
Sept. 8, 2017

Dear Seahawk Families:

Being on time to school is important to us at South Lakes High School. When students arrive to school on time, teachers can start class with minimal interruption and maintain the momentum of their instruction. After a review of student attendance, we have determined that unexcused tardiness to school is a significant issue at South Lakes High School that must be addressed. Over 50% of student tardies last school year were first thing in the morning. Our process in years past for students who are tardy to school required them to report to their grade level sub school office to check in and obtain a pass.

In an effort to minimize the impact to our instructional environment, the staff at South Lakes High School has worked together to build unity and create a plan to minimize student tardiness. As a staff, we have agreed that any student who is not inside their 1st or 2nd block classroom when the bell rings is considered tardy. In addition to this change, we have also developed a plan to more accurately track student tardiness and create a stronger connection between behavior and consequence for students who are frequently tardy to school.

New this year, we will have tardy tables located inside entrance 1 (by the main office) and another inside entrance 4 (by the activities office). These will be the only locations for late check-in to school between the hours of 8:10 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. (after this time they report to their grade level subschol for a pass). Any student not in their period 1 or 2 class by 8:10 a.m. will report to one of the two tardy tables. Students will receive a pass to enter their 1st block or 2nd block class from the tardy table monitor. Students who accumulate frequent tardies will receive consequences. Due to new traffic patterns and impact of construction, we delayed the implementation of the tardy tables with the start date being in the morning of September 11th. This information was communicated to our students via a video presentation this during Seahawk Seminar this week.

Consequences for unexcused tardies:

1st & 2nd Tardy: Warning

3rd Tardy: Wednesday After School Detention (WAD)

5th Tardy: Friday After School Detention (FAD)

7th Tardy: In-School Suspension, Determined by Administrator, including additional detentions, parent conference, etc.



Please note that excused tardies will not count against students, as is the usual process. The Fairfax County Public Schools Student Rights and Responsibilities document specifies what constitutes an excused tardy (i.e. doctor's appointment with documentation). If we have FPCS school buses that arrive after 8:05 we will issue an excused late bus pass.

We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring all of our Seahawks are on time to school each day.

Sincerely,

Kim Retzer, Proud Principal

