

Slidell Jr. High School Parent/Student Handbook 2009-2010

School Phone: 641-5914

Principal:
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**Welcome to Slidell Junior High, home of the Tigers!
All of the policies contained in this handbook are in place for the purpose of helping to create a safe and positive learning environment for all of our students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school.**

Slidell Junior High Mission Statement

Embracing diversity in the pursuit of excellence

Vision

- ❖ Slidell Junior High is a partnership of students, staff, parents and community where respect, learning, appreciation for diversity and service to others are modeled and valued.
- ❖ We are committed to the adventure of lifelong learning and to providing a safe environment. Students are encouraged to develop thinking skills, while expanding their knowledge base to reach their highest potential.
- ❖ The community is provided an opportunity to be part of each child's educational experience by offering skill, talents and resources.
- ❖ Our teachers provide a flexible technology-rich learning environment that enables students to become meaningful contributors to society.

**Mascot – Tiger
Colors – Green, Black and White**

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Honors

There is a limited space for placement in our honors classes. The criteria for 7th and 8th grade honors classes can include the following:

- A score of Advanced or Mastery on the iLEAP or LEAP tests or a NPR of 85% or higher
- An “A” or “B” final grade from the previous year in that subject area
- Teacher recommendation

To remain in the honors classes, the student must **maintain** a 3.0 or better grade point average per semester. If the student falls below a “B” average, the school will recommend that your child be transferred to an on-level class. If this occurs, your child will not be placed in an honors class of English, reading, and / or math for the next school year.

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society of secondary schools is an organization with purpose to create enthusiasm for scholarship; to stimulate a desire to serve the school and the community; to promote leadership; to develop character; and to encourage a high regard for freedom and justice and mature participation and responsibility in civic involvement.

The NJHS is under the sponsorship and supervision of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The principal of the secondary school approves the activities and decisions of each chapter and appoints a chapter advisor. The principal also appoints a faculty council of junior high teachers whose purpose is to determine a selection procedure to select members and to consider dismissals all under the guidelines of a national constitution.

Students may not apply for membership. It is granted only to those students selected by the faculty council after receiving nominations from each junior high teacher. To be eligible for nomination, a student must have attended Slidell Junior High School for one semester and maintained a 3.7 average with no grades lower than a “C”. Membership is never considered on the basis of grades alone. Potential members are evaluated for leadership qualities; the ability to serve the school and its community willingly and enthusiastically; to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty, reliability, morality, and ethics; and for demonstrating civic and family involvement with mature participation and responsibility.

ATHLETICS

We encourage all of our Slidell Junior High students to participate in the athletic activity of their choice. In order to be eligible, all students must provide proof of insurance before they can try out for the team. A copy of a recent physical (valid for 1 year) signed by a physician must also be completed before the student can try out.

Some of the requirements for eligibility are:

- Students need to be under the age of 15 years or 15 after September 1.
- Students must have at least a 1.5 grade point average to play and no more than one **“F”** on each nine weeks report card.
- At tryouts, students are expected to perform a battery of skills suitable for the sport that they are trying out for.
- Students are expected to be at all tryouts. Exception: excused absence only.
- Students must have a good recommendation from teachers and administration.
- Any student held back in the eighth grade, who has played two (2) years in junior high (7, 8) will not be allowed to play sports at Slidell Junior High for the third year.

Our athletes are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior both at school and on the field.

- Any student who receives an in-school suspension will not be eligible to participate in the next scheduled game.
- Any student suspended from school will not be eligible to participate in the next two games.
- Any student who receives two suspensions, two in-school suspensions, or a combination of two suspensions and in-school suspension during an athletic season, will be dismissed from that team.
- Any student who has a combination of three or more suspensions and/or in-school suspensions will not be eligible to participate in athletics for the rest of the school year.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Regular school attendance has a positive effect on students' success. Students and parents need to refer to the Parish Handbook for all state and parish policies regarding excessive and excused absences.

- Upon returning to school after an absence of any length, a student must bring a signed note from his/her parent explaining the absence. The note from the parent must include the following

the date the excuse was written
the date(s) of the absence
the reason of the absence

This note is presented to the student services office upon the students return to school. An admission slip will then be issued to the student which is to be initialed by each teacher and turned in to the student's 7th hour teacher.

- It is the student's responsibility to check with his/her teachers to set up a schedule for completion of all work missed. The student has an equal number of days in which to make up the work as was missed, or a zero will be given for incomplete assignments.
- A doctor's excuse is needed for any absence of 5 or more days.
- Students must be present for half a school day in order to participate in extra curricular events after school.
- If a student is to be out for three or more days, assignments should be requested and can be picked up the following day.
- St. Tammany Parish automatically sends home notification letters of excessive absences. Students absent more than 18 days may be retained.
- Students must remain on campus before school, during the school day or after school while waiting for transportation.

Check Out Procedures

- Any student who needs to leave school due to illness must check out through the office.
- The student's teacher should call the office and ask a parent to be notified, unless the child is too sick to remain in the classroom. In that case, the student will report to student services to wait for a parent.
- No student will be allowed to check out unless a parent or guardian as designated on the student's emergency card comes to the office to sign him/her out. Picture identification is required.
- Students must bring a written excuse for any class missed due to checking out of school.

Tardy Policy

All students are expected to arrive to school and class on time. Students tardy to school should report to student services to receive a tardy slip. A parent is expected to accompany their child and sign him/her in. Tardiness to school will only be excused for those reasons stated in the St. Tammany Parish Handbook.

Consequences for unexcused tardiness will follow school disciplinary policies beginning with the 3rd tardy. (i.e. lunch detention, administration detention, Saturday detention, in-school suspension and suspension)

BALLOONS, FLOWERS and CANDY SALES

Balloons and flowers should not be delivered or brought to school because of the safety hazard on busses and the distraction they cause in classrooms and hallways. Candy from non-school sponsored organizations or individuals cannot be sold at school. Candy sold for unauthorized purposes will be confiscated.

BUS POLICY

- The bus driver is responsible for the safety and well being of all students while they are on the bus. The driver must be respected and obeyed.
- Students who violate bus regulations or who in any way endanger themselves or others by misconduct on the bus will be reported by the bus driver to the principal or assistant principal. Appropriate discipline consequences will be followed.
- A student who must ride a bus other than his/her own, must have a signed written request to the principal from his/her parents. The note should be brought to the front office before school and picked up after lunch. The approved note is to be given to the bus driver in order to ride the bus.

CONFISCATED ITEMS

Large amounts of money, expensive jewelry, and other valuables should not be brought to school. Radios, CD players, hand held video games, skateboards, toys, hats, laser lights, cell phones, etc. are not to be brought to school. Items of such nature will be confiscated and returned only to parents upon appointment. The school will not accept responsibility for such valuables and personal property.

DISHONESTY

CHEATING is defined as giving or receiving help in any phase of classwork: tests, homework assignments, exams, etc. A student caught cheating on a test, homework assignments, project, or any other assignments shall receive a "0" for his/her numerical grade on that particular assignment. Whether you give or receive information during an examination or individual assignments, the offense is the same. You will receive a "0" for the work.

DRESS CODE

Refer to the St. Tammany Parish **Handbook on Attendance, Discipline, & Student Records**. ***Extremes in style will be defined and determined by the local school administration.***

- **SAGGING PANTS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** IF PANTS DO NOT FIT AT THE WAIST (BELLY BUTTON) THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED TOO LARGE. ALL PANTS FOR MALES MUST BE SECURED AT THE WAIST ACCORDING TO STPSB POLICY.

- Male students are not allowed to wear earrings due to safety precautions.
- Students are not allowed to have any type of body piercing or body markings.
- Male students must be clean shaven.
- No oversized belt buckles can be worn. Only traditional buckles.
- Sweatshirts and/or jackets that are not school related must be kept unzipped or unbuttoned while inside the building. Any item that cannot be unzipped or unbuttoned must be worn under the uniform shirt.

Dress Code Violations

Students out of compliance with the uniform policy will be subject to regular school disciplinary procedures.

School Uniforms

Uniforms will consist of the following:

Polo Shirts – forest green or heather gray. Long or short sleeve. Insignia optional

Undershirts – only white, gray, green or black long or short sleeve undershirts may be worn under the school uniform.

Pants – Khaki slacks, skirts or shorts of appropriate length (finger-tip). No cut-offs

Shoes – Closed toe shoes or sandals with a back. **NO SLIPPERS OR FLIP FLOPS**

Uniform Specifications

- Polo shirts do not have to be tucked in unless the shirt is **excessively long**.
- **No wind pants, sweat pants or pajama pants** will be permitted.
- Inappropriately sized uniforms (shirts and pants) will not be permitted. **Sagging pants DO NOT FIT. Please do not send your student to school in pants that are too large.** You will be called to bring appropriate pants.
- Uniforms must be worn appropriately and may not be altered or accessorized in an attempt to circumvent the mandatory uniform policy.
- In cold weather, jackets, sweaters or wind breakers may be worn, as long as they can be open in the front. **NO LOGOS will be permitted other than SJH insignia.** Students must wear their school shirt at all times on the school campus.
- **T-shirts under uniforms MUST be tucked in.**
- All caps, hats, bandanas, rubberbands, sweat bands, earrings (males), large hoop earrings (females), or other accessories deemed inappropriate by an administrator will not be permitted and will be confiscated.

EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN HOMELESS SITUATIONS

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law passed in 1987 to help people experiencing homelessness. The Act requires states and school districts to make sure students in homeless situations can attend and succeed in school. The McKinney-Vento Act applies to all children and youth who do not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth who are living in the following situations:

- Doubled-up housing with other families or friends because they lost their home or their family is having temporary financial problems;
- Living in a motel/hotel because of economic hardship or loss of housing;

- Living in an emergency or transitional shelter, domestic violence shelter, or in a runaway/homeless youth shelter;
- Living in a vehicle of any kind; trailer park or campground without running water and/or electricity; abandoned building; substandard housing; bus/train station;
- Awaiting foster care placement; or
- Abandoned in a hospital.

Children and youth in homeless situations have the right to the following:

- Attend and succeed in school no matter where they live or how long they have lived there;
- Enroll in school despite the lack of a permanent address or lack of school and immunization records, or birth certificates and other documents;
- Receive services comparable to those offered to non-homeless children and youth;
- Get transportation to school;
- Access educationally related support services;
- Make sure that disagreements between students and schools are resolved quickly.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities at the school are provided to enrich our regular academic programs. Attending one of these functions is an important part of the Junior High Experience. Students are expected to behave in a manner that positively represents a Slidell Jr. High Tiger.

For safety reasons, students are expected to be picked up after the completion of an activity. Any student not picked up within 15 minutes of the ending time, will not be allowed to attend the next scheduled night activity.

Dance/Special Event Guidelines

- Only SJHS students will be allowed to attend events.
- Students who have been on any type of suspension (in or out of school suspensions) during the 9 weeks that a dance is held may not attend the dance.
- Eligible students must have the appropriate form completed and signed by the parent or guardian before he/she will be allowed to purchase a ticket to the dance.
- Students **MUST ATTEND SCHOOL** on the day of the event. Any student that is absent will not be permitted into the event.
- Tickets must be purchased no later than 7:25 a.m. on the Friday of the dance. No tickets will be sold after this time. All dance tickets are \$5.00. Tickets are non-refundable.
- In order to purchase a dance ticket, students must be current on all fines.

FIELD TRIPS

When field trips are scheduled by a teacher or club sponsor, permission must be given by the parent for the student to attend the field trip. Although field trips are educational, they are also a privilege and a student must maintain a satisfactory disciplinary record in order to attend. An appropriate school uniform is required on all field trips.

8th Grade Field Trip and Picnic

The 8th grade field trip and picnic are rewards for those students who have exhibited positive behavior throughout the school year. In order to be eligible to attend the field trip/picnic, a student cannot have any of the following:

- More than one out of school suspension
- More than two in-school suspensions
- More than a combination of one out of school and in-school suspensions.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Parents will be notified in writing of any financial obligations their child has. Please make sure that these obligations are met.

FIRE, TORNADO, and CODE RED

In order to prepare students for a possible emergency, periodically, fire, tornado, and code red drills will be held. It is important for students to follow all directions of school personnel in order to insure the safety of all.

GRADING POLICY

The grading policy for St. Tammany Parish Schools is:

A = 100 – 92

B = 91 – 83

C = 82 – 74

D = 73 – 65

F = 64 – 0

Report card grades will be determined by the numerical grade.

8th Grade LEAP 21 High Stakes Testing

No 8th grade student shall be promoted to the 9th grade until he/she has scored at or above the “Approaching Basic” level on the English or Mathematics LEAP 21 tests and “Basic” on the English or Mathematics.

Honor Roll

A student is granted Honor Roll status when he/she attains a 3.0 average or better, with the use of number grades. A student who receives an “F” or “D” for a grade in any subject is not eligible for the Honor Roll. A student is granted the distinction of being placed on the Principal’s Honor List when he/she receives a straight “A” average in all courses.

Report Cards and Progress Reports

In the middle of each nine-week period, progress reports are given to all students in all subjects. Report cards are issued to all students on the THURSDAY following the end of each nine-week period. After signing a receipt, it is the responsibility of the student to see that their parents get these reports. Progress Reports will be sent home for every child midway through each 9 week period.

- Parents can check the STP website to monitor students’ grades and progress

HALLWAYS

Any student in the hall during class periods must have a written pass from a teacher to justify being out of class. Students unmonitored in hallways and restrooms are unsafe. Hall passes must be signed by the teacher with a time and destination. Appropriate discipline will be assigned to students in the hallways without a pass

LIBRARY POLICY

We are proud of our library and encourage all students to learn to use the library for their pleasure and for class assignments.

- The library will open each school day at 7:10 a.m. and close at 2:45 p.m. Students must have a pass to be admitted before school.
- Books on the open shelves are checked out for two (2) weeks. Reference books may not be checked out.
- Books on reserve may be checked out for a 2-day period.
- Overdue library books are charged a fine of \$.05 a day.
- Lost books must be paid for by students.
- Students who owe fines or overdue library books will be denied library privileges.

LOCKERS

Lockers are assigned to students at the beginning of the school year by the homeroom teacher. Every locker has a school regulation lock. Students are required to keep their lockers locked at all times. Students should be responsible for the contents of their locker and must retain the locker that was assigned to them.

Lockers are subject to inspection at all times and should be kept clean and presentable. Locker trouble should be reported to a custodian.

LUNCH TICKETS

Lunchroom employees will sell **DAILY** and **WEEKLY** lunch tickets from 7:00 a.m. to 7:25 a.m. The student is to write his/her name on the back of the ticket when purchased.

MEDICATION POLICY

If your child requires medication during the school day, please refer to the St. Tammany Parish Guidelines in the Parish Handbook. If you have any questions concerning medication for long term or short term use, please contact student services.

If your child requires only short-term medication, we recommend (if possible) it be scheduled around school hours.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes will be considered only after a parent/student/teacher conference has been held and documented. Schedule changes must take place no later than the end of the first 9 weeks and must be approved by administration.

SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORT (PBS)

Motto

See	everyone ready to learn
Join	everyone in being respectful
Honor	everyone by moving/reacting safely
Smile	you're a TIGER!

Slidell Junior High Students show their Tiger Pride by being:

Ready to Learn –
Respectful -

Uniform, Books, Attitude, Promptness

Appropriate Language, Care of self, school and personal property.

Move/React Safely -

Walk quietly, Keep hands and feet to yourself, and Help others

And remember to....

Smile, you're a TIGER!

Hallway Rules

Walk to the Right
Continue to move
Keep your hands to yourself
Don't Get Caught by the Bell

Bathroom Rules

Flush/Wash Hands
Throw away trash
No Horseplay

Bus Ramp Rules

Walk quietly to your bus
Be Quiet
Be Safe

Outside Rules

Keep it fun
Keep it safe
Keep it clean
Keep Hands to Yourself

Cafeteria Rules

Keep your place in line
Use inside voice
Keep your area clean
Use appropriate table manners

Gym Rules

Walk safely through alley ways
Go to class as soon as you are dressed out
Dress appropriately

Main Office Rules

Be Polite
Be Quiet
Please Wait Patiently

Bullying

As a PBS school, we encourage all of our students to be respectful of each other.

Any sign of bullying at school will be brought to the attention of the Principal or Counselor who will react quickly in response to said incident by communicating our policy to the student and his/her parent(s). Counseling will be provided as required. Should any other problems arise; each student can be disciplined according to STPSB policy.

SLIDELL JR. HIGH CONSEQUENCES FOR BULLYING:

1st INCIDENT: Verbal warning; conference with student and parent; counseling for student.

2nd INCIDENT: Saturday detention

3rd INCIDENT: In-school suspension; student/parent/teacher/principal conference required

4th INCIDENT: Parent required to pick up student and remove from school; suspension or recommendation for expulsion

Consequences

Administrative Detention

Administrative Detention is held after school.

Saturday Detention

Saturday detention will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. **School uniforms MUST be worn in order to be admitted.** A PARENT DROPPING A CHILD OFF OUT OF UNIFORM WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT STUDENT AS THEY WILL NOT BE ADMITTED AND WILL NOT BE SUPERVISED. Saturday detentions will be assigned by an administrator. Saturday detentions may also replace in-house suspension or out of school suspension at the administrators discretion. Any student with three Saturday detentions will be moved to the next step in the discipline process. If a student misses a Saturday detention he/she will be suspended out of school for two (2) days. **Parents may send a note with their child to school on their first day back following the missed Saturday detention and the detention may be rescheduled ONCE if the note is deemed a legitimate absence by the administrator.**

Suspensions and Expulsions

Refer to the St. Tammany Parish **Handbook on Attendance, Discipline & Student Records.** Offenses not specifically covered by the handbook will be handled at the discretion of the administration.

Great Escape

Each 9 weeks, students will be eligible to participate in The Great Escape. In order to be eligible for participation, a student cannot have been referred to the office for any reason during that 9 week period.

Social Behavior

Students are expected to maintain high standards of social behavior at all times. Public displays of affection in any form should be avoided on school grounds or at any school sponsored event.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Slidell Junior High School is committed to providing a safe and stable climate for all students, free from sexual harassment by other students, teachers, parents, and staff members.

The purpose of the St. Tammany Parish School Board is to provide public education for the school-aged children of St. Tammany Parish. Sexual harassment is a violation of the law and School Board policy and will not be tolerated, condoned, or overlooked. The board requests and encourages persons associated with the school system to report such harassment to the specified person from the list that will be maintained on a bulletin board or other visible place in every building under the control of the school system.

Sexual harassment as defined by the St. Tammany Parish School Board's policy on sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and / or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

MANDATED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION EDUCATION AND REPORTING PROGRAM

- As mandated by the St. Tammany Parish School Board, students in grades K-8 will receive instruction on the topic of child sexual abuse prevention, education, and reporting.
- All materials that will be used in the instruction may be previewed by contacting the school administration.
- We would also like to encourage you to talk with your children about this topic as well as other general safety issues.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Student insurance is available at a nominal cost and is optional. When a student insured under this plan is injured, he/she will be given a claim form in the Student Services office. This form must be completed by his/her parent(s) and presented to the doctor or the hospital. The school merely acts as a medium in supplying the insurance and assumes no liability, either for the injury or the subsequent negotiations with the company.

STUDENT MESSAGES

Junior High is a time to learn responsibility. For this reason, students will not be given messages, reminders from home or needed materials during instructional times. Necessary messages and school related items that need to be given to students will be given between classes.

TECHNOLOGY

Computers and the internet are available in most classrooms and in the library for student use. Before any student may use any computer at Slidell Junior High School, a **technology use agreement** signed by both the student and parent must be on file with the student's homeroom teacher. Misuse of any school computer will result in the student being disciplined and further use of computer accessibility could be denied.

TELEPHONES

- **Students cannot have cell phones at school.** Students who have a cell phone out during the school day will have the phone confiscated. See confiscated items.
- Students will not be called to the telephone during school hours unless it is an emergency. This must be approved by an administrator.

TEXTBOOKS

All textbooks at Slidell Junior High School are the property of the State of Louisiana. Student use of textbooks carries with it the basic responsibility of proper use and good care. If a book is damaged beyond use or is not returned at the end of the session or when the student drops or transfers out of the class, the student must make payment for the cost of the book.

TRANSPORTATION

- Students who do not ride school buses and are on campus prior to 6:55 a.m. must wait on the sidewalk on Pennsylvania Avenue.
- Students are NOT to drive cars to school.
- Students are allowed to ride bikes to school but must get off and walk their bike to the bike rack when on campus. The school cannot accept the responsibility for a bike that is damaged or stolen
- Parents are not to drop off or pick up students in the faculty parking lot unless there is inclement weather.
- Students who are being picked up after school are to enter cars by the six hundred building bus ramp on Pennsylvania Ave. after the buses have left.
- To request a change in assigned buses, parents must contact the transportation department at **898-3373**.

VISITORS

Parents of students are always welcome. All visitors must register in the office and wear a visitor's pass to insure the safety of our students on campus..

For the safety of our students, no person will be allowed to visit the school to converse with students during the school day. This applies to the grounds as well as to the buildings.

Slidell Jr. High

Regular Bell Schedule

7:25

1st 7:30 - 8:28 (58 min.)

8:28 - 8:31 (3 min.)

2nd 8:31 - 9:24 (53 min.)

9:24 - 9:27 (3 min.)

3rd 9:27 - 10:20 (53 min.)

10:20 - 10:23 (3 min.)

4th 10:23 -11:16 (53 min.)

1st LUNCH

2nd LUNCH

11:16-11:40 Lunch	11:16-11:19 pass
11:40-11:44 pass	11:19-12:12 5 th
11:44-12:37 5 th	12:12-12:37 Lunch
12:37-12:41 pass	12:37-12:41 pass
12:41-1:34 6 th	12:41-1:34 6 th
1:34-1:37 pass	1:34-1:37 pass
1:37-2:30 7 th	1:37-2:30 7 th