

William J.  
**Ostiguy**  
— HIGH SCHOOL —

STUDENT  
Handbook  
2019 - 2020





## **Our Mission**

To provide a safe, supportive, and culturally competent environment grounded in restorative practices for youth in all stages of recovery so they can develop the necessary skills to build upon their own strengths needed for personal growth and academic success.

## **Ostiguy Statement on Tolerance and Acceptance**

Ostiguy High seeks to maintain a school climate that encourages inclusion and promotes tolerance. Ostiguy embraces an environment that encourages compassion, understanding, and acceptance of differences. People have a right to learn, teach, and recover in a safe and welcoming environment.

Tolerance can be defined in different ways:

- Respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human.
- Harmony in difference.
- A universal love that "discovers the neighbor in every man it meets." (Dr. Martin Luther King)

Specific behaviors that can detract from this environment include, but are not limited to profanity, students refusing to participate in school activities, and insults related to ability, appearance, culture, gender, home language, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or social class.

Ostiguy teachers and students will work together over the course of the school year to define the meaning of tolerance and acceptance and how these concepts are actualized in our community. Individual students will be held accountable to the school's behavior policy which outlines the steps taken when the safety of the school environment is endangered by intolerant/unacceptable behavior.

## **Ostiguy High School Core Requirements**

Ostiguy High School is a learning environment. All students must demonstrate commitment to both their education and their sobriety.

- 1) In order to enroll in Ostiguy High School, all prospective students must be clean and sober prior to their school start date.
- 2) All enrolled students must work with the OHS Recovery Counselor to develop an individualized Recovery Plan and agree to weekly, random drug testing. In the event of relapse, the Recovery Plan may be revised to provide increased support for the student.
- 3) Students must participate fully in substance abuse recovery programming offered at OHS.
- 4) In order to attend Ostiguy High School, students must be in average good health. OHS is handicap-accessible. OHS is further committed to making reasonable accommodations for anyone with a disability.

## Contact Information

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**William J. Ostiguy High School main number** (617) 348-6070

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Cynthia Santiago – School Operations Coordinator (617) 348-6756  
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### **William J. Ostiguy High School Teachers**

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Jon Chapman – Science Teacher  
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Sabina Miranda – Online Teacher  
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## 2019 – 2020 School Year & Holiday Schedule

|                     |  |                         |   |
|---------------------|--|-------------------------|---|
| September 5         | 1 <sup>st</sup> day of School - Quarter 1 Begins | February 24             | Students return from recess   |
| October 14          | Columbus Day - No school                         | April 10                | Good Friday: No School  |
| November 11         | Veterans Day - No School                         | April 20                | Patriots' Day No School   |
| November 27         | Early Release Day                                | April 21 -24            | Spring Recess No School   |
| November 28 & 29    | Thanksgiving – No School                         | April 27                | Students return form recess   |
| December 23 – Jan 3 | Winter Recess – No School                        | May 25                  | Memorial Day No School  |
| January 2           | Staff Return                                     | June 5<br>(or day 170)  | Last day for seniors  |
| January 6           | Winter Recess Ends<br>Student's Return           | June 18<br>(or day 179) | Early release for students  |
| January 20          | M. L .King Jr. Day No School                     | June 19<br>(or 180)     | Last day of school <i>if no days are lost due to cancellation, early release for students</i> |
| February 17         | Presidents' Day No School                        |                         |   |
| February 18 – 21    | February Recess No School                        |                         |   |

| MCAS Subject                               | Date        | Test Type |
|--|-------------|-----------|
| ELA Composition Sessions A and B           | November 6  |           |
| ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1 and 2 | November 7  |           |
| ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3        | November 8  |           |
| Mathematics Session 1                      | November 13 |           |
| Mathematics Session 2                      | November 14 |           |
| Biology Session 1                          | February 5  |           |
| Biology Session 2                          | February 6  |           |
| ELA Composition Session A and B            | March 2     |           |
| ELA Reading Comprehension Sessions 1 and 2 | March 4     |           |
| ELA Reading Comprehension Session 3        | March 5     |           |
| Mathematics Session 1                      | March 6     |           |
| Mathematics Session 2                      | March 9     |           |

### **Inclement Weather Policy:**

William J. Ostiguy High School follows the Boston Public Schools schedule in regards to school closings, early dismissals and late starts due to bad weather conditions. For information on school cancellations, early dismissals, or late starts, please listen to WBZ, AM 1030 or watch the local news. Extenuating circumstances and/or inclement weather may require that changes be made to the calendar during the year. Staff will be sure to keep you informed.

## Academic Information

Students who graduate from Ostiguy receive official high school diplomas issued by their home school (the school they attended prior to enrollment at OHS). In order to earn their diploma, students must fulfill the credit requirements of their home school district.

### OHS Passing Grade Scale

|    |          |    |         |    |         |    |         |
|----|----------|----|---------|----|---------|----|---------|
| A+ | 97 & >   | B+ | 89.9-87 | C+ | 79.9-77 | D+ | 69.9-67 |
| A  | 96.9-93  | B  | 86.9-83 | C  | 76.9-73 | D  | 66.9-63 |
| A- | 92.9 -90 | B- | 82.9-80 | C- | 72.9-70 | D- | 62.9-60 |

### Weekly School Schedule 2019 – 2020

(Changes may be made between quarters)

|               | Mon   | Tues   | Wed  | Thurs  | Fri   |
|---------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| 8:30 - 8:38   | Homeroom<br>(Mindfulness)                             | Homeroom<br>(Mindfulness)  | Homeroom<br>(Mindfulness)  | Homeroom<br>(Mindfulness)                              | Homeroom<br>(Mindfulness)   |
| 8:40 - 9:40   | Group<br>Discussion                                   | Math 1<br>English 3<br>Study Hall 2 -<br>History Skills          | US History 1<br>English 2<br>Science Skills  | Tech & Eng<br>Group 1<br>US History 2<br>Math Skills   | Math 2<br>Physics<br>Study Hall 3<br>English Skills                                   |
| 9:42 - 10:42  | Math 1<br>English 3<br>Health 2<br>History Skills     | Tech & Eng<br>Study Hall 1-(jane)<br>US History 2<br>Math Skills | Math 3<br>World History<br>English 1<br>Online Science<br>Student led group<br>-ST | Math 1<br>English 3<br>Group 2<br>History Skills       | US History 1<br>English 2<br>Science Skills   |
| 10:44 - 11:44 | Tech & Eng<br>Health 1<br>US History 2<br>Math Skills | Math 2<br>Physics<br>Group 3<br>English Skills                   | Math 2<br>Physics<br>Study Hall 3<br>English Skills                                | US History 1<br>English 2<br>Science Skills            | Math 3<br>World History<br>English 1<br>Online Science<br>Small recovery<br>group- ST |
| 11:44 - 12:14 | LUNCH<br>(Restorative Time)                           | LUNCH<br>(Restorative Time)                                      | LUNCH<br>(Restorative Time)  | LUNCH<br>(Restorative Time)                            | LUNCH<br>(Restorative Time)   |
| 12:16 - 12:24 | After Lunch<br>(Mindfulness)                          | After Lunch<br>(Mindfulness)                                     | After Lunch<br>(Mindfulness)   | After Lunch<br>(Mindfulness)                           | After Lunch<br>(Mindfulness)  |
| 12:26 - 1:26  | Math 2<br>Physics<br>Health 3                         | Math 3<br>World History<br>English 1<br>Online Science           | Math 1<br>English 3<br>Study Hall 2 -  | Math 3<br>World History<br>English 1<br>Online Science | Tech & Eng<br>Study Hall 1 -<br>US History 2  |
| 1:28 - 2:28   | US History 1<br>English 2                             | Yoga / Fitness/Art<br>Bloc                                       | Student Recovery<br>Group  | Drama/Improvisation                                    | Counselor Groups  |

# Program Components

## Classroom Instruction

Classroom instruction is provided by certified Boston Public School teachers in the areas of English Language Arts, Science, History, and Math. Students are assigned to courses based on their home school graduation requirements and their academic skill level as indicated by the standardized test scores they submit to OHS during the application process.

## Online Learning

Coursework not covered by classroom instruction will be fulfilled through Online Learning. All courses are web-based, and can be accessed offsite using the student's username and password. Tests need to be unlocked and proctored (started and completed in one sitting) onsite by staff. Students are required to print out and complete all study guides as they move through their class. Quizzes and tests are open note. 70% is the passing threshold for grading. If a student fails a quiz 3x the quiz will automatically lock. A semester of online class is estimated to be 45-47.5 hours of seat time. After 14 days of inactivity, APEX will archive the course. All Internet Acceptable Use Policies are expected to be followed during Online Learning. Lab hours for completing courses online will be offered during 6<sup>th</sup> period and Study Halls.

## Online Part-Time Students

A part-time online schedule is available for students who are at or around 2 remaining classes to meet their home school graduation requirements. Students are expected to report daily for some portion of work in our online lab, as well as participation in both our Recovery and Health & Wellness/Elective blocks. Students are encouraged to work on their online classes outside of school time as well, although all assessments must be completed onsite. Part-time students are expected to report on time, and call the school if they will be late or absent. Tardy and absences count in the same way for our part-time students as they do for our traditional students; an excess of tardy and/or absences can lead to an online student not being eligible for grades/credit. When a student has completed their required online courses, Ostiguy Guidance will alert the student's home school that the student is "diploma-ready", and await instructions for next steps.

## **College and Career Planning**

Ostiguy Guidance Counselor works with students throughout the school year to develop plans for post-secondary education, training, and/or employment. Students receive assistance & support throughout the college admissions process including: SAT preparation & registration, scholarship applications, financial aid, college essays, and understanding the enrollment process. Interested students may receive assistance in applying for services through the Massachusetts Rehab Commission, which provides support to young people in recovery who wish to pursue college, career, and training opportunities.

## Counselors

The Recovery Counselor serves as the point-person for all recovery related issues including outside recovery work, drug-testing, relapse response, & monthly recovery meetings. Students meet with the OHS Guidance counselor on a regular basis to monitor progress toward graduation and post-graduation goals. The Guidance Counselor serves as the point-person for communication with each student's home school, as a mediator in student-student and student-staff, and is available to assist with other educational, emotional and social issues that student's experience.



## Community Meetings/Extracurricular activities

Monday morning group discussions will be held each week. The first half of this Monday meeting focuses on upcoming school scheduling and peer-to-peer sharing. The second half of this meeting is a time for students to review their academic standing using [www.MyGradebook.com](http://www.MyGradebook.com) and to discuss questions with teachers about missing assignments or grading. Weekly community building meetings involving all Ostiguy staff and students are held throughout the week. These meetings are an opportunity to reflect on our school culture in order to build a stronger school community. Incorporated into these community blocs are extracurricular activities including but not limited to yoga, art, improvisational drama, and physical fitness.

## **Academic Requirements**

### No Credit (NC) Grades

- A grade of No Credit (NC) may be awarded when a student has otherwise done enough work to earn a passing grade, has gone over the allowable absences/tardies for the marking period but has been present or constructively present for at least half of the marking period.
- A student will receive grades of NC only in courses where a passing grade would have been attained had attendance not been an issue. If the student has not earned a passing grade, he/she will receive a grade of F (failing) in the course.
- If a student receives an NC grade for a marking period he/she will be eligible to have the NC grades replaced, if the student stays under the maximum yearly absences allowed, by the grades he/she would have otherwise received.
- A student will receive no grades, not NC, if he/she is not present or constructively present for half of the marking period's school days.

### Students Constructively Present (CP)

A student is "constructively present" when he/she is not attending Ostiguy because he/she is in treatment, hospitalization, or is accounted for in another medical/health facility. These days are not to be counted as excused absences, they are to be considered "constructive" attendance elsewhere. Students will be provided the opportunity to make up missed work.

### Academic Support

Academic Support serves as a time where students can receive additional instructions support to make progress academically. Academic Support is held after school from 2:30 to 3:00 on Tuesday's and Thursdays. Students who have missed an assignment the previous week or have less than a C in any of their core academic courses are assigned to Academic Support for the week and are required to attend. All students are encouraged to stay voluntarily to receive additional support or a quiet place to study

# Attendance

## Attendance Policies and Procedures

- Students must notify the Intake Coordinator with any planned absences or tardies at least 24 hours in advance. The Intake Coordinator may be reached at (617) 348-6756
- A note verifying an excused absence or tardy must be handed in the following day
- If a student is sick and unable to attend school due to any unforeseen circumstance, he/she (or his/her parent or guardian) must notify the School Intake Coordinator as soon as possible

## Attendance Requirements

- Students may not exceed 3 unexcused absences or
- Students may not exceed 6 absences total from each class each quarter. Extenuating medical circumstances will be considered.
- If a student exceeds allowed absences in a quarter they will be NC for the quarter
- Attendance will be taken in each class, and regardless of the reason for the absence, it is the student's responsibility to follow up with each teacher on missing work
- If a student arrives to class more than halfway through a class, they will be marked as absent from that class
- If a student arrives more than half way through the day, they will be marked absent for the day
- If a student arrives late from break or lunch, the student will be required to stay in for break or lunch the following day.

## Excused Absences/Tardies

- The student has an emergency doctor's appointment that cannot be scheduled during non-school hours (student must present an official doctor's note to verify)
- Student has a doctor-verified illness or injury that prevents him/her from attending school (student must present an official doctor's to verify)
- Student has a court appointment that cannot be scheduled during non-school hours (student must present an official note or summons from the court to verify)
- Student is absent due to a verifiable family crisis (e.g. a death in the immediate family)

\* Please schedule all vacation plans during the regularly scheduled school breaks or at the end of academic year. School absences due to family vacations will not be excused.

## Early Dismissal

If a student needs to leave school early he or she must sign out in the office and must provide documentation (see excused absences) verifying the reason for the early departure. An early dismissal will be counted as an absence (excused or otherwise) if it occurs before 11:30. Leaving school without permission and appropriate documentation is considered truancy (skipping) and is a zero tolerance offense.

## Rules and Expectations

William J. Ostiguy High School has policies and procedures in place in order to ensure that Ostiguy High remains a safe place that fosters education, produces productive members of society, and maintains a positive recovery culture. Additionally, we are committed to being good neighbors to the other ABCD programs that share our building. Ostiguy High School is dedicated to treating its students as adults and allowing them to determine their own futures.

### Dress Code

Student dress that interferes with the student's ability to access learning will be addressed. Specifically, no clothing will be allowed that defames, degrades or is offensive to a gender, race, color, religious creed, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, physical or mental impairment or culture. Nor shall any clothing display any suggestive or objectionable material. Clothing must not advocate unhealthy behavior, dangerous practice, or create a safety problem (includes no graphics/text containing sexual connotations, controlled substances or violence). Appropriate, safe footwear must be worn at all times.

### Plagiarism

Ostiguy High does not tolerate plagiarism in any form. Anyone caught submitting plagiarized work will be given a failing grade and risks suspension from school.

### ***Harassment/Sexual Harassment***

Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated at Ostiguy High. Sexual harassment consists of unwanted and unwelcome sexual attention including but not limited to; looks, gestures, comments, jokes, physical contact and requests. If any student or staff member feels they are being harassed, they should label it as such, demand that it stop, and discuss the incident with a counselor or staff person. Students or staff members who perpetrate harassment will be subject to disciplinary and/or legal action.

### Disagreements/Dissenting Opinions

Disagreement is both healthy and inevitable. Differing opinions are both encouraged and allowed at Ostiguy High. Everyone in the community should feel secure to voice their opinions appropriately without fear of scorn or retribution. Disagreements are to be handled in a respectful manner. There is a time and place for disagreements to be aired.

### Phone Policies

All cellular communication devices will be collected during homeroom and will be returned to students at the end of each day. No cell phones are allowed in class or in groups. Students may request access to their communication device during lunch and will be held responsible for returning it before the start of their next course. Emergency calls should be directed to the main office (617) 348-6756. Staff phones should not be used without permission. If a student needs to use a phone he/she should ask a staff member for permission.

## Other Electronic devices

Students may not listen to music (or use any other electronic devices) during the school day except during their lunch period. Students who listen to music (or use other electronic devices) during the lunch period are required to use headphones.

## Food

Students may eat **snack** foods during class **at the discretion of their teachers**. All meals should be consumed at breakfast and/or lunch. No meals should be eaten in class. We ask that food and drinks are eaten at classroom tables and kept away from computers. Students are responsible for cleaning up and disposing of all trash.

## Facilities

### Property

All students at Ostiguy High are expected to help maintain the upkeep and appearance of Ostiguy High and ABCD facilities. Students should remain only on the 3rd and 4th floors of 19 Temple Place unless otherwise authorized. Trash must be disposed of appropriately. Vandalism or destruction of any ABCD property will not be tolerated. Graffiti is prohibited. Violators will be responsible for repairs and removal of graffiti and will be subject to disciplinary and/or legal action.

### Smoking

Smoking is prohibited throughout the entire ABCD building. Any Ostiguy students who wish to smoke must do so off of school premises. Smoking by students will not be permitted in the front of the entrance to the building or in front of neighboring buildings. Students may not smoke during outdoor school activities unless they receive permission from a staff member to do so. Cigarettes and cigarette packs should not be visible in the building at any time. Any form of electronic cigarettes will be collected by staff using the same policies and procedures used for the collection of phones.

### Gambling

Use of scratch tickets or other gambling games are prohibited throughout the entire ABCD building. Items like scratch tickets and dice should not be visible in the building at any time.

### Computers

School computers may only be used with staff permission. Computers are to be used only to assist students in achieving curriculum goals and outcomes. Students are prohibited from using OHS computers to access websites with any inappropriate content including but not limited to sites that promote drug/alcohol use, those that contain sexually explicit content, social networking, or gaming sites. Students are asked to respect public files and information while using the computers. School staff reserves the right to access materials created by students on OHS computers including internet search histories in order to ensure that students are following computer policies. Violation of this policy may result in temporary or permanent loss of computer privileges and in some cases further disciplinary or legal consequences.

## **Internet Acceptable Use Policy**

The internet is an open system that contains material that may be inappropriate, offensive and/or objectionable. We ask for your assistance in encouraging our students to use the internet responsibly. Student use of the internet is to be conducted under faculty supervision when possible. Faculty members are not, however, able to monitor student computer use at every moment. OHS expects that its students use the internet in a responsible manner at all times.

While the benefits of the Internet access are enormous, it is important for students to realize that there is no guarantee that information they obtain is accurate. Users must use good judgment in determining the reliability of web site content. The use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of those privileges. In using the internet, students are expected to follow the guidelines outlined below as well as all directions given orally by staff.

### **USER GUIDELINES**

1. Students' use of the Internet must be in support of education and research consistent with the objectives of William J. Ostiguy High School.
2. Students may not post personal information to the internet (e.g. home address, telephone number, name and location of their school) without the permission of a staff member.
3. Students are prohibited from creating online content containing any prejudicial, harassing, threatening, obscene or hateful language or images.
4. Students are prohibited from using the Internet to access or process pornographic material or web site content that promotes illegal activity
5. Students may not use the internet to access content that lacks any educational value.
6. If a student accesses any material that he/she feels is not appropriate or that makes him/her feel uncomfortable, he/she should immediately tell an OHS staff member.
7. Student Internet use is not private and is monitored by OHS staff. Suspected use of the internet for Illegal activities will be reported to appropriate authorities.
8. Plagiarism is the taking of material created by others and presenting it as if it were one's own. The use of internet content for purposes of plagiarism is prohibited.
9. Students may not use the Internet for commercial purposes, product advertisement or political lobbying. Products or services may not be purchased or offered. Students and their parents/guardians will be held responsible for any liabilities stemming from such unauthorized uses of the Internet at OHS.
10. Students may not use the Internet for illegal purposes or for the support of illegal activities.
11. Student use of the Internet must not serve to disrupt its use by other individuals or connecting networks.
12. All passwords shall be kept confidential by the user and may be not shared or displayed. Individual users shall be responsible for the proper use of accounts issued in their name.
13. Students who violate district policy or administrative procedures related to internet use will be subject to suspension or termination of system/network privileges and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and/or prosecution

# Behavioral Policies

## Behavioral Procedures

- A.** The goal of the Ostiguy behavioral policies is to create a safe, productive learning environment for staff and students. In an effort to promote fairness, respect, and learning in our school community, **(and empowerment of our teachers and staff)** our behavior policies are restorative in nature. At Ostiguy Restorative Justice means we promote students’ ability to take responsibility for their actions without being removed from the learning community. In addition to receiving consequences for unacceptable community behaviors as indicated in the “Behavioral Cheat Sheet” below, students are provided opportunities to reflect upon their actions and make amends to the community through the restorative process. Staff will guide students through the restorative process which can include guided discussion, research, and written reflection. The culmination of this process involves the use of community circles where individuals reflect upon their behavior, share their new found knowledge with the community, and complete the amends process. The goal of this process is for students to learn from their mistakes and repair any damage that may have been done to the Ostiguy community.

## Behavioral Cheat Sheet

| Behavior   | Consequence   |
|--|---|
| Tardy to School  | 1st Tardy – In for 15 minutes of lunch<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Tardy – In for entire lunch<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Tardy – Contact parent/guardian  |
| Getting/making food at inappropriate times (during class, class transitions, afternoon red blocks) | Written warning   |
| Inappropriate Internet Use   | Written warning (loss of internet privileges in that class is at the teachers discretion)   |
| Skipping break or lunch when required to be inside   | Written Warning<br><br>Loss of off-campus break/lunch for an additional two days (Mandatory)  |
| Skipping Class/Academic Support (without proper note or staff permission)                          | Written Warning<br><br>Parent/guardian is notified<br><br>Restorative Justice- written amends, amends to community<br><br>Loss of off-campus lunch for one week beginning the Monday of |

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
|                                   | the following week  |
| Not Turning in Phone              | Written Warning<br>Loss of phone privileges for one week beginning ( immediately for 5 school days)   |
| Not Turning In Vape               | Written Warning<br>Parent/guardian is notified<br>Loss of break/lunch following day (or until Vape is turned in)  |
| Smoking/Vaping in School          | Written Warning<br>Parent/guardian is notified<br>Loss of off-campus lunch for one week beginning immediately for 5 school days)  |
| Language                          | Written Warning<br>Parent/guardian is notified<br>Restorative justice- written amends, amends to community<br>Suspension considered if unwilling to engage in amends process  |
| Refusal to Leave Class When Asked | Written Warning<br>Staff may remove themselves and the other students from class to ensure safety<br>Student sent home for the day<br>Parent/guardian is notified<br>Student allowed back into the community only when a thoughtful amends process occurs and student meets with appropriate staff member(s)<br>Restorative justice may take place in the community or the class it took place in. (at staffs discretion) |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Defiant/Disrespectful to a Staff Member or Fellow Student</p>  | <p>Written Warning</p> <p>Restorative justice- written amends</p> <p>- (Possible) Amends to class</p> <p>OR</p> <p>-Restorative mediation with appropriate staff/student member</p> <p>*The above depends on when/where the infraction happens ie: the classroom or in common areas</p> |
| <p>Multiple Behaviors Leading to 2 written warnings</p>   | <p>Parents/guardian is notified (possible meeting scheduled with parents at the staff's discretion)</p>   |
| <p>Multiple Behaviors Leading to 3 written warnings</p> <p>Process resets after the three warnings and student serves consequence</p> | <p>Loss of off-campus lunch for one week beginning the Monday of the following week</p> <p>Options: Community service (ie: cleaning the school)</p>   |
| <p>Assaulting Fellow Student/Staff</p>  | <p>Student immediately sent home</p> <p>Parent/guardian is notified</p> <p>Student is suspended pending investigation (follow up is mandatory in order for student to return to school- to ensure safety of other students and overall community.)</p>                                  |

**B. Written Warnings** – In the cases where a student opts out of the restorative process written warnings can be delivered and applied as outlined below.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Written Warning – Student will meet with a staff member to discuss the incident that resulted in a written warning.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Written Warning – Student meets with a staff member to discuss the incident that resulted in a 2<sup>nd</sup> written warning. The student's parent/guardian is notified. (Meeting can take place at staff's discretion)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Written Warning – Student will meet with a staff member to discuss the incident that resulted in a 3<sup>rd</sup> written warning. The student's parent or guardian will be notified. Student may serve a one-day (out of school or in school) suspension at the deliberation of staff involved)



## Relapse Policy

Ostiguy High School recognizes that addicted persons often exhibit certain behaviors which have been understood to a) signal relapse, b) lead to relapse, and/or c) signal an unwillingness to pursue an education at Ostiguy High School. These behaviors can include lying, excessive tardiness, sleeping at school, excessive absences, not completing schoolwork, and disrespect toward school staff, peers, and school policies. These, "relapse behaviors" can be used as grounds for enactment of the relapse policy. Certain checks, including random drug screens, have been established to monitor student sobriety and will be used in conjunction with staff observance of relapse behaviors to hopefully lay the groundwork for long-term recovery. A student's family will be responsible for the cost of any requested or random test not covered by his/her insurance.

### **Recovery vs Sobriety:**

At Ostiguy we believe that Recovery is process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential. While sobriety is a physical state of being, Recovery is a way of life. Our goal is to guide all students through the process of early Recovery. At Ostiguy this means that in addition to being randomly drug tested on a weekly basis and participating in weekly recovery groups, students are expected to work an active, individualized plan of Recovery outside of school.

### **In All Cases of suspected or confirmed relapse:**

- The student's parent or guardian will be notified immediately and is required to attend a meeting with their child and recovery counselor within two school days to discuss the nature of the relapse and determine the most appropriate next steps.
- The student will be out of school a minimum of 5 days. If during this period a determination is made that further counseling/treatment is necessary, the school recovery counselor will assist the family in making the appropriate referral.
- The student will have access to their academic coursework and be given the opportunity to stay current in all their classes while out of school.
- A student who experiences a relapse must work with the OHS Recovery Counselor to complete a revised recovery plan that may include, but is not limited to, an increase in the frequency he/she must drug test and/or verification of meeting attendance and/or mandatory inpatient or outpatient substance abuse treatment.
- Any student who has not been terminated from OHS who relapses and chooses or is mandated to enter into treatment will be counted as "constructively present" during that time
- As part of the process of returning to the community a student will complete the restorative process as defined in the student handbook.
- At anytime during this process if a student/family decides that a recovery high school environment is no longer a priority, school administration will assist in making the referral and transition to a more appropriate academic setting.

**Self-reported relapse:**

- Honesty is highly valued at Ostiguy High School, and while we do recognize relapse as a need for a more intensive or varied recovery approach, we are also able to support students who self-report relapse to return to the OHS community sooner unless it is determined that to do so would jeopardize the safety of the student or the recovery community.

*If you are experiencing difficulty in any area of your educational or personal life, please don't keep it a secret. Talk with the counseling staff. Our goal is to help you reach your goals.*

*We hope that the information presented in this handbook will be helpful to you in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you achieve your goals as part of the William J. Ostiguy Community.*

Updated August, 2019  
Approved by the William J. Ostiguy High School Staff