

THUNDERBIRDS ACHIEVE



**TA STUDENT HANDBOOK
2024-2025**

Tyndall Academy
850-767-1714
7800 Tyndall Parkway
Tyndall AFB, FL 32403

Welcome to Tyndall Academy! It is my honor to serve as your proud Principal. Tyndall Academy is renowned for its commitment to academic excellence, innovative programs, and a supportive community that fosters growth and achievement. Here at Tyndall, we believe in nurturing the potential of each student, providing them with the tools, resources, and encouragement they need to SOAR. Our dedicated teachers and staff are here to guide and support you every step of the way. We take pride in our diverse and inclusive environment, where every student is valued and respected. We encourage you to take full advantage of the many opportunities available to you, from our rigorous academic courses, to extracurricular activities, and leadership programs. These experiences will not only enhance your skills and knowledge, but will also help you build lasting friendships and memories.

Tyndall Academy is a PBIS school, and kindness is one of our most important initiatives. While student safety and academics will always be at the top of my list for our students, I expect and celebrate kindness and respect among our Thunderbirds. Let's work together to make it a school year to remember here at Tyndall Academy!

Sincerely,
Kara Mulkusky, Principal

Tyndall Academy's Vision

SOARING to be the nation's best!

Tyndall Academy's Mission

Our collaborative culture motivates students to be the "Nation's Best Above All the Rest". At Tyndall Academy, we promote high expectations, deliver quality educational experiences, and support the needs of ALL Thunderbirds.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to be in school, to be on time, and to stay at school all day unless prohibited by illness or other serious crises. Regular and on time attendance plays a vital role in student success at school. Our attendance guidelines follow Florida law and Bay District School Board policy. **Florida Statute 1003.26** requires that children between ages 6 and 16 be in regular attendance and holds parents accountable for meeting this requirement. Any student who does not attend school for at least 160 days (based on a 180 day school year) may be in jeopardy of retention. In accordance with **School Board Policy 7.105**, teachers and administration are responsible for monitoring students' attendance, and the school determines whether absences are excused or unexcused. All students are to be in their classroom ready to begin the day prior to the **7:20 tardy bell**. Should a student be tardy, parents are to accompany the student into the front office, sign them in and provide a reason for being late. in place.

Students are in jeopardy of violating Florida statutes specific to attendance as indicated below:

- 5 or more absences (excused or unexcused) in a month
- 10 or more absences (excused or unexcused) in the past 90 days
- 15 or more unexcused absences in the past 90 days



DRESS CODE

Our school colors (red, white and blue) are strongly preferred and encouraged.

Students may access the entire Bay District Schools Dress Code Here: **STUDENT DRESS CODE AND GROOMING (School Board Policy 7.208)** [2024-2025 Bay District Schools Dress Code](#)

Appropriate dress is the primary responsibility of the student and his/her parent or guardian. In order to promote safety, personal hygiene, academic well-being, and moral development, students shall be expected to comply with reasonable requirements relating to dress, grooming and personal appearance. Students are expected to come to school dressed appropriately with proper attention having been given to personal cleanliness, grooming and neatness of dress.

Dress code requirements are as follows:

Tops for students in grades K-5th: any solid color or print patterns; manufacturer's graphics or logos permitted.

Tops for students in grades 6th -12th: any solid color or print patterns; No graphics or logos except for a small manufacturer's trademark. any solid color or print patterns; manufacturer's graphics or logos permitted. Students in all grades may layer their tops; however, all visible tops including camisoles or undershirts must be in solid colors. All tops must be unaltered and appropriately fitted with sleeves; cannot be so sheer or tight as to reveal underwear or body parts. Collared or crew neck tops only (no tanks or spaghetti straps); scoop or v-neck shirts will not be permitted. School approved T-shirts (club, spirit, etc) are permitted

Bottoms must be any solid color, appropriately fitted and seated at the waist; cannot be so sheer or tight as to reveal underwear or body parts. No shorts, skirts or dresses shorter than five inches (5") above the kneecaps as measured standing up, (K-5 students may wear jumpers). Any pants with holes, rips, or tears 5 inches above the kneecaps are not permitted. Dresses with sleeves (underarm must be covered) must be a solid color or print patterns but no graphics (small manufacturer's trademark and minimal embellishments are acceptable). Fitness pants such as leggings, yoga pants, exercise tights, etc. are permitted but **must be covered with a top that reaches fingertip length when arms are at sides.**

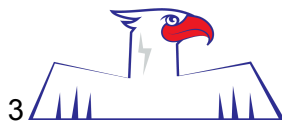
Shoes must have closed toes and closed backs. Sandals with back or back strap are acceptable (except on PE days.) for grades K-5 only. Bedroom shoes, flip-flops, shower shoes, slides or beach footwear are not permitted.

Long-sleeved Sweaters/Sweatshirts/Hoodies must be a solid color or print patterns but no graphics (unless school approved spirit or club). Small manufacturer's trademark is acceptable. Hood may not be worn indoors or in covered hallways.

Jackets/coats may be any color and may be worn in the classroom at the discretion of the teacher.

Discipline for violating the dress code policy includes:

- First and second offense consequences are: notification of parent/guardian; change of inappropriate attire
- Consequences for subsequent offenses may include one or more of the following at the discretion of the principal:
 - A. Notification of parent or guardian;
 - B. Change of inappropriate attire;
 - C. one to three days of in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension; or
 - D. three days after school detention, if available.



- The fourth and subsequent offenses are wilful disobedience which will result in further disciplinary action, which may include out-of-school suspension or expulsion;
- Any absence resulting from a violation of the Student Dress Code will be considered an unexcused absence.

BELL SCHEDULE

Morning: Primary students report to class **7:10am**, Intermediate students report to class **7:15am**, **TARDY BELL 7:20am**

Afternoon: Primary students dismissed to buses/gate **1:50**, Intermediate students dismissed **1:55pm**

Middle School: Tardy Bell **7:20am**, Middle school students dismissed at **1:55pm**

BEHAVIOR & DISCIPLINE

School/class expectations and rules have been established with consequences as well as rewards through district guidelines and our Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) framework. At Tyndall, students **SOAR** in that they are expected to be **Safe**, **Own** their choices, be **Actively** engaged, and **Respectful** at all times.



It is the policy of the Bay District Schools School Board that there shall be no tolerance of misbehavior as outlined in Student Discipline, School Board Policy 7.203. Students shall be subject to the provisions of this policy while attending school or on school premises, at any school function, or on any school sponsored transportation, or under the supervision of School Board personnel, whether on or off campus.

Student discipline is outlined in the [BDS Code of Conduct](#) and is available in English and Spanish.

Kindness is a top initiative at Tyndall Academy. We take pride in teaching, modeling and celebrating kindness as it is so important to the development of our students overall character and citizenship.



CELL PHONES - POSSESSION AND USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES
(SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 7.211)

For the purposes of this policy, “personal electronic mobile device” (“PEMD”) shall include, but not be limited to, the following: cellular or satellite telephones of any type, pocket PCs, laptops, and personal data assistants (“PDA”) owned, used or possessed by a student but shall not include such devices if owned and provided for use by the District.

Beginning 2012–2013, Bay District schools will allow the use of personal electronic mobile devices during specified times. Students will be allowed to bring their own device (BYOD). High schools will be allowed to participate in this initiative beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. Middle and elementary schools will be allowed to use personal electronic mobile devices when wireless infrastructure is available at the school location. BYOD access will be granted only after teachers have participated in BYOD professional development and with the approval of the Superintendent and principal.

It is not mandatory for students to bring their own personal electronic mobile devices. When personal electronic mobile devices are used to enhance student learning in the classroom, students without a PEMD will be provided access to an appropriate digital device. Students who choose to bring their personal electronic mobile devices MUST log in and use BDS filtered wireless network during the school day.

NOTE: Students will bring personal electronic mobile devices to school at their own risk. The district WILL NOT be responsible if a phone or other device is lost, stolen, misplaced, damaged, or confiscated. The district WILL NOT be responsible for virus, malware, or other computer related issues associated with connecting to the BDS network.

Beginning 2012–2013, students may utilize electronic mobile devices in the classroom for educational purposes when the teacher deems appropriate and with a signed AUP on file. While the district encourages students to use electronic mobile devices for educational purposes in the classroom, **high school students** may use these devices during lunch and before and after school. **Middle and elementary students** may use these devices before and after school, not during lunch. All students may use devices in the classroom setting with teacher permission and supervision. Use is STRICTLY prohibited for all students during passing periods due to safety issues.

Use of electronic mobile devices during the school day is a privilege. Adherence to the guidelines below is essential to maintaining an academic environment and the integrity of the classroom.

Teachers that wish to allow students to use mobile devices in the classroom must first participate in professional development opportunities provided by the Bay District Schools Instructional Technology Department.

ELECTRONIC MOBILE DEVICE GUIDELINES

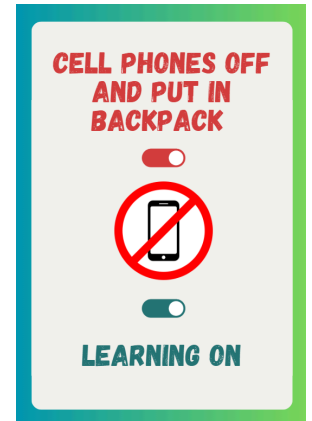
- Using functions on electronic devices that disrupt the educational environment, from within or from outside the classroom, or violates the rights of others, including, but not limited to using the device to cheat, violate school conduct rules, harass or bully staff or students or use their device for unlawful purposes will be subject to disciplinary action; up to and including suspension, expulsion, and being reported to local authorities.
- Cell phone conversations during instruction or class time should take place only under the supervision of staff personnel unless otherwise directed.
- Using any device that permits recording voice or image of another in any way that disrupts the educational



environment, invades privacy of others, or is made without prior consent of individuals being recorded is **prohibited**. Also, using any device that permits recording voice or image of another to take, disseminate, transfer, or share audio, images, video, or photos that reveal private parts of the body that are ordinarily covered by clothing is **prohibited**. The possession of pornographic images or video on any electronic device is **prohibited**.

- Students must comply with staff directives, including but not limited to, using appropriate device volume. When in use, devices must be on vibrate or silent mode so that no audible tone is heard.

PEMDs misused in accordance with this policy shall be confiscated from the student and only returned to the student's parent upon notification from the school office. Continued misuse of PEMDs may subject the student to disciplinary action, as determined by the principal. Use of a PEMD will subject the student to the possibility of the imposition of disciplinary action by the school or criminal penalties if the PEMD is used for the purposes of a criminal act.



Parents may request special permission for their student to use cellular or satellite telephones if the parent has requested such use in writing to the school principal and has provided a physician's statement that provisions for immediate medical needs are necessary. If such permission is granted by the principal at the principal's discretion, the cellular telephone will be placed on "vibrate" so not to disturb other students. Misuse of the cellular telephone under these circumstances will subject the student to disciplinary actions, as determined by the principal.

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT **(SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 7.207)**

It is the policy of the School Board of Bay County, Florida (the "District" or "School Board") that all of its students and school employees have an educational setting that is safe, secure, and free from harassment, bullying, and dating violence and abuse of any kind. The District will not tolerate bullying, harassment, or teen dating violence and abuse of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying, harassment, or teen dating violence and abuse as defined herein, is prohibited, including discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender and disability.

Bullying includes cyberbullying and means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. It is further defined as unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by a student or adult, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation; and may involve but is not limited to:

1. Teasing
2. Social Exclusion
3. Threat
4. Intimidation
5. Stalking
6. Physical violence
7. Theft
8. Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
9. Public or private humiliation
10. Destruction of property



ANONYMOUS REPORTING

Click on the SAFE (Students Accounting for Everyone) link at the bottom of the BDS or school website to



submit an anonymous report of a bullying incident.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

Click on the FortifyFL link at the bottom of the BDS or school website to report suspicious activity to law enforcement agencies.



STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Florida HB 7029, signed into Law by Governor Rick Scott on April 14, 2016, amended Florida Statute 1003.44 by spelling out requirements. In accordance with the law, upon written request from the student's parent/guardian, Bay District students may be excused from participation in the Pledge of Allegiance. Updated provisions, effective July 1, 2016, from the FL Statute 1003.44 include:

When the national anthem is played, students and all civilians shall stand at attention, men removing head coverings except those worn for religious purposes.

The Pledge of Allegiance is defined:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

- The Pledge of Allegiance shall be rendered by students standing with the right hand over the heart.
- The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited at the beginning of the day in each public elementary, middle, and high school in FL.
- Each student shall be informed by a written notice published in the student handbook or a similar publication pursuant to s. 1006.07(2) that the student has the right not to participate in reciting the pledge. Upon written request by his or her parent, the student must be excused from reciting the pledge, including standing and placing the right hand over his or her heart.
- When the pledge is given, non-exempt students must show full respect to the flag by standing at attention, men removing any headdress, except when such headdress is worn for religious purposes.
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If you would like your student to be exempt, please contact your child's school directly. The school will advise you how to proceed with your written request.



STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

In accordance with House Bill 529, all K-12 schools will build daily reflection into students' week day, allowing students to pause and observe a moment of silence at least one minute during the first period, every school day.

TEXTBOOKS & LIBRARY MATERIALS

Textbooks, library books and other school materials are loaned to pupils by the Bay District School Board. If these articles are lost or damaged, pupils will be required to pay for them.

TYNDALL THUNDERBIRD SONG

We are the nation's best above all the rest, and to doubt it would be absurd because we are the kids who proudly wear the Tyndall Thunderbird. We know where we're going. We set our course. The sky's no limit for the Thunderbirds. We are the nation's best above all the rest, and to doubt it would be absurd because we are the kids who proudly wear the Tyndall Thunderbird.

We are the kids with a dream on America's team. We're a rugged and ready crew, and you can bet your boots the world looks up to Tyndall Thunderbirds. We know where we're going. We set our course. The sky's no limit for the Thunderbirds. We are the nation's best above all the rest, and to doubt it would be absurd, because we are the kids who proudly wear the Tyndall Thunderbird.

ADMIN & SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Principal - Ms. Kara Mulkusky - mulkukm@bay.k12.fl.us

Assistant Principal - Mr. Russell Brock - brockwr@bay.k12.fl.us

Assistant Principal - Ms. Sarah Whaler - whalese@bay.k12.fl.us

Assistant Administrator - Ms. Amber Sller - silera@bay.k12.fl.us

School Counselor (PreK - 3rd) - Ms. Latvia Varnum - varnula@bay.k12.fl.us

School Counselor (4th - 8th) - Ms. Lindsay Steindorf - steinld@bay.k12.fl.us

