



H. D. Woodson Senior STEM High School

2025-2026

Student & Family

Handbook

HD Woodson Senior High School

Website: www.hdwoodson.org

540 55th Street, NE

Instagram: @officialhdwoodsonwarrior

Washington, DC 20019

Twitter: @HDWoodsonSHS

(202) 939-2030

Table of Contents

Our History.....	4
Our Leadership Team.....	6
Our Values.....	6
Mission.....	7
Vision.....	7
HD Woodson Warrior Facing Values (Co Designed by Scholars).....	7
Daily Attendance.....	7
Attendance.....	8
Passion Friday.....	8
Hallways.....	9
Bell Schedules.....	9
Standard Bell Schedule.....	9
2-hour Delay Bell Schedule.....	10
Passion Friday.....	10
Arrival and Dismissal.....	11
Arrival.....	11
Dismissal.....	11
Student Policies.....	12
Dress Code.....	12
Uniform Enforcement.....	14

Student Vehicles	15
Cafeteria Guidelines.....	16
Food Delivery Services	16
Beverage Containers.....	16
Electronic Devices	17
Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy	17
Collection and Storage Procedures.....	17
Violations and Consequences	18
Student Conduct	19
Tardy Policy	19
District Policy	20
Safety Protocols	21
Safety	21
Security	22
Conducting Business	22
Lockers	22
LOST AND FOUND	23

Our History



The school is named after Howard Dilworth Woodson (1877-1962). Woodson graduated from the university, which is now the University of Pittsburgh, in 1899. He worked for the federal government as a civil/structural engineer for many years. He became a civic leader in the Far Northeast/Deanwood neighborhood. Woodson was instrumental in urbanizing that neighborhood by advocating for more resources for education, redevelopment, and utility services for the area. During that time, the District of Columbia did not have an elective government. Woodson testified frequently before the (federal) congressional committees for D.C. oversight.^[3] Woodson was also a supervising architect for the Universal Development and Loan Company, Inc. Woodson advocated for a high school to be built in the Deanwood area in response to parents' demands for children to be able to attend school in their own area. Since the Deanwood area had no neighborhood high school, students had to travel to Eastern, Spingarn and/or Anacostia high schools.

Described as the first high-rise high school in the country,^[4] consisting of a seven-floor tower sitting atop a plaza and a ground floor with a greenhouse on the rooftop (technically a

tenth floor), and elevators and escalators that took students and faculty up and down the tower, the new school which opened in 1972 at 55th and Eads streets NE. was named Howard Dilworth Woodson Senior High School.

Initially, the size and shape for Woodson ran into obstacles with the planning boards,



but H.D. Woodson's son, Granville Woodson, who was the chief of the DCPS buildings department at the time, made convincing arguments that the size and shape of the new school was exactly the point. It was his desire to make the school the focus of the community by making the building look as

significant as possible.^[5]

When Woodson finally opened, it was praised as being a state-of-the-art campus that had a new look, new equipment, and specially recruited new teachers.^[6] As the years went by, due to building deterioration and lack of funds, it was demolished in 2009 and replaced by a new three-story state-of-the-art building in 2011.

Our Leadership Team

Principal:

Mr. William Massey

Assistant Principals:

Dr. Kourtney Miller - 9th Grade Academy & 11th Grade

Dr. Candace Butler - 10th Grade & 12th Grade

Ms. Kinshasa Fowlkes - Assistant Principal of Interventions

Administration:

Dr. Tianna Adams- Director of Specialized Instruction

Ms. Rachel Curry-Neal- Redesign Director

Ms. Soncyree Lee- Director of Strategies Logistics

Mr. Thomas Byrd – Director of Athletics/Student Life Lead

Adrian Moten – Dean of Students 9th & 11th Grade

Deo Djossou – Dean of Students 10th & 12th Grade

Our Values

Mission

A premiere and trusted institution of secondary learning that promotes access and opportunity for scholars to not only be successful in the world, but to be change agents and architects of the world they live in.

Vision

With an intentional focus on college and career programming, Woodson prepares scholars to be competitive in their post-secondary pursuits while providing a learning environment where scholars feel loved, challenged, and prepared.

HD Woodson Warrior Facing Values (Co Designed by Scholars)

Warrior

W- Welcoming: Woodson Warriors positively contribute to the classroom and schoolwide learning environment by being **WELCOMING** to others, the ideas of others, and new learning experiences.

A- Achievement: Woodson Warriors understand that student **ACHIEVEMENT** is what links us all together, so they give 110% effort as individuals and as a collective body.

R- Resilience: In times of challenge, Woodson Warriors are **RESILIENT** because they know that failure is not fatal and that it is about the courage to continue that will take them far.

R- Respect: Woodson Warriors understand that **RESPECT** is a reflection of self-worth, so they always give respect to adults, their peers, and most importantly themselves even at points of contention.

I-Impact: Woodson Warriors have lasting **IMPACT**, so they have a commitment to making their school and their community better.

O-Optimism: Woodson Warriors understand that an attitude of **OPTIMISM** is contagious and that it can determine the distance an individual or a group can go.

R-Ready: Woodson Warriors know that the secret to success is always being **READY** and prepared for the learning experiences taking place.

Daily Attendance

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class each period. Each student will be expected to be in class unless otherwise instructed by an Administrator and the Student Life Team.

- A. If a fails to meet the 60/40 threshold of attendance, they are marked absent for the entire day in DCPS system per DCPS policy. However, they will receive academic credit for courses attended. SO BE PRESENT EVERY DAY AND FOR EVERY PERIOD to avoid failure due to attendance (FA).
- B. Absences will be communicated to parents/guardians through automated calls and the attendance counselor from the attendance office.
- C. Parents/Guardians must provide a written note to the attendance counselor within 5 days after a student's absence. Only DCPS approved absence reasons will be accepted.
- D. Only Administrators can give students permission to leave for the day, only after parent/guardian approval.

Passion Friday

Every student will be assigned a faculty mentor that will serve as their advisor during their high school years. Advisory will be held 15 Fridays though out the year beginning in November each year. The bell schedules are a modified schedule with all periods shortened to accommodate the 60-minute advisory period. Passion Advisors will help mentor students through their high school tenure and teach lessons aimed at supplying students with tools to successfully enter the workforce, provide social/emotional support, and provide skills/certifications related to interest.

Students while in Advisory will also be offered support around their current grades, behaviors, and attendance.

Hallways

Hallways are to remain clear except during transition periods. Students must be in classes during class time, unless otherwise approved by school administrators. When transitioning around the building, outside of designated passing periods, students are required to secure a valid hall pass. Students found in the hallway without a valid hall pass will be redirected to the appropriate location, with one verbal warning. If a student does not comply or is seen in the hallway again, the student will be placed in ALC for the period with their work. If a student is continually seen in the hallway after the warning, and after being provided ALC, the student life team will then call parent/guardian. If the student persists, the Student Life Team will determine the appropriate consequences in accordance with DCPS Safe and Positive Schools Policy including but not limited to ISS and/or an Out of School Suspension due to the disruption of the learning environment.

Bell Schedules

Standard Bell Schedule

Periods	Time
Welcome Period (Cafeteria)	8:10 am – 8:55 am
Period 1	9:00 am – 10:23 am
Period 2	10:28 am – 11:50 am
Period 3	11:55 am – 1:17 pm
Lunch	1:20 pm – 2:05 pm
Period 4	2:09 pm – 3:30 pm

2-hour Delay Bell Schedule

Periods	Time
Welcome Period (Cafeteria)	10:10am – 10:55am
Period 1	11:00 am - 11:53 AM
Period 2	11:58 am 12-49 pm
Lunch	12:54 pm – 1:39 pm
Period 4	1:44 pm - 2:35 pm
Period 3	2:40 pm – 3:30 pm

Passion Friday

Friday Passion Schedule	Time
Welcome Period (Cafeteria)	8:10am – 8:55 am
Passion Block	9:00 am – 10:00 am
Period 1	10:05 am– 11:10 am
Period 2	11:15 am –12:20 pm
Period 3	12:25 pm –1:30 pm
Lunch	1:35 pm – 2:20 pm
Period 4	2:25 pm – 3:30 pm

Arrival and Dismissal

Arrival

HD Woodson welcomes students into the building at 8:10 am, during the Welcome Period. Students are not permitted inside the school building prior to 8:10am. Students are only permitted to enter the school building through the main doors, located at the front center of the school building. As students enter the school building, ALL STUDENTS WILL TURN IN THEIR ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE GOING THROUGH ABATEMENT. ALL STUDENTS must successfully pass through our security uniform check point, before being fully permitted into the learning environment.

During the Welcome Period (8:10a - 8:55 am), students are only permitted to be in the cafeteria. Should a student need to see a teacher or administrator during the Welcome Period, they must have a signed pass from the teacher or administrator they wish to meet. The signed pass will allow students the ability to meet with the teacher or administrator identified on the pass, outside of the cafeteria.

Dismissal

Dismissals take place daily from 3:30pm – 3:45pm. All students THAT TURNED IN ELECTRONIC DEVICES WILL RECEIVE THEIR DEVICES AT 3:30PM IN THE GRADE LEVEL

LOCATIONS:

Library - 9th grade

2nd Floor Suite Door by Moten office - 11th grade

3rd Floor Suite - 10th grade front & 12th grade back

Late Bin- Dean Byrd Office at Pool Entrance

Students who leave class early to retrieve their phones will face the consequence of having their phone placed in the late bin the next day and additional consequences to follow in accordance with the DCPS Safe and Positive Schools Policy.

All students are expected to immediately vacate the building once they retrieve their phones unless they have official school business that requires them to remain in the building past 3:30pm (work in the library, meet with teachers, participate in extracurriculars, etc.).

Should a student need to be excused from school before the end of the academic day, it is the responsibility of the legal guardian to notify the main office no later than 3:10. No student will be permitted to leave the learning environment through communication to personal cellular devices. The person picking up the student must show a valid government identification card and be on the student's account.

Student Policies

Dress Code

HD Woodson continues to build a globally diverse student population. While the primary responsibility for a student's attire resides with the student and their families, administrators and staff are responsible for ensuring that student attire does not interfere with the health or safety of any student or contribute to a hostile or intimidating environment. Furthermore, the enforcement of the dress code cannot cause the marginalization or oppression of any individual or group based on race, religion, ethnicity, culture, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. As such, students at Woodson are required to wear a school uniform every day.

Uniforms are **MANDATORY** at H.D. Woodson STEM High School every day of the year including the FIRST day of school. Students must enter and exit the building wearing their uniform. On occasion, we will have Uniform Free Friday for good behavior which will be communicated to all parents and students via social media posts, and school wide announcement at the end of Thursday of that week. Our uniforms colors are as follows:

Acceptable Uniform Attire

Grade Level	Polo Color (collared shirt)
9th Grade	White
10th Grade	Green
11th Grade	Black
12th Grade	Red

1. Standard Uniform Bottoms

- a. Full-length pants, capri pants, shorts (no higher than 3 inches above the knee), and skirts (no higher than 3 inches above the knee). All bottoms must be free of rips, tears, or the ability to be seen through. Leggings or biker/cycle shorts **are not permitted.**

2. Color of Standard Uniform Bottoms

- a. Tan, Khakis, and Brown

3. Standard Uniform Footwear

- a. All footwears must be closed toed. Tennis shoes, boots, dress shoes, and Crocs may be worn with the school uniform. Slides, slippers, house shoes, and flip-flops **are not permitted**.

4. Standard Uniform Shirt

- a. Students must wear the above-mentioned collard uniform shirt with their uniforms. Tank tops, spaghetti strapped, crop tops, sleeveless, see-through, or midriff shirts **are not permitted**.

5. School Branded Items

- a. The only exception to standard uniforms is that students may wear Woodson gear given from the school (school paraphernalia, academy paraphernalia, athletic team uniforms, and club paraphernalia).

Uniform Enforcement

Students who are not in uniform will have parent/guardian called immediately. School staff will request that the parent/guardian choose between a school provided uniform or having the student return home for the day to change. Any student found not following uniform guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action from administration.

The dress code will be enforced in a consistent, equitable, solution-oriented manner. When possible, students will not be removed from the classroom or miss class time to address an actual or perceived dress code violation. Students who are deemed habitual violators of the dress code will be referred to the Dean of students for disciplinary

action. Questions or concerns regarding the interpretation or enforcement of the dress code should be addressed to the grade-level Dean of Students.

Student Vehicles

Parking permits are required for any student wishing to park on school property. Vehicles not registered may be fined and/or towed at the owner's expense. Permits are given at the discretion of the school administration. Permits must be renewed each semester, and permits will be revoked at the discretion of the school administration at any time. All students who drive to school are requested to park on school property and expected to abide by the following regulations:

1. Students can only park near the field gate entrance at the end of the parking lot.
2. Drivers must have a valid District of Columbia license/permit to obtain a parking permit with the permission of his/her parent/guardian.
3. Only vehicles registered with the school may be parked in the student lot between 7:30am and 3:45pm on days when school is in session. Tags are non-transferable to other students and must be returned to the high school office if you are no longer parking on school property.
4. Any student who drives recklessly on school property or who possesses/uses another student's parking permit will be subject to school disciplinary action, loss of parking privileges, and a fine.

Cafeteria Guidelines

After students are finished eating, they must dispose of all trash in the appropriate receptacles located throughout the cafeteria. Students are not permitted to take food from the cafeteria to any other spaces in the school (big gym, small gym, hallways, and main entrance). Food and drink are not permitted in the gym. Students may be in the following spaces during lunch: Big Gym, Small Gym, Cafeteria, or meeting with a teacher in their room (only with pre-approved pass).

Students are only permitted in locations that are actively supervised by a staff member. If students are found in unauthorized and/or unsupervised spaces, the student will be given a consequence by the administration.

Food Delivery Services

Students are not permitted to order or use food delivery services at any time during the school day. Students are not permitted to receive orders at any entrances, from outside, from the security team, or from the main office. Parents are permitted to physically come into the building to drop food off to the main office for their child. All food must be dropped off in the Main Office before the scheduled lunch period or during the scheduled lunch period. Students are not permitted to obtain lunch after the scheduled lunch period.

Beverage Containers

No glass bottles are allowed in the school building. Any beverage bottle, beverage container, or beverage cup that has been opened prior to entering the school building will not be permitted into the building for safety reasons.

Electronic Devices

Cell Phone and Electronic Device Policy

2025–2026 School Year

Aligned with DCPS Safe and Positive Schools Guidelines

Policy Overview

To maintain a focused, respectful, and academically engaging learning environment, **all students are required to turn in their cell phones and electronic devices** (e.g., phones, tablets, smartwatches**, earbuds**, etc.) **at the designated collection table upon entering the building each day.** Devices will be **securely stored** by school staff for the duration of the instructional day and returned to students at dismissal. This policy is designed to minimize distractions, reduce social conflict during school hours, and promote face-to-face interaction and academic engagement.

Collection and Storage Procedures

- Collection tables will be supervised daily by school personnel.
- Devices will be labeled, stored in a secure location, and distributed during dismissal.
- Students who arrive after 9:45am must turn in all their electronic devices and their electronic devices will be stored in the late bin for retrieval at 4pm.
- **Refusal to turn in a device is considered non-compliance with school rules and will result in disciplinary action.**
- **Students that leave class early to retrieve their phones. That student phone will be placed in the late bin the next day.**

Violations and Consequences

All infractions will be tracked in the school's student information system and communicated to families.

First Offense (Warning):

- Students will be assigned to the **Alternative Learning Center (ALC)** for the remainder of the day. (Unless it's in the 3rd or 4th period- They will be assigned the following day, and the electronic devices will still be taken away.)
- The device will be placed in the **late bin** and held until the end of the day.
- A **parent/guardian conference** (in person or by phone) is required before the student is allowed to return to school the following day.

Second Offense:

- Students will receive a consequence in accordance with DCPS Safe and Positive School guidelines.
- A follow-up conference with the parent/guardian and administrator will be held.

Third Offense and Beyond:

- Additional consequences in accordance with DCPS Safe and Positive Schools Guidelines will be administered based on the severity and frequency of the behavior.
- A re-entry meeting with family, grade-level administrator, and the dean will be required.

Personal Calls and Emergencies

If a student needs to contact a parent or guardian during the day, they must:

- Request permission from a teacher, counselor, or grade-level administrator, and

- Use an approved school **landline** or office phone.

Emergency situations will be handled immediately with administrative support.

Rationale and Enforcement

This policy is part of a schoolwide initiative to promote academic excellence, student accountability, and school safety. Teachers, deans, and security staff will collaborate to ensure consistent enforcement. Failure to comply with this policy will be treated as **insubordination and disruption to the learning environment** under DCPS Safe and Positive Schools Guidelines.

Student Conduct

To protect the right of all students to receive the best education possible in a safe and orderly learning environment, certain types of behavior are prohibited. Student misconduct is classified in FIVE (5) tiers—based upon place of occurrence, frequency of occurrence, and disruptive effect upon the safety and orderliness of the learning environment.

Tardy Policy

Definition of Tardy:

A student is considered **tardy** if they arrive at class **after the second announcement**.

Weekly Tardy Limit:

- If a student receives **3 tardies** in a single school week, they will be assigned **1 day in the ALC (Alternative Learning Center)** the following week.

Refusal to Comply:

- If a student **refuses to report to the ALC**, the school will contact the **parent or guardian**.
- Continued refusal after parental contact will result in an **Out-of-School Suspension (OSS)**

District Policy

[Safe & Positive Schools Policy Effective February 2nd, 2023](#)

[Secondary Grading Policy](#)

Woodson Aligned Offenses and Consequences

Students	504/Sped	GEN. ED
Assault/physical attack on student/teacher or staff	Off- site Long Term OSS	Off-site Long Term OSS
Bullying, or using humiliating, or intimidating language or behavior including	2 days on-site ISS	3 days on-site ISS
Documented pattern of persistent Tier 2 behavior	3 days on site ISS	3 days on site ISS
Engaging in behavior that demonstrates gang/neighborhood crew affiliation (displaying clothing or gestures associated with gangs)	3 days off-site OSS	3 days off-site OSS
Engaging in sexual acts on school premises or at school-related functions	3 days off-site OSS	3 days off-site OSS
Obscene, seriously offensive, or abusive language	1 day off-site	2 days off-site OSS
Verbal, written, or physical threat to person or property (including intimidating postures)	2 days off-site OSS	3 days off-site OSS
Fighting where there are no injuries	Up to 2 days off-site OSS/ 2 days on-site with RJC- 1 st Offense	Up to 3 days off-site OSS/ 3 days on-site with RJC -First Offense
Fighting which creates substantial risk of or results in minor injury	3 days off-site OSS/ 3 days on-site with RJC	5 days off-site OSS/ 3 days on-site with RJC
Inciting others to violence or disruption	Up to 3 days off-site OSS	Up to 5 days off-site OSS

Possession of a weapon or replica or imitation of a weapon (including water guns), other than weapons subjected to the requirement of the Gun Free school Act	5 days off-site OSS minimum/Long term OSS or Transfer Recommendation	5 days off-site OSS minimum/Long term OSS or Transfer Recommendation
Possession of drug paraphernalia or controlled substance	5 days off-site OSS	5 days off-site OSS
Gambling	2 days on-site ISS	2 days on-site ISS
Cell phone	1-day on-site ISS	1-day on-site ISS
Fighting which results in a serious physical injury	Off -site Long Term OSS	Off-site Long-Term OSS
Uniform Non-compliance	1 day on site ISS if refusal of uniform support	1 day on site ISS if refusal of uniform support

REVOCAION OF PRIVILEGES

The administration reserves the right to revoke privileges for any student that violates school rules, staff directives, or this code of conduct. These privileges include but are not limited to attendance and participation at and/or in curricular and extracurricular events (sporting events, homecoming, graduation, etc.).

All members of the Student Life Team can refer to disciplinary action for any student. Final disciplinary decisions rest with Dean Byrd, Dean Moten, Dean Deo and Principal Massey.

Safety Protocols

Safety

Students are forbidden to prop open any door or entrance or allow any unauthorized person to enter the building. Violation of this rule will lead to disciplinary action. All visitors to the high school must enter the building through the main entrance. In the event of this action, school resource officers (MPD) will be notified, and subsequent consequences will follow.

Security

All students, family members, guardians, and guests to HD Woodson are required to pass through all security and/or pre-screening protocols (ALL VISITORS MUST HAVE A VALID STATE ID). Failure to successfully pass the required measures will require said person to return to the campus once any concerns are cleared up.

Conducting Business

HD Woodson recognizes that in addition to being a learning environment, it is also a place where business transactions take place. All people conducting business should present themselves in the appropriate ways so as not to be distracted from the learning environment or from others that are conducting business. Failure to uphold the highest standards of professionalism may require those impacted to leave the building.

Lockers

Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of their assigned lockers. Students can only have one locker over the course of the school year. Students are not allowed to share lockers. Having lockers is a privilege that can be revoked for misuse (this includes physical education lockers). School administration reserves the right to search student lockers at any point in time.

LOST AND FOUND

Students are discouraged from bringing items of value to school (personal value or monetary value). If you have misplaced an item, please go to the security office and/or the Deans of Students. The school and DCPS are not responsible for personal property that is damaged, lost, or stolen.

Grading

At HD Woodson High School, we are committed to fostering academic excellence and ensuring that every student has a fair opportunity to demonstrate achievement. In alignment with our commitment to equity and transparency, students who wish to appeal a final grade may do so through the **Principal's Instructional Council** within **ten (10) days of receiving notification of the grade**. The Council will review all relevant documentation, consider the student's perspective, and make a formal recommendation to the Principal. The Principal will then make the final determination based on the Council's findings and the established academic policies of HD Woodson High School. This process ensures that all appeals are handled with integrity, fairness, and a focus on student success.

