

Sidney Community Schools



Alternative School

**Student Handbook
2024-2025**

Sidney Community Schools- Alternative School

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Administration

Michael

Brown.....Superintendent

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Staff

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Committee

Luke Buttry

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Mission Statement

Sidney Alternative School's mission is to provide a safe environment that promotes respect and motivates our students to learn and act responsibly. We are dedicated to the individual development of attitudes, skills, knowledge, and responsibility essential to successful achievement in school and society.

Beliefs

1. All students have value and worth.
2. All students can learn. Despite challenges, all students can be successful.
3. All students can change their behavior. The probability increases if they are treated with dignity and respect.
4. The school will strive to teach the students to accept responsibility for the choices they make.
5. The school will strive to teach all students to learn and apply their knowledge.
6. The school will strive to teach all students to learn and apply appropriate social skills.
7. All students have the right to learn in a safe, caring, and positive environment.
8. The school has the responsibility to provide a safe, caring, and positive environment.
9. Education is a lifelong event. The school will strive to teach all students how to think critically and solve problems.
10. The school will strive to recognize all students as equally important individuals with high regard given to respect and dignity.
11. Education occurs in the community as well as the school.
12. The school will seek to develop cooperative partnerships with the community.
13. The school will be a place where a member of the community can belong through involvement.
14. The curriculum will be relevant and teaching methods varied to meet different learning styles.
15. The school will strive to facilitate the growth of all students into fulfilled, productive citizens, workers, and contributing family members.
16. Students, parents, and staff will share in the planning and implementation of a cooperative learning experience.

WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL?

The Alternative School program is operated by Sidney Community School District. The class is located in room 140. Students enrolled in the Alternative program can earn a high school diploma upon successful completion of the Sidney High School graduation requirements.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The Alternative School program is designed to meet the needs of students who have not experienced success in the traditional high school environment, or who have specific needs that the traditional school can not meet. Students are accepted into the program through an application or referral process and an interview process conducted by the Alternative School Committee.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Students who wish to attend Alternative School may pick up an application from the principal, guidance counselor, or directly from the program coordinator. The application must be completed in full and submitted to the program coordinator. Once the application is received, the program coordinator or guidance counselor will call and schedule an interview with the applicant and the applicant's parents as appropriate. All applicants must be approved by the Alternative School Committee before acceptance is final. Applications will be reviewed once a semester by the committee.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The alternative school curriculum is designed to help those students who have fallen behind on credits, allowing them to catch up and graduate. It is not designed to be an accelerated way for traditional students to go through school in a hurry; therefore, a student may not graduate early without permission from the district school board of education.

The alternative school will be using Edgenuity (E2020), a leading provider of one-on-one online instruction in core and elective courses for students in grades 9-12. The online program is led by highly qualified master teachers delivering content-rich lessons and supported by online activities. Students are able to learn at their own pace and make meaningful academic gains.

Expectations of Mastery

Course work, quizzes, and tests must be mastered at a minimum equivalency of 70 percent. Students who do not show mastery will work one-on-one with the coordinator

before moving forward in the course. Students are expected to comply with all E2020 course rules and expectations. Students will be allowed to work on 1 course at a time.

Earning Credits

Credits will be issued upon the completion of all required assignments, projects, and tests for each course. A percentage will be converted to a letter grade for student transcripts. A student can carry unfinished coursework into the next term, although students are encouraged to complete all classes in each term.

Grading Scale

A	100-95	C	76-73
A-	94-90	C-	72-70
B+	89-87	D+	69-67
B	86-83	D	66-63
B-	82-80	D-	62-60
C+	79-77	F	59 and below

Work for Credit/Service Learning

Students may earn elective credits by working in the community or through giving volunteer service to the community. Students can earn 1 elective credit for every 60 hours of documented work or community service experience. Students and their supervisors must complete the necessary paperwork and submit it to the coordinator in order for credit to be given. Pay stubs will work for this documentation.

Academic Integrity

Cheating

Cheating may be defined as intending to deceive and act dishonestly. Students who knowingly or negligently allow their work to be used by other students or who otherwise aid others in academic dishonesty are as guilty of cheating as the student who receives the material.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism may be defined as using and representing the words or ideas of another, in whole or in part, as one's own. Any use of outside sources without proper acknowledgement will be seen as an intent to deceive by plagiarism. It will be presumed that students who allow their work to be plagiarized also do so with the intent to deceive. Plagiarism applies to words or ideas taken without proper acknowledgement from any source—from published material, from any Internet site, from any material written by another person, from any electronic medium, or from any other source that is not the student's own creation. Artificial Intelligence (AI technology)

is considered another source and turning in work completed by AI technology is considered plagiarism.

EVALUATION

All students will have a personalized academic and attendance progress plan. Students are expected to complete 3 courses per quarter or 1 course every 3 weeks, this will equal 3 credits per quarter, 6 per semester and a total of 12 for the school year. In order to remain in the program and on pace for the credits needed for graduation. Progress goals will be established at the beginning of the school year. An attendance and progress report will be sent home on a monthly basis. There will be one day every month dedicated to individual conferences. Students will meet with the program coordinator to monitor, evaluate, and if necessary revise academic progress goals during the individual conference. Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held two times during the year, once in the fall and once in the spring.

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is a crucial factor to being successful at school and on the job. All students will be required to attend the Alternative School program from 8:00-11:29 am. Medical and personal appointments should be made for the time when the student is not in school. If an absence from school is inevitable, it is the student's responsibility to call the school to report the absence. Students who leave during class time, except with permission from the coordinator, may not return until the next day. The alternative school attendance policy applies to any course the student is enrolled in at Sidney High School. The Coordinator will keep track of your time and the student will make up all the time that has been missed. Accumulating more than 260 minutes for missed time will count as a day missed. Time can be made up before school for 30 minutes or potentially after depending on the availability of the coordinator. It is the student's responsibility to schedule make-up times, when you reach 260 minutes a day will be counted against you and you will no longer be able to make up that time. While there is no semester test, students will be expected to be in class working on their coursework unless prior approval has been obtained from the Alternative School Coordinator and Principal. Failing or refusal to make up missed time will result in a violation of the attendance policy.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The alternative school is designed to teach students personal and social skills, explore career opportunities, and work toward the completion of their high school education. It is designed for you, the student, to have a realization of the value of school. This

includes such things as courtesy, cooperation, and respect for your fellow students and teachers. It is also designed to teach self-discipline; therefore, the following policies and consequences, in addition to those in the Sidney Community Schools Student Handbook, have been developed specifically for the Alternative School students.

Policy No. 1 Students attend class regularly and are on time.

Consequence Any student that exceeds the maximum number of days that can be missed per semester (6 days) will be required to meet with the program coordinator and building principal. The program coordinator, and principal will determine the appropriate course of action, which could result in removal from the Alternative program for the remainder of the quarter. When the student has accumulated 260 minutes of missed time this will count as an absence toward their 6 allowable days.

Tardy Policy:

Student will need to make up the missing time from the tardy and the lost day

Policy No. 2 Swearing at or lack of respect for staff and/or fellow students will not be tolerated.

Consequence: The student will be sent home for the rest of the school day and lose their attendance for the day. Further infractions may result in the student being permanently removed from the program.

Policy No. 3 Students will make adequate academic progress towards the weekly progress goal as established by the coordinator. Students will finish 3 courses per quarter, or one course every 3 weeks in order to remain on pace to complete the number of credits needed to graduate.

Consequence: Students who do not meet their weekly academic progress goals will conference with the program coordinator to determine a plan for meeting academic progress goals. If students do not meet the Academic progress goal for the quarter, a meeting with the program coordinator, guidance counselor, student's parent,

principal and the student will take place and the student will be placed on Academic probation. Failure to make up missed work and meet academic goals for a second-quarter will result in a second meeting with the coordinator, counselor, student, student's parents, and principal at which time options will be given for other means of credit recovery.

Policy No. 4 Students cannot leave the school grounds without permission from the program coordinator during school hours.

Consequence: The student will be warned and will lose attendance for the day. If the policy continues to be violated, the student may be removed from the program.

Policy No. 5 Fighting or physical assault on a fellow student or teacher will not be tolerated.

Consequence: The student will be sent to the office and will be removed from the Program.

Policy No.6 Students are expected to comply with the directions of the Coordinator, substitute teachers, staff members, administrators, and other authorized personnel. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

Consequence: Disciplinary action may include:
Phase 1: Verbal Warning
Phase 2: Student is sent home, lose attendance for the day
Phase 3: Student must meet with the program coordinator and principal
Phase 4: Students is permanently removed from Alternative School

Policy No. 7 Students are expected to report directly to Classroom 140 using the annex entryway, and to leave immediately after school is finished.

Students are not allowed to linger in the hallways or in the parking lot before or after school.

Consequence: Students who are found violating this policy will first be given a verbal warning. Any subsequent violations can result in the loss of one day of attendance. Further violations beyond this may result in the student being permanently removed from the program.

Policy No. 8 Students will not have their phones out for any reason during class without the express permission of the teacher.

Consequence: The student will be warned and will lose their phone for the day. If the policy continues to be violated, the student will lose their phone. And a parent will need to come and pick it up.

WARNING

Students who are removed from the Alternative School due to attendance and/or disciplinary issues will not have the option to return to the Sidney High School main building program. Students who are removed will be given the opportunity to reapply 7 days before the next quarter for readmittance to the Alternative School program. The selection committee will meet and render a decision prior to the start of the next quarter.

DUE PROCESS

Prior to being removed from the program, the coordinator shall hold a meeting with the student. At that meeting, the student will be given oral and written notice of what the student is accused of doing. During the meeting, the student shall be told the basis for the accusation and shall be confronted with the evidence relied upon by the coordinator. The student may give their side of the story at the meeting and may have a parent or guardian present at this meeting if he or she desires.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A grievance is a claim by a student questioning the application of a policy to the student. Any student wishing to file a grievance must deliver the grievance in written form to the coordinator within three school days of the event that constitutes the basis of the grievance. The coordinator shall hold a conference with the student within a reasonable time after filing the written grievance. At this conference, the school may hear from any staff member who has knowledge of the incident, shall allow the student to be present and be heard. Following the conference, the administration shall uphold, modify, or reverse the action without unnecessary delay.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR POLICY

Students from the Alternative School who wish to be involved in extracurricular activities must apply with the head coach/sponsor of the activity. The student must meet Sidney High School eligibility requirements to participate (see student Handbook.)