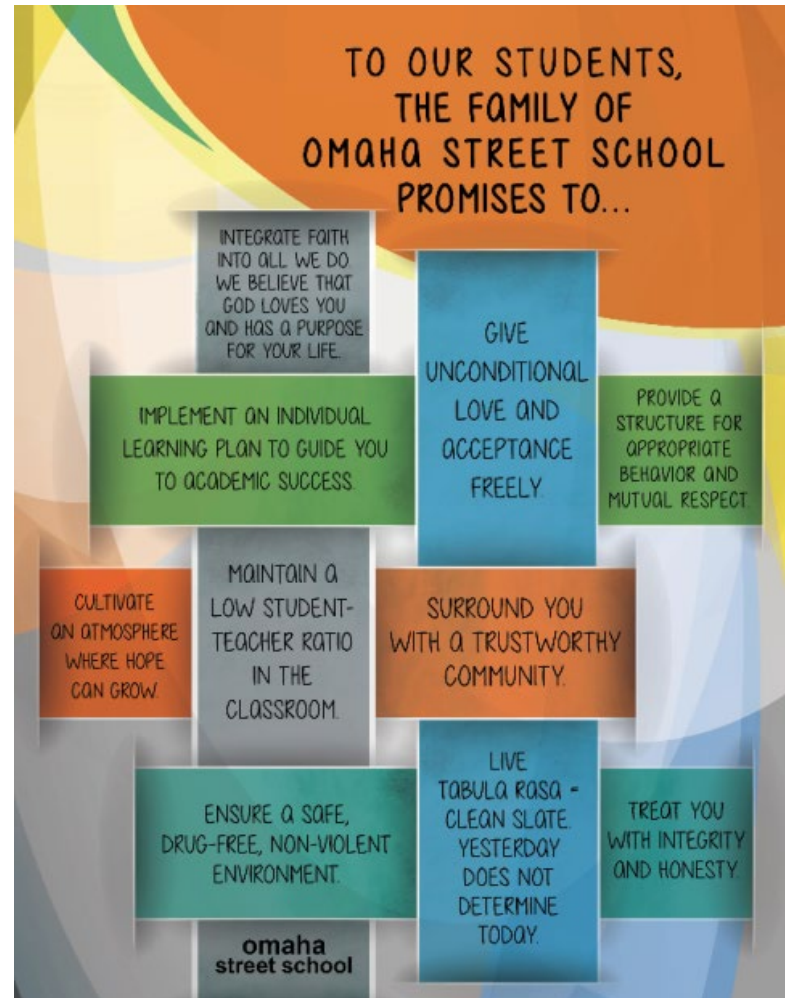


Omaha Street School Student Handbook

This Omaha Street School Handbook is the confidential property of the Omaha Street School. It is intended for use by the students and staff of the Omaha Street School.



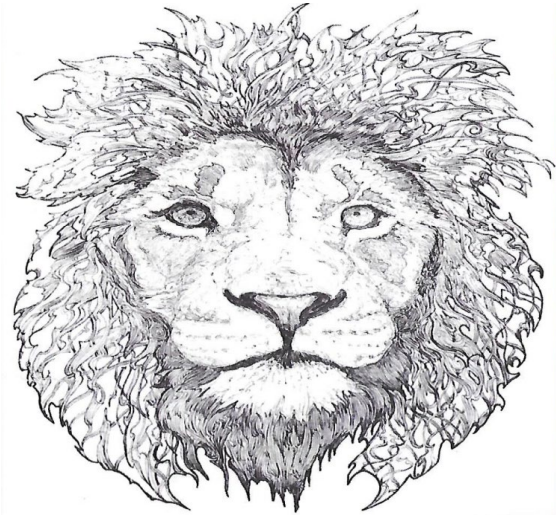
3223 N. 45th St, Bldg. H
Omaha, NE 68134
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God said, "... I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for..."
Jeremiah 29:11



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Mission:

We empower at-risk students to discover new hope and success through education, vocation and love in a Christ-centered environment.

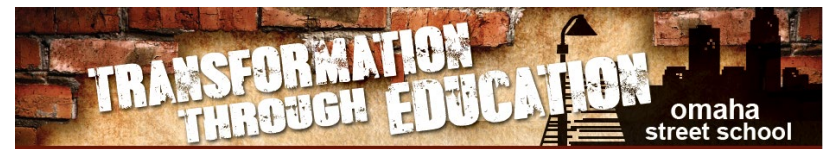
I. INTRODUCTION

The Omaha Street School is a faith-based high school dedicated to providing students with the opportunity to complete their high school education.

OSS has a unique education model that is helping students fulfill their personal and vocational goals.

OSS is governed by a Board of Directors composed of committed Christian men and women who share the vision that quality education in a loving and caring environment is the key to breaking economic cycles that prevent individuals and communities from prospering to their potentials. The Omaha Street School is affiliated with the Street School Network.

The Omaha Street School admits students of any race, color, religion, or national and ethnic origin the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to the students at this school. The Omaha Street School does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, or gender in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies and school administered programs.



Field trips

Each student should have a permission slip signed by a parent or guardian on file at school. This permission slip will cover all school outings during the year. OSS is not an open campus, and is not responsible for accidents that may occur once a student leaves the school grounds.

Volunteers

The Omaha Street School is honored and privileged to enlist several part-time volunteers to help carry out our mission of providing quality education to students. These volunteers serve as tutors, mentors, and in other ways. All volunteers are to be given the utmost respect for the time they give to OSS.

Guest Lecturers

Frequent guests speak to students, families and staff on various topics. Appropriate audience skills are expected.

II. ADMISSION PROCEDURES**Registration**

1. Student and parent(s)/guardian(s) will attend a tour and initial interview. Afterwards, if still interested in enrollment, parent(s)/guardian(s) will need to sign a Release of Information.
2. OSS staff will evaluate previous school's records including a current MDT, IEP, Behavior and Health records, transcripts, attendance, and grades.
3. A second and final interview will follow and an invitation for enrollment will be offered. A registration packet will need to be completed. A \$55.00 registration fee will be collected to hold the student's placement.
4. The student and family will attend a required Orientation prior to first day of school. During this time, the student and family will initial and sign the Student Standards of Conduct Contract and the Parent Contract. Admission Policy.

III. TUITION AND FEES**Tuition Scale**

Educating one child in Nebraska schools costs approximately \$15,150/year. Therefore, OSS solicits funds from a variety of sources to help offset some costs so families can have a school-choice option.

In order to maintain OSS' standard of excellence and to instill a sense of pride and ownership in education, we ask our families to contribute financially through monthly tuition.

Annual Income	Tuition rate/student
\$20,000 and under	\$30 per month
\$20,001 - \$30,000	\$60 per month
\$30,001 - \$40,000	\$100 per month
\$40,001 - \$50,000	\$150 per month
\$50,001 - \$70,000	\$300 per month
\$70,001 - \$90,000	\$420 per month
\$90,001 and above	\$525 per month
State organization	Sponsored per contract

Acceptable forms to validate income include:

- Nebraska State Income verification
- Prior year tax return
- Pay stubs for previous 3 months

Proper income verification and the \$55 Registration fee are due at enrollment. Tuition is due the first of each month. ***If tuition is not paid by the end of each quarter, the student will not be allowed to return to OSS until the balance is paid or the student/family arranges for alternative payment with the Executive Director and/or Building Principal.***

IV. ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Attendance

Consistent attendance is vital in the educational process. It demonstrates commitment towards education and a willingness to be held accountable. OSS complies with the NE Dept. of Education secondary requirement for 1080 hours of academic instruction. OSS's vocational goal is to build responsibility and integrity in students so they can be productive in the workplace.

If, after multiple problem-solving attempts, attendance issues do not improve, the student will be asked to leave OSS in order to make room for a student on the waiting list.

Lunch

Volunteers provide a daily lunch to our students at no cost. Breakfast items are also available to students between 7:30 – 7:55 am. Students are expected to clean up after themselves. There are no off-campus privileges for lunch.

Dress Code

The Omaha Street School believes dress is an expression of individualism; however, certain standards must be met to maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all students.

Girls are to dress modestly, not showing large amounts of skin. Halter-tops, spaghetti tops, see-through materials or midriffs are not allowed. Dresses/shorts should be long enough to reach fingertips when arms are extended.

Boys cannot wear muscle-type shirts and pants must be at the waistline. Sagging pants will not be tolerated. Wear a belt. Zip ties are available in lieu of belts.

Head coverings of any kind are not allowed unless previously approved by school staff. Head coverings include, but are not limited to: hats, scarves, bandanas, headbands, and/or do-rags.

At no time should clothing contain obscene language, sexual references, drugs/alcohol/tobacco, offensive symbols, pictures, gang-related paraphernalia, rest-in-peace/commemorative items or logos that are not conducive to the mission of OSS. Extra clothing will be available for students to change into if necessary.

A student who wears prohibited clothing will be asked to change into something acceptable or a parent/guardian will be contacted to bring their student a change of clothes that meets dress guideline. In the interim, the student will be asked to turn the clothing inside/out if applicable or given clothing by the school to wear over the offensive clothing. Decisions about clothing are at the discretion the building principal.

IX. GENERAL INFORMATION

School hours

Regular school hours are **8:00am** to **3:15pm** Monday through Friday. Some students may end their day early due to courses taken elsewhere for credit as authorized by parents and the school. If there are any questions, please contact the school office. ***It is vital that students arrive on time and leave campus when their day is over.*** Staff is not available to monitor student safety after their scheduled class time. Transportation is to be provided by the student's parent or guardian and arranged ahead of time to not miss out on class time.

Inclement weather

OSS goes by OPS school closures reported on local TV and radio stations.

Visitors

Students are not permitted to have visitors who are not previously authorized by the building principal. All visitors must report directly to the school office and sign-in.

Crisis Response Drills

OSS must conduct crisis safety drills on a regular basis. Instructors will teach and assist students with these crisis response drills. Pulling fire alarms without authorization will result in disciplinary action. Students are expected to follow **ALL** instructions during practice drills.

Cell Phones

In order to facilitate safety and help students stay focused on academic goals, cell phones are not to be used at school. Students are required to turn in **ALL** cellphones and/or electronic devices to their check-in instructors/or building administration at the beginning of the school day. The devices will be returned at the end of the day. Should a student be released early or sent home early due to discipline, devices will be returned to students upon their exit from the building. If there is a family emergency, students can report to main office to use the phone.

Absence

Daily school attendance is expected. It creates opportunity for students and staff to build positive relationships which impact academic success. Students will participate in a conference with their Instructor or a representative of the Administrative Team upon the 5th absence to collaborate on a plan for improved attendance.

Guardians and treatment team will be notified of days 5, 10, and 15 absences, which could include conferences with the guardian/treatment team members. Due to NE state law, when a student reaches 20 days absent, their name and family contact information may be turned into the County Attorney for truancy, which then becomes a legal matter between the student/family and the county attorney.

Tardiness

Attendance, including tardiness, is tied into a social-skill rubric for each class and is part of formative assessments (daily grades). The school doors open at 7:15 a.m. so students may enter and eat breakfast. The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. with students in their classrooms and ready to start their school day. The day ends at 3:15pm. Once students enter the building they are not to leave without parental and staff permission.

Student Identification

Students will have their photos taken for identification and issued a lanyard in which to house the picture id. These picture ids must be worn by students at all times while on campus. At the end of each day, students will turn in their student ids to their home room teacher. Should students lose their id during the school day, a temporary id will be issued until the original can be located. If the original cannot be located, students will be issued a new id.

V. Discipline and Conduct

Discipline

The Omaha Street School is committed to creating a safe learning environment. To accomplish this purpose, and to provide each student with the best opportunity to succeed, our four Positive Behavior Supports utilized are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Relationship Building | 2) Frequent Feedback |
| 3) High Staff Visibility | 4) Corrective Teaching |

Instructors and Administration will interact with guardians and treatment team members regarding positive and corrective behaviors. Should inappropriate behaviors arise, the following consequences could be implemented:

- office discipline referral
- stay after school to complete missed work
- student/principal conference
- parent/student/instructor conference
- parent/student/principal conference
- in-school suspension
- lunch detention
- suspension
- expulsion

Suspensions / Expulsions

Suspensions are earned for major offenses and continuing behaviors. If the student is unresponsive or un-teachable, the suspension will start immediately. Suspensions are unexcused absences. Students are still responsible for any assignments missed due to a suspension.

Expulsions are determined by the Principal for continuing behaviors without improvement or for major and/or criminal offenses. The parent may request an appeal with the principal and Executive Director of Omaha Street School if they feel their student did not receive due process or the consequences did not fit the offense. All decisions as to a student's continued enrollment will be final.

Grading System

A system of letter grades and conferences are used to inform parents of student progress. Letter grades are based upon the following percentage grouping:

- | |
|-------------------|
| A = 90 - 100% |
| B = 80 - 89% |
| C = 70 - 79% |
| D = 60 - 69% |
| F = 59% and below |

Parents and guardians are welcome and encouraged to call or email at any time concerning their child's academic progress.

Required Course Offerings

The core curriculum is offered through direct & online instruction. These courses meet NE State Standards. A sampling of courses:

English – These courses incorporate various levels of grammar, composition, literature, vocabulary

Math – Math courses include basic math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry.

Science – Core Science includes Physical Science, Biology, and Physics.

Social Studies – World Geography, American History, World History, Economics, and American Government.

Vocational – Leadership Academy (an OSS graduation requirement), Life Skills, Personal Finance, Career Exploration, and Part-time work credit*
*70 hours of confirmed work study = 1 vocational credit; max up to **two credits**

Elective Offerings – Course sampling:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Communications | Bible-based courses |
| Digital Arts | Fine Arts |
| Intro to STEAM | Marketing |
| Digital Media | Consumer Math |
| Vocational Exploration | |

VIII. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Credits

In order to graduate from the Omaha Street School, a student must earn 45 credits. OSS operates on a credit system similar to the Omaha Public Schools. Credits are earned on a semester basis.

Many students indicate a desire to attend college or another institution of higher learning or trades training. To accomplish these goals, the following academic categories must be met, per requirements of the NE Department of Education, for high school graduation.

Subject	OSS Graduation Credits Needed	OPS Graduation Credits Needed
Art/Music	2	1
English	8	8
Math	4	6
Science	4	6
Social Studies	6	7
Vocational	8	N/A
Health/P.E.	2	4
Other	N/A	1
Electives	11	16
TOTAL	45	49

On Track Indicators

Grade Level	Freshman (9th)	Sophomore (10th)	Junior (11th)	Senior (12th)
Credits Earned	0 - 11	12 - 23	24 - 35	36 - 45

Lockers and Bookbags

Usually, every student is assigned a locker. Students should use only their assigned locker and keep it locked (with school-issued combination lock). Students cannot change lockers without permission. Problems with lockers should be reported to staff. All personal items and books (except for cell phones and electronic devices), are to be kept in lockers. Students should not tamper with another locker or give their combinations to another person. The school will assume no responsibility for any items lost or stolen. Posters, pictures and other materials displayed in the lockers must be appropriate. While bookbags (fanny-packs, purses) are allowed, students must store them in their assigned locker. The school owns student lockers, desks, and other such property. The school exercises exclusive control over this property, and students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in them since they are subject to search at any time. Students are responsible for whatever is contained in lockers issued to them by the school. Lockers will not be used this year.

Security Screening

Students and their personal effects are subject to searches by the building principal or his or her designee if there is reasonable cause to believe that the student is in possession of contraband or evidence indicating that the student has otherwise violated the Student Handbook. This includes all student pockets, backpacks, and other kinds of carrying devices, and any personal computing, communication, and data storage devices. If the student does not allow the search, Law Enforcement may be contacted.

Student Contract

OSS is a faith-based high school dedicated to providing a quality education in a safe and positive environment that encourages academic excellence, high moral standards, self-discipline, and social-emotional growth. The following standards of conduct include beliefs, attitudes, and values that the school deems essential to the fulfillment of its mission.

Each student will read and agree to apply its contents. A signed contract must be on file prior to the student starting school.

1. I understand the **Omaha Street School is a faith-based school**. I am free to have my own beliefs but understand I am required to respectfully attend weekly chapel services.
2. I realize **racial bigotry and hatred is wrong** no matter to whom it is directed. I agree not to engage in racism either by my actions or words while enrolled at Omaha Street School.
3. I realize the **use of alcohol and drugs, including tobacco and e-cig products, will not be tolerated** at the Omaha Street School. I agree not to use any drugs or alcohol before school, during school hours at lunch, on the Better Together campus, or at any school events. I understand if I possess or use alcohol or drugs, I am subject to immediate consequences and that law enforcement will be contacted if necessary.
4. I realize that **open displays of affection and sexually explicate language** or innuendoes are not appropriate at school. I will refrain from such behavior while at the Omaha Street School or while attending any school functions. I realize if I engage in sexual harassment of any kind and/or displays of affection which disrupt the learning environment, I am subject to immediate consequences including expulsion. If necessary, law enforcement will be contacted.
5. I will **demonstrate respect to the staff** of OSS by my use of manners, and following directions of staff and volunteers. **I will show respect to my fellow students** by using manners and helping to create a positive school culture. I understand if I show disrespect to staff, volunteers or students, I may jeopardize my enrollment. This also includes harassment such as, but not limited to: texting, Facebook, and other social network sites.

VII. BUILDING AND CAMPUS USAGE

1. Students will only park in the lot located along the southwest side of the Better Together campus East of the DO NOT ENTER sign near the 45th Street entrance.
2. Students are to utilize the designated classrooms in the building. The basement and second floor are off limits to any student without prior permission from a staff member.
3. Once students arrive to campus, they must report to our building. There should not be any loitering outside. At dismissal, students are not allowed to loiter on campus either.
4. Sometimes, OSS will conduct classes and activities in other buildings on campus. Students should always be with a staff member in these situations.
5. The Computer Lab is to be used only with staff or volunteer supervision. Students using unauthorized websites are subject to disciplinary action.

VI. Parent Involvement & Contract:

Parent Contract

The administration and staff welcome the cooperation and involvement of parents and guardians.

The following contract communicates OSS' desire and expectations of parent/guardians to support student success:

1. I understand I am responsible for monthly tuition cost (See pgs. 5 & 6), unless another agency is paying for this cost on my behalf.
 2. I agree to remain in contact with OSS, keeping them updated of my contact information so I can stay informed of my child's progress.
 3. Family and the school working together will help my child be successful. I will make conferences (phone or in person) & family nights a priority to support my child.
 4. I realize that **consistent attendance is necessary** for academic progress. I understand the attendance policy (stated on pgs. 6-7 of the Student Handbook), includes excessive tardiness. I will contact the school for any expected absences, doctor appts, tardies, etc...
 5. I realize cell phones or other electronic/non-electronic devices are not to be used. I understand that such devices will be turned in to school staff upon arrival and returned at the end of the day. My student's refusal to hand over said property may result in disciplinary actions. Details on pg. 18 of the Student Handbook. If I need to contact my student, I will contact the school directly.
 6. I am responsible for transportation to and from school. Classes begin at **8:00am** and end at **3:15pm**, unless otherwise communicated by the school staff. Students are to be picked up promptly to maintain safety. This includes picking up my child promptly or making arrangements due to suspension.
6. I appreciate the organization (Abide) that owns **the school building and grounds** in which I attend. I will respect the property in all ways. I understand that I am subject to disciplinary action and payment for damages I incur. **I understand I will be asked to help keep the school & grounds clean and I will do so willingly as instructed or asked.** Community service is a requirement of enrollment. I understand that OSS is **NOT** responsible for lost or stolen personal property.
 7. I will sincerely attempt to **change my language habits** and reduce my profanity. I understand the staff will exhort me to use better language if I swear. I realize that disciplinary action will result if I curse at staff, volunteers, or continually exhibit disrespectful language or behaviors.
 8. I realize that **consistent attendance is necessary** for academic progress. I will abide by the attendance policy and I understand that excessive tardiness and/or absences will result in disciplinary action. Parents/Guardians are to contact the school for any expected absences or tardies.
 9. I have a bright future. I do not want to jeopardize it by impulsive and **senseless acts of violence**. I realize if I initiate or perpetuate a fight by my words or actions, I could be expelled. I also understand that bringing a firearm or other weapon to school will result in immediate expulsion. I also realize the assault of a staff member or another person where I knowingly and intentionally use force to cause personal injury will result in my immediate expulsion from OSS. Law enforcement will be contacted.
 10. I will **dress properly every day**. I realize I may be asked to change into something acceptable or be sent home. I am aware that flagrant disregard for the dress code may result in my dismissal from school. Ex. No pajamas, sagging pants, muscle shirts, low necklines, pj's, slippers, etc., **as determined by OSS staff**. See page 19.

12. I understand the staff is here to educate, advocate, and encourage mature and thoughtful behavior. They represent the authority in the school setting. **I understand the contents and terms of this contract and the judgment of staff, in their interpretations, are NOT negotiable.**
13. I understand that I cannot bring firearms or any other sort of weapon onto campus. Students are forbidden to knowingly possess, handle, transmit or use any instrument that is generally considered a weapon. Dangerous weapons shall include: (a) guns, including antique firearms, BB guns, paint ball, "airsoft" guns, dart guns, or pellet guns which are not firearms as defined above (b) knives of all kinds, including pocket knives, regardless of the length of the blade, dirks, or stilettos of any type or any other dangerous instrument capable of inflicting cutting, stabbing or tearing wounds; or (c) knuckles and brass or iron knuckles that consist of finger rings or guards made of a hard substance that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles. (d) Any object which could be used to injure another person and which has no school related purpose for being at the time in the student's possession will be considered a weapon for purposes of this Student Handbook. The following are examples of objects generally considered to be weapons: ammunition, stun gun, taser, lead pipes, chains, chuck-sticks, throwing stars, darts, blackjacks, unauthorized tools, fireworks, pepper spray, mace, or chemicals. It is not a defense to a charge of possessing, handling, transmitting, or using a weapon that the student did not intend to hurt anyone. Students determined to be in possession of weapons on the campus and/or in the building will result in my immediate expulsion from OSS.
14. I understand that I may not be in possession of weapons of any type. If at any time a student discovers that he/she has possession of a weapon the student must immediately turn the weapon to the nearest teacher, counselor, administrator or other school staff person. If the student immediately turns in a weapon, the student will not face the school consequence for weapon possession. If, however, the student continues to possess the weapon, to go on to further classes, to display the weapon to other students, or otherwise does not take immediate action of reporting, the student will be subject to consequences as outlined in this Student Handbook. This clause does not apply to possession of a firearm or gun. In all circumstances involving weapons, law enforcement will be contacted.

15. I will **do all classwork assigned** by my Instructors in all classes. I will complete my classwork promptly, take notes as instructed and strive to do my best. I understand **if I refuse to do my work or turn in below standard and incomplete work, I will be required to redo my work to a passing level.** Continuously refusing to complete work to the Instructors' expectations can jeopardize my enrollment.
16. I realize school officials need to receive parental or emergency contact permission **if I need to leave during school hours.** I understand if I leave without permission (truancy), I may jeopardize my enrollment.
17. I realize **cell phones** or other **electronic devices** are not to be used during school. I understand that such devices will be turned in to school staff upon arrival to school and returned at the end of the day. My refusal to hand over said property will result in disciplinary actions. Additional details are on pg. 18 of this Student Handbook. If I need to contact my parent(s)/guardian(s), or treatment team members, I will ask permission to use an office phone.
18. I will operate the computers at the Street School with proper care and respect. Documents created will be consistent with the school's educational objectives. I will not access the network for any purpose other than what is instructed. I understand if the computers are mistreated or utilized for anything other than Instructor-directed activities, I will not be allowed to use them. This could result in assignments requiring outside resources which I will be expected to complete. Continued misuse could jeopardize school placement. No social networking sites are allowed.