student Incivility Rule 33</p>	<p>Insubordination or disrespect to staff members or other students; includes but is not limited to refusal to follow school staff member instructions, use of vulgar or inappropriate language, and misrepresentation of the truth.</p> <p>Student Incivility 3- Issuing false reports on school staff.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Threat of severe harm or death (to individual or group) * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Threats that cause a disruption to school.</p> <p>Threats to another individual or group no larger than 3 that creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm, to commit any act of violence or to burn or damage property causing a disruption of school.</p> <p>Threat is any threat through written or verbal language or act which creates a fear of harm and/or conveys a serious expression of intent to harm, to commit any act of violence or to burn or damage property to more than 3 people. Threats shall also include, but not limited to, bomb threats, making false calls to 911 which have the effect of causing a lock down of the school building, the evacuation of a school building, or the search for a school building, or any bus, property, or building belonging to the school district by the school resource officer or any other public safety officer or agency, or the use of electronic communication to convey, text, video, or image which have the effect of causing a distraction of the school.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Vandalism Rule 20 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>The willful and/or malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of public or private property, real or personal, without the consent of the owner or the person having custody or control of it. Examples include graffiti, carving initials or words in desktops, or spray-painting on walls.</p> <p>Level 3- Participating in the willful/malicious destruction, damage, or defacement of school property or private property without permission. Level 3 may be used for students that violate the school policy on vandalism three or more times during the same school year.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Violation of terms of behavior contract Rule 52</p>	<p>If a student breaks the terms of a behavior contract upon returning to school after required punishment has been met. he/she will be returned to the original punishment given for the remainder of the school year.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Vulgar Language Rule 56</p>	<p>Students shall not use profane, vulgar or obscene words, gestures or actions in a classroom, school campus, school events or functions toward staff.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Weapon Possession * contact proper authority</p> <p>Knife Rule 22</p> <p>Other weapons Rule 23</p>	<p>The possession, use, or intention to use any type of knife, including a pocket or penknife, to inflict harm on another person, or to intimidate any person.</p> <p>The possession, use, or intention to use any instrument or object to inflict harm on another person, or to intimidate any person. Included in this code are chains, pipes, razor blades, ice picks, dirks, nunchakus, brass knuckles, Chinese stars, billy clubs, tear gas guns, stun guns, pepper spray, electric weapons or devices, explosives, or propellants. Firecrackers and other fire-works are also included if fire is not involved.</p>	<p>A</p> <p>A</p>

Vidalia High School Student Handbook 2024-2025

LEVEL 4

Categories of Misconduct/ Rule #	Discipline Steps	
	Description	6-12
<p>Failure to Provide Notification * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Upon any student being charged, adjudicated, or convicted of a felony violation the student shall immediately notify the principal and the superintendent of said charges, adjudication, or conviction and shall provide to the Principal and Superintendent a copy of all documents received by the student concerning said charges, adjudication, or conviction, including any probation terms. This includes any violation held in abeyance or given first offender status. Failure to provide the required documents shall be grounds for disciplinary action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Rule 09 Murder O.C.G.A 16-5-1 (homicide) → Voluntary Manslaughter O.C.G.A 16-5-2 → Rape O.C.G.A 16-6-1 → Aggravated Sodomy O.C.G.A. 16-6-2 → Aggravated Child Molestation O.C.G.A 16-6-4 → Aggravated Battery O.C.G.A. 16-5-24 → Aggravated Armed Robbery O.C.G.A 16-8-41 → Rule 14 Sexual Battery → Rule 10 kidnapping 	A
<p>Weapon Possession * contact proper authority</p>		
<p>Handgun Rule 25</p>	<p>Possession of a firearm which has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand; and any combination of parts from which a firearm described above can be assembled.</p> <p>NOTE: This definition does not apply to items such as toy guns, cap guns, bb guns, and pellet guns.</p>	A
<p>Rifle/ Shotgun Rule 26</p>	<p>The term “<i>rifle</i>” means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger. The term “<i>shotgun</i>” means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile or each single pull of the trigger.</p>	A
<p>Other Firearms Rule 28</p>	<p>Firearms other than handguns, rifles, or shotguns as defined in 18 USC 921 which includes any weapon which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any above; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device, which includes any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas.</p>	A
<p>Violence Against a Teacher Rule 44 * contact proper authority</p>	<p>Intentional physical attack against a teacher with the intent to cause bodily harm resulting in severe injuries or any physical attack against a teacher.</p>	A

Behavior in school as well as academic performance are both key ingredients in the success of any athlete. Chronic discipline problems as well as poor academic performance may cause an athlete to be dropped from this sport. This will be done at the discretion of the coach, Athletic Director, and Principal.