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Parent - Student Handbook

2023-2024

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Riverside Academy

[www.acariverside.com](http://www.acariverside.com)

It is the mission of Riverside Academy (“Academy or “School”) to provide all students with a content-rich, academically challenging education with a well-defined, sequential curriculum in a safe, orderly, disciplined environment. Riverside students will learn to express themselves and utilize 21st century computer technology to support learning in all major subjects. Riverside is committed to providing a free appropriate and socially responsible educational program. By equipping our young people with essential knowledge and skills, Riverside will be helping to fulfill dreams and motivate students to become whatever they so choose.

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#### **Appendix 1 – Internet Safety Policy**

#### **Appendix 2 – Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, or Anti-Bullying Policy**

#### **\*\*NOTICE\*\***

The School is a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code. The School is a public school and students enrolled in and attending the School are required to take proficiency tests and other examinations that are prescribed by law. In addition, there may be other requirements for students at the School that are prescribed by law. Students who have been excused from the compulsory attendance laws for the purpose of home education as defined by the Ohio Administrative Code shall no longer be excused for that purpose upon their enrollment in a community school. For more information about this matter, please contact the School administration or the Ohio Department of Education.

## **Introduction**

This Handbook (the “Handbook”) was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year. This Handbook contains important information that you are responsible for knowing. Become familiar with the following information and keep the Handbook available for reference by you and your parents. The term “parent” when used herein means an official caregiver of a minor child, including but not limited to mother, father, stepparent, grandparent, foster parent, or court-appointed guardian. If you have any questions about this Handbook, please contact the Principal. The Principal has similar authority and responsibilities as the superintendent of schools for a local district. This Handbook does not constitute a contract between the School and the student/parent, and the School reserves the right at its discretion to change or amend the Handbook at any time in the future. The policies contained within the Handbook may also be revised or updated periodically in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors (the “Board”). If a conflict should arise between information contained within this Handbook and a policy adopted by the Board, the policy shall supersede and control.

Cooperation, respect for others, and a sense of wonder are essential to learning. For this reason, the following regulations and guidelines have been outlined in this Handbook to assist in maintaining a positive learning environment.

## **School Hours**

Breakfast: 7:30-8:00 A.M.

Instructional Start Time: 8:00 A.M.

Student Marked Tardy After: 8:10 A.M.

Instructional End Time: 3:00 P.M.

## **I. Admission Information**

The School will not charge tuition. All students of the School must be residents of the State of Ohio. Admission is open to students on a statewide basis.

### **A. Preference of Admission**

Priority for admission shall be given to students attending the School the previous year, to students who reside in the district in which the School is located, and to siblings of students attending the School the previous year.

If enrollment exceeds capacity, the School will perform a blind, random lottery to determine which students are to be enrolled and which students are placed on a waiting list (in order of their selection). All parents of children selected for enrollment through the lottery will be notified of such selection by certified mail. Parents then have up to seven (7) days from receipt of the certified mail to contact the Academy regarding their decision. If a parent has not confirmed the intent to enroll their student within those seven (7) days, the Academy will select another student from the wait list. Any students that inquire about enrollment after the lottery is held will be placed on the waiting list on a first come, first served basis.

### **B. Kindergarten Entrance**

Each child who is five years of age on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> shall be eligible to enroll in Kindergarten. A child who seeks to enroll in K who will be five years old after September 30<sup>th</sup> but before January 1<sup>st</sup>

may be evaluated for early admittance in accordance with the School's Early Entrance Policy. Contact the School for more information on this Policy.

### **C. Registration and Enrollment**

Registration and enrollment are two different steps in the process of becoming a student at the Academy. Registration initiates the first step in the two-step process. By registering, the parent expresses a desire to have his/her child attend the Academy. It does not mean the child will be enrolled in the Academy.

Parents express the desire to have their child attend by:

- Completing and submitting the Registration Form
- Providing the child's:
  - Birth Certificate or other certification permitted by state law
  - Proof of Residency
  - Current Immunization Record
  - Last Report Card, when appropriate

Annual Verification Information:

- Parents are required to provide the Academy with proof of residency/Address Verification annually and at any time a change of address, residency, or custody occurs. Contact the School office for documents determined to be acceptable to satisfy the proof of residency requirement.

The second step is enrollment. After the enrollment period for those students that are granted admission preference is completed, as described above, and the lottery process is completed, enrollment can begin. The child is not officially a student of the Academy until enrollment is completed.

The child is enrolled when:

- All the registration steps are completed
- The enrollment packet including all required documents is completed and submitted
- Grade placement is assigned

Enrollment of students shall comply with the admissions procedures specified in the Ohio Revised Code and the School's Open Enrollment, Admission & Residency Policy.

### **D. Re-Enrollment**

For those students presently attending the School, re-enrollment begins in January or February. Students are not automatically re-enrolled from school year to school year. All parents must state their intention to have their child/student be re-enrolled each school year. It is the responsibility of the parent to inform the School of any changes to their residency or contact information.

### **E. Non-Discrimination Policy**

Enrollment will not be denied to any eligible applicant on the basis of sex, race, religion, religious expression, color, national origin, ancestry, pregnancy, marital or parental status, economic status, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. The School will also not discriminate in its pupil admissions policies or practices whether on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or any other basis that would be illegal if used by any public school.

## **F. Health Certification and Immunization Requirements**

### **State of Ohio Immunization Requirements for School Attendance**

All new students are required to submit a copy of their Immunization Records within the first fourteen (14) days that they are enrolled. No student shall be permitted to remain in school for more than fourteen (14) days if the student has not met the minimum immunization requirements established by the Ohio Department of Health which can be accessed at the following website: <https://www.odh.ohio.gov>.

**On the 15<sup>th</sup> day after entrance at the School, it will be necessary to exclude all students from the School who do not meet the above requirements.**

Medical authorities and school educators urge that every child have a complete medical examination before entering school so that the child may be physically ready to accept all the advantages which education has to offer.

## **G. Change of Address / Phone Number / Custody**

It is the Parent's responsibility to inform the School office of any change of address, phone number or custody. For changes of address, a new proof of residence will be required. For change of custody, parents will be required to provide a copy of the custody order to the School.

## **II. Student and Parent Responsibilities**

### **A. Behavior Guidelines**

Effective learning cannot occur without an approach to student behavior that stresses self-discipline, consistent with the maturity level of the students. Discipline, which reflects the School's policy of non-violence, exists to promote an atmosphere favorable to concentration, attention, and creativity. In addition, discipline is a positive attempt to help all students realize that they are important, worthwhile, and capable of learning. In classroom management, teachers shall be fair, firm, consistent, and impartial, displaying sensitivity to the needs of the individual child.

The following are the main ideas basic to our system of discipline. Students will be successful by:

- Knowing and following the rules.
- Accepting responsibility for their behavior.

**Corporal punishment is not permitted.** No employee shall threaten, inflict, or cause to inflict unreasonable, irrational, or inappropriate force upon a student.

The rules of the Student Code of Conduct apply to any conduct:

- On School grounds during the school day or immediately before or after school hours.
- On School grounds at any other time when the School is being used by a School group.
- On or off School grounds at any School activity, function, or event.
- While traveling to and from School, including actions on any school bus, van, or public conveyance.
- At activities occurring off of School grounds if, in the sole discretion of the Principal, the conduct may affect the learning environment.
- Regardless of where the conduct occurs, if the conduct is directed at a School official or employee, or the property of such School official or employee.

## **B. Code of Conduct**

Violation of the Code of Conduct may subject the student to discipline, including but not limited to detentions and in-school suspensions, and up to and including suspension, expulsion and/or permanent exclusion. Each offense or series of offenses will be evaluated based on the particular circumstances of the offense(s). The following are examples of, but not limited to, behavior which is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct:

- Tardiness – Arriving later than scheduled (discipline shall not include suspension/expulsion)
- Truancy – Absent without permission (discipline shall not include suspension/expulsion)
- Dress Code Violation – Not adhering to School dress code regulation
- Disobedient/Disruptive Behavior – Unwillingness to submit to authority, refusal to respond to a reasonable request or any act that disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function; behavior that substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment (i.e., dress code violation, inappropriate language, cursing, inappropriate gestures)
- Cheating – To act dishonestly; copying of someone else’s work; to deceive, take credit for work not done by the student himself/herself
- Profane/Obscene Language or Gestures Between/Toward Students or Staff – Use of unacceptable words, terms, or gestures to embarrass or insult another student or staff member
- Theft – To take the property of an individual or the School without right or permission
- Fighting/Violence – To participate in physical contact with one or more students or personnel with the intent to hurt or injure
- Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of Tobacco Products, e-cigarettes, vaporizers, or similar tobacco substitutes including look-alike substances
- Use, Possession, Sale, or Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages
- Vandalism/Damage to School or Personal Property– Purposeful destruction, misuse or defacing of School or other’s personal property
- Intimidation/Interference/Hazing of Student or Staff –Threatening to physically or verbally harm, interfere, or degrade another student or staff
- False Alarms/Bomb Threat – Purposefully engaging in a false alarm
- Use/Possession/Sale/Transmission/Concealment of any Drug or look alike drug or other illegal or Controlled Substance
- Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of a Firearm, counterfeit, or look alike firearm– Firearm has the same meaning as provided pursuant to the “Gun Free Schools Act of 1994”
- Use, Possession, Sale or Distribution of any Explosive, Incendiary or Poison Gas- Any destructive device, which includes a bomb, a grenade, or a rocket
- Unwelcome Sexual Conduct – Unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, other physical or verbal conduct or communication of a sexual nature, including gender-based harassment that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive education or work environment i.e., pinching, grabbing, suggestive comments, gestures, jokes, or pressure to engage in sexual activity
- Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying behavior (including by an electronic act) as defined in the School’s Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation or Anti-Bullying Policy (**Appendix 2**)
- Gang involvement – Participation in gang related actions, dress or activities
- Possession of Electronic Devices – Students may not have cellular phones, compact discs, electronic games, or any other devices unrelated to schoolwork, except as otherwise set forth herein

- Weapons – No student at any time, for any reason, shall possess, handle, transmit, or use any object, which can be reasonably considered a weapon in or on the property of an Academy, or any Academy sponsored activity held away from the School property. For purposes of illustration, but without limitation, this rule shall include firearms, explosives, fireworks, and knives, including penknives, chemicals, and other dangerous objects, which are of no reasonable value to a student other than as a weapon. Possession of a “weapon” may result in immediate expulsion
- Serious Bodily Injury – An incident that results in serious bodily injury to oneself or others. Serious bodily injury is defined as “A bodily injury that involves substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.”
- Wrongful Conduct – Actions not in the listing above that, in the sole discretion of the Principal, impede, obstruct, interfere, or violate the mission, philosophy, and regulations of the School
- Actions that in the sole discretion of the Principal endanger the health and/or safety of fellow students, staff, or guests in the School

### C. Dress Code

All students are expected to come to School in clean and properly fitting uniforms with proper hygiene and their hair styled neatly. Daily personal grooming is important. Pride in one’s appearance is the first step in gaining self-esteem and confidence. Moreover, limiting distractions associated with inappropriate or unusual dress and personal style promotes a positive learning environment. Parents will be contacted if a student is out of uniform or comes to School poorly groomed.

The student dress code is an important part of the School program and philosophy. Making a choice to attend the School, the student (with parent support) agrees to follow all dress code requirements. **The dress code is not an option for the student or parent.** Not choosing to follow the dress code may lead to suspension or expulsion.

The teacher and instructional aide are the prime enforcers of this policy. Occasionally, the Principal may have a building “dress-down” day when students and staff may dress down (in a reasonable fashion).

School administration may make changes to the dress code during the school year. The School administration will first notify parents in writing that the changes are to be made. Students are expected to comply with such changes.

The student dress code is as follows:

- Any solid colored short or long-sleeved polo shirt; undergarments must also be solid colored (e.g., t-shirts)
- Only solid colored white, gray, navy, black, or beige knitted cardigans or knitted pullover sweaters are allowed. **No sweatshirts or hoodies**
- Black, navy, or khaki skirts, skorts, jumpers, or slacks. NO COLORED DENIM may be worn except for solid-black. Skirts, skorts, and jumpers must be knee length. No floor length dresses, jeans, sweatpants, overalls, leggings, or jeggings. Uniform shorts may be worn during the months of April through September only. Uniform shorts are black, navy, or khaki and must be knee length
- Black or brown belts must be worn around the waist
- No headscarves (except for religious observance)
- Socks or tights must be worn at all times

- Dress shoes or plain white or black tennis shoes may be worn. Shoes must be closed-toed. No moccasins, sandals or high heels
- All hairstyles must be neat and clean
- Tattoos must be covered at all times
- Tennis shoes must be worn on scheduled physical education days
- Studs for earrings (one per ear) and wristwatches are permitted
- No “stretch” pants or tights as pants even on dress down days
- No writing or pictures are to be on any clothing
- No see-through clothing of any kind

#### **D. Attendance**

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential for success in school and necessary for success later in life. Each student at the Academy has the responsibility to attend all classes regularly and to be on time.

The required attendance of students shall conform to the minimum standards prescribed by State law. Therefore, absences from School should be only for illness or an emergency. In case of an absence from School:

- The parent must notify the School before the beginning of the school day from which his/her child will be absent. Calls are to be made to the Academy office. Within 120 minutes after the beginning of each school day, the attendance officer, their assistant, or designee, will make at least one reasonable attempt to notify the parent for any student absent without legitimate excuse.
- While permission will be given to keep a dental/doctor appointment during school hours, parents are encouraged to make these appointments for times other than class hours, if possible. Every tardy or absence slows the progress of a child’s development. Parents or a designated adult will be required to sign the child out when they leave and then sign in if they return. A sign-in/sign-out sheet is located in the Academy office and a photo ID will be required.
- Both “excused” and “unexcused” absences count against a student’s attendance record. The distinction is made between “excused” and “unexcused” absences for the purpose of determining whether or not a student may have the opportunity to make-up class work and whether or not disciplinary action is in order.
- **A student will be retained** in his/her present grade level if he/she has been absent without legitimate excuse for more than **10% of the required attendance days** of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas unless the Principal and the student’s teachers of any failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.
- Students who are habitually absent or tardy may be referred for interventions pursuant to the School’s Truancy Policy.
- No student shall be suspended or expelled based solely on the number of absences.

An absence may be “excused” if the student or their parent provides the Principal with verification, if any, in the manner and timeframe determined to be satisfactory in the sole discretion of the Principal. Where appropriate, the School may require written documentation. The term “excused” may refer to any absence from a class based on the following:

- Medical or Dental appointment
- Student is under a doctor’s care

- Death of an immediate family member
- Quarantine of the home (limited to the length of quarantine as determined by the proper health officials)
- Personal illness
- Court appearance
- Religious observance consistent with a student's truly held religious beliefs
- Absences due to a student's placement in foster care or change in foster care or any court proceedings related to their foster care status
- Absences due to a student being homeless
- Other emergency or set of circumstances that, as deemed by the Principal, constitutes good and sufficient cause of absence from school

The term "unexcused" will refer to any absence from a class based on the following:

- Truancy
- Any absence where a student fails to provide a verification of the absence in the manner and timeframe determined acceptable in the sole discretion of the Principal.
- Leaving school early without proper authorization
- Each day that a student is late without providing legitimate excuse as outlined above
- Other absences determined to be unexcused by the Principal

NOTE: Failure to attend any Academy function outside the regular school day will not be considered an absence.

### **E. Truancy**

Attendance at School is key to achievement. Students are expected to attend School regularly and on time. Parents are encouraged to partner with the School to ensure attendance and timeliness. Parents are encouraged to make any doctor, dentist, etc., appointments for times other than school hours.

### **Excessive Absences**

A student shall be considered excessively absent when the student is absent (with a nonmedical excuse or without legitimate excuse) 38 or more hours in one school month or 65 or more hours in one school year.

When a student is excessively absent from School, the School will notify the student's parents in writing within seven days of the triggering absence and the student will follow the School plan for absence intervention.

### **Habitually Truant**

Habitually truant is defined as being absent without a legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, for forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) school month, or seventy-two (72) or more hours in one (1) school year.

As required by law, within ten (10) days of the School's determination that a student is a habitual truant, the School shall assign the student to an absence intervention team which shall develop an absence intervention plan for the student. If the student fails to follow the plan, the School may file a complaint in

juvenile court jointly against the child and the parent. The complaint must state that the child is an “unruly child” by virtue of being a “habitual truant”.

The Principal or his/her designee is also authorized, at the Operator’s discretion, to establish a parent education program for parents of truant students. Any parent assigned to the program who does not complete the program may be reported to law enforcement authorities.

#### **F. Tardy Policy**

- All students reporting to School after 8:10 a.m. will be considered tardy. Tardy arrivals are added to hours absent, and the student may be referred to an absence intervention team.
- Students must be in their assigned classroom by the start of school day. Just being “in school” or “hanging around” in the restrooms, gym, or the halls are not what is meant by being ready for school and in the classroom. Students using such an excuse will be marked tardy.
- Every tardy or absence slows the progress of a child’s development.

Tardiness is only excused for the same reasons as absences and the School may require verification, if any, in the timeframe and manner determined to be satisfactory in the sole discretion of the Principal.

#### **G. Suspension and Expulsion Procedures**

Rules of out of school suspension and expulsion follow due process requirements as mandated by the laws of the State of Ohio.

##### **Suspension**

Out-of-school suspension is removal of a student from School for a period of one to ten days. While students are suspended from School, they will be afforded the opportunity to complete missed classroom assignments and receive at least partial credit for any assignment completed. However, reasonable grade reduction may be made on account of a suspension, but a student will not receive a failing grade solely because of the suspension. During suspension, students are not permitted to participate in classes, extracurricular activities, or be on any School property.

The Principal, Assistant Principal or Principal designee may suspend a student. Prior to suspending a student, the Principal, Assistant Principal or Principal designee must do both of the following:

1. Give written notice of the intention to suspend and the reasons for the intended suspension to the student. If the proposed suspension is based on a violation listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.662(A) and the student is sixteen years of age or older, the notice must contain a statement that the School may seek to permanently exclude the student if the student is convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for that violation; and
2. Provide the student an opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the Principal, Assistant Principal or Principal designee and challenge the reasons for the intended suspension or otherwise explain. The hearing can happen immediately and can happen anywhere - the hall, office, classroom, etc.

Within one school day after the time of the student’s suspension, the Principal, Assistant Principal or Principal designee shall also provide written notice of suspension to the parent/guardian of the student and the treasurer of the Board. The notice shall contain:

- The reasons for the suspension
- Notice of the right of the student or the student’s parent/guardian/custodian to appeal to the Board

or the Board's designee

- Notice that the student/parent/guardian/custodian has the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings
- Notice of the right to be granted an appeal hearing before the Board or the Board's designee to be heard against the suspension
- Notice of the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session
- Notice that the School may seek the student's permanent exclusion if the suspension was based on a violation listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.662(A) that was committed when the student was sixteen years of age or older and if the student is convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for that violation
- The date and manner by a student or parent/guardian/custodian may notify the Board of their intent to appeal the suspension. If the student or parent/guardian wishes to appeal the suspension, the request must be submitted, in writing, to the Principal within five (5) school days of the written notice of suspension. The Principal shall immediately forward this written appeal to the Board and the Board's appeal hearing designee.

If there are fewer than ten school days remaining, the out-of-school suspension may not be applied to the following school year, but the Principal may require the student to participate in a community service program or other alternative consequences for a number of hours equal to the remaining period of the suspension.

### **Expulsion**

Except as specifically provided for by statute, the Principal may expel a student for a period not to exceed the greater of 80 school days or the number of days remaining in the semester or term in which the offense leading to expulsion took place. Students expelled from the School are not permitted to participate in classes, extracurricular activities, or be on any School property. Expulsions may extend into the following school year.

Only the Principal may expel a student. No student shall be expelled unless prior to the expulsion, the Principal does both of the following:

1. The Principal shall give the student and parent, guardian or custodian written notice of the intention to expel the student and the reasons for the intended expulsion. The notice shall include the reasons for the intended expulsion, notification of the right of the student, their parent guardian, custodian or their representative to appear before the Principal or their designee to hear and to challenge the reasons for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the student's actions, and the notification of the time and place to appear. The time to appear shall not be sooner than three (3) nor later than five (5) school days after the notice has been given unless the Principal grants an extension of time at the request of the student, his/her parent, guardian, custodian, or representative. If an extension of time is granted, the Principal shall notify the student and his/her parent, guardian, custodian, or representative, of the new time and place to appear. If the proposed expulsion is based on a violation listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.662(A) and the student is sixteen years of age or older, the notice must contain a statement that the Principal may seek to permanently exclude the student if the student is convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for that violation.
2. Provide the student and parent, guardian, or custodian an opportunity to appear in person before the Principal or their designee to challenge the reason for the intended expulsion or otherwise to explain the student's actions.

Within one school day after the time of the student's expulsion, the Principal shall also provide written notice of expulsion to the parent/guardian of the student and the treasurer of the Board. The notice shall contain:

- The reasons for the expulsion
- Notice of the right of the student, or student's parent/guardian/custodian to appeal to the Board or the Board's designee
- Notice that the student/parent/guardian/custodian has the right to be represented in all appeal proceedings
- Notice of the right to be granted an appeal hearing before the Board or the Board's designee to be heard against the expulsion
- Notice of the right to request that the hearing be held in executive session
- Notice that the School may seek the student's permanent exclusion if the suspension was based on a violation listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.662(A) that was committed when the student was sixteen years of age or older and if the student is convicted of or adjudicated a delinquent child for that violation and that the expulsion may be extended if a juvenile court or criminal proceeding regarding such violation is pending at the time the expulsion terminates
- The date and manner by a student or parent/guardian/custodian may notify the Board of their intent to appeal the expulsion. If the student or parent/guardian wishes to appeal the expulsion, the request must be submitted, in writing, to the Principal within fourteen (14) calendar days of the written notice of expulsion. The Principal shall immediately forward this written appeal to the Board and the Board's appeal hearing designee

If the Principal expels a student for more than twenty school days, or for any period of time if the expulsion will extend into the following semester or school year, the notice shall provide the student and the student's parent, guardian, or custodian with information about services or programs offered by public and private agencies that work toward improving those aspects of the student's attitudes and behavior that contributed to the incident that gave rise to the student's expulsion. The information shall include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the appropriate public and private agencies.

An expelled student will be provided with a date for re-entry and the date for the re-entry conference. The expelled student and parent or guardian of the student must be present in the re-entry conference. The student and parent or guardian of any student will be notified in the event that the student fails to attend the re-entry conference.

Expulsion proceedings will be pursued against a student who has committed an act warranting expulsion even if the student has withdrawn from School for any reason after the incident giving rise to the hearing, but before the hearing or decision to expel. If after the hearing the student would have been expelled for a period of time had the student remained in School, the expulsion will be for the same length of time as on a student who has not withdrawn from School.

### **Weapons Expulsion**

A student **must** be expelled for one year for bringing a firearm to the School or onto School Property (any Property owned, used, or leased by the School for school, School extra-curricular activities or School related events).

A student **may** be expelled for a period not to exceed one year for:

- Bringing a firearm to an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other School program or activity that is not located at the School or on School Property.
- Possessing a firearm at School, on School Property, or at an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event or any other School program or activity which firearm was initially brought onto the property by another person.
- Bringing a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to School, onto School Property, an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other program or activity sponsored by the School or which the School is a participant.
- Possession of a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at School, on School Property, or at an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other program or activity sponsored by the School or which the School is a participant which knife capable of causing serious bodily harm was initially brought onto the property by another person.
- Committing an act while at School, on School Property, at an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other School program or activity that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult that results in serious physical harm to persons or serious physical harm to property.
- Making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a School activity is occurring at the time of the threat.

Firearm has the same meaning as provided pursuant to the "Gun Free Schools Act of 1994." At the time this policy was adopted, the above-referenced statute defined a firearm as any weapon (including a starter's gun) which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, including the frame or receiver of any such weapon, and any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device. If the definition of a firearm as provided by the "Gun Free Schools Act of 1994" changes, then the definition set forth in this policy shall automatically change to conform to it.

A knife capable of causing serious bodily injury is defined as any weapon or cutting instrument consisting of a blade or edge that is not otherwise determined by the Principal to be necessary in the particular school setting and used for its intended school purpose.

The specific circumstances under which the Principal may, in his/her discretion, reduce a one-year expulsion may include: the student was unaware that he/she brought or was in possession of a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily harm; the student legitimately did not understand that the item he/she brought or possessed was a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily harm; a recommendation from qualified individuals concerning circumstances that justifiably mitigate the student's culpability.

### **Disabilities Compliance**

The School will comply with all laws and regulations presented in the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004. Discipline procedures for students having a disability will follow the procedures outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 or such successor or replacement law.

### **Emergency Removal**

If a student's presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, the student can be removed from School without first satisfying the prior notice and hearing requirements set forth above. Written notice of the hearing and the reason for the removal shall be given to the student as soon as practicable prior to the hearing. The hearing shall be held on the next school day following the day of the student's initial removal. Students are to remain home during school hours and not attend/participate in School sponsored function(s) pending the hearing. Should an out-of-school suspension be warranted, days of removal may be applied to the days of out-of-school suspension.

If a student in grades pre-K to 3 poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, the student can be removed from School without prior notice of hearing. The student may only be removed for the remainder of the school day and will be permitted to return to School and participate in extracurricular activities the following day. In this case, the School may forego the written notice and one-day post-removal hearing requirements.

The School may not initiate suspension or expulsion proceedings against a student in grades pre- K to grade 3 who was removed as an emergency removal unless the student has committed an act that could result in a one-year expulsion under the Weapons Expulsion rules, described above, or as necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, the student's fellow classmates, the classroom staff and teachers, or other school employees.

## **H. Withdrawal Policies and Procedures**

### **Voluntary Withdrawal**

Parents/Guardians withdrawing children from School are asked to give the School at least one week notice. A withdrawal form must be signed, and the Parent/Guardian is required to tell the School what new School the student will be attending. This signed form gives official notice of the child's withdrawal. Except as is required by law, records will not be released until a Release of Information form is completed by the legal parent/guardian. In addition, all outstanding fees, academic records or obligations must be met, including the return of all textbooks/electronics.

### **Mandatory Withdrawal – 72 Consecutive Hours**

Per Ohio law, students must be withdrawn if they have not provided verification of absence (as stated in the Attendance section above) and are absent for 72 consecutive hours (approximately 11 consecutive school days) of the learning opportunities provided to the student.

## **III. Academics**

### **A. Curriculum**

The School provides a high-quality, standards-based curriculum using an inquiry model to enable the students to meet individualized goals and prepare for their lives beyond their time at the Academy. The School shares these results with parents and provides an explanation of the results to parents during the school year.

### **B. Parental Notification Regarding Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Prevention Curriculum**

The law requires the School to include in the curriculum for students in grades K-6 developmentally appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention, including information on available counseling

and resources for children who are sexually abused. A parent may request a student be excused from such instruction upon a written request submitted to the Principal or their designee.

Additionally, the law requires students receive developmentally appropriate instruction in sexual violence prevention education beginning in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. A parent may request the opportunity to examine the materials used for such instruction by submitting a written request to the Principal or their designee. Additionally, a parent may request a student be excused from such instruction upon a written request submitted to the Principal or their designee.

### **C. Assessment and Intervention**

Assessment is an ongoing evaluation of student progress at all grade levels and in all courses. Classroom assessment occurs daily and includes such strategies as observations, oral presentations, reports, role-playing, reviews, projects, homework, quizzes, and tests.

In addition, grades K through 3 will complete diagnostic assessments, and grades 3 through 8 will complete required state testing. Nationally normed assessments will also be administered for grades K through 8. These assessments are mandatory for all students.

Intervention is supplemental instruction based on student needs, designed to provide remediation, reinforcement, enrichment, or support for student learning about specified student performance objectives.

Reading skills for students in K will be assessed by the twentieth day of instruction, and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades by September 30th of each year to determine whether they are reading at grade level. If a student is not reading at grade level, the School will notify the parent or guardian, and the School will provide intervention services to improve the student's reading performance. If the student does not attain the required level of reading competency by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and does not meet an exemption, they must be retained. For a copy of the complete Third Grade Reading Guarantee Policy including information regarding the midyear promotion of retained students, contact the Principal.

### **D. Make-Up Work**

When an excused absence occurs, students are responsible for making up the assignments that are missed. The teacher will assign make-up work and set the date for completion, which shall be the same number of days as the corresponding absence. Assignments not completed will result in failing grades.

In the event of a planned excused absence, the School must be provided with three or more days of advanced notice in order for teachers to provide class assignments. Students must return completed assignments within two days of returning to School.

Make-up work will not be provided for unexcused absences.

It is strongly suggested that absences not occur during state testing week(s).

### **E. Report Cards**

Report cards are sent to the home through the mail, given directly to the parent, or sent home with the student for each grading period (four times a year). See the School Calendar for these dates.

Copies of all report cards are placed into the student's cumulative file.

All students receive four interim reports and four report cards.

**The grading scale K-8 is as follows:**

90%-100% A

80%-89% B

70%-79% C

65%-69% D

64% and below F

Assignment grades and scores shall be calculated using ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance, including any legitimate pedagogical concerns, and shall not penalize or reward a student based on the religious content of a student's work.

**F. Parent / Teacher Conferences**

Formal parent-teacher conferences are conducted at least once a year. Consult the School Calendar for these dates. Conference schedules will be issued through the School office but arranged by each student's teacher. Once a date and time have been arranged, please contact the student's teacher if a change is necessary. A conference may be scheduled at an alternate time upon request based on the teacher's availability and class schedules.

Parent-teacher conferences are a focal point in student evaluation and reporting to the parents. This is a two-way avenue for both parents and teachers and may be initiated by either party as needed.

**G. Open House**

Open house will be held during the first academic quarter. Parents/Guardians will be notified of the exact dates and are encouraged to attend.

**H. Credit Flexibility**

The School permits students enrolled in seventh and eighth grade to meet curriculum requirements based on demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in combination with completing hours of classroom instruction.

Credit Flexibility is the customizing of educational delivery to the learning styles and interests of individual students. Students show what they know and move on to higher-order content they are ready to learn and have not yet mastered. They learn subject matter and earn course credit in ways not limited solely to "seat time" or the walls of a school building. They customize aspects of their learning around their interests and needs, which might include flexible schedules and a choice of modalities (e.g., online learning, work-based learning and community-based projects).

Each student that intends to participate in the Credit Flexibility program must develop a Credit Flexibility Plan for approval by the Principal or their designee. For more information regarding Credit Flexibility please consult the School and the School's Credit Flexibility Policy.

## **IV. School Operations**

### **A. School Day, Arrival and Dismissal**

School days and vacations are provided in the School Calendar.

### **B. Illness**

Parents are encouraged to examine their child each morning before sending him/her to School to see if any signs or symptoms of illness are present.

If a student is ill, please keep them at home and notify the School of the absence. Should a condition persist, consult your physician. Parents are urged to establish themselves with a physician so that one can be promptly called when the need arises. Your cooperation regarding communicable disease prevention will be greatly appreciated. Students should not return to School until a 24-hour period of a normal temperature has elapsed.

### **C. Emergency Response/Crisis Management**

A School wide Safety/Crisis Plan has been developed and provided to School personnel for assisting and responding to various crisis/emergency situations. In the event of a manmade or natural crisis, your cooperation is needed. Staff is trained to move students to a designated evacuation site. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY. Calling the School may limit the availability of telephone lines needed to access emergency rescue services. Initial notification to Parents will be through local television and radio stations, and via emails and automated calls. Once students are secure and safe, School personnel will contact parents with sign out procedures. Students will only be released to parents or individuals listed on their emergency contact forms.

### **D. Safer Ohio Tip Line**

In order to provide parents, students or members of the public a means to anonymously report instances that might alter the overall safety of the School, the School has partnered with SaferOH. This tip line is available 24-hours a day, and anyone who has reason to believe that the safety of the School is compromised in any way may anonymously call or text to report any pertinent information to 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764).

Things to report to the tip line include (but are not limited to):

- Bullying incidents
- Withdrawn student behaviors
- Verbal or written threats observed toward students, faculty or schools
- Weapon/suspicious devices on or near school grounds
- Gang related activities
- Unusual/suspicious behavior of students or staff
- Self-harm or suicidal sentiments
- Any other school safety related concerns

Every tip can remain anonymous. School safety analysts may ask for additional information, but the caller can remain secret or leave his or her contact information for later follow-up.

Calls or texts to 844-SaferOH (844-723-3764) are answered by analysts within Ohio Homeland Security. If action is needed, the analysts immediately forward information to local school officials, law enforcement agencies and the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) for action and follow up.

The OSSC partners with the Ohio Department of Education to follow up with affected school and law enforcement agencies to make sure that the incident is investigated, action is taken, and resources and supports are provided when necessary.

#### **E. Emergency Phone Calls**

Parents are requested not to call the School for the delivery of messages to children, except in cases of emergency.

Students may give the School's phone number to relatives for emergency purposes only. The main office will take a message and forward it to a student as soon as possible. Students must receive approval from School personnel to make phone calls from the main office.

Students are not permitted to use School phones without approval from School personnel.

#### **F. Early School Dismissal**

Occasionally, weather conditions or other building emergencies may arise that necessitate sending students home earlier than the regular dismissal time. Every possible effort will be made not to make such a closing. In case of closing, every effort will be made to contact the parents under these conditions. It will be necessary for the parent to arrange procedures (such as stay with a neighbor, friend, relative, etc.) for their child to follow in case there is no one home to meet him/her. Parents should make these arrangements beforehand and instruct the child on what he/she is to do. The School cannot make any such decisions.

#### **G. Emergency School Closings**

Should it be necessary to close the Academy for weather or other unforeseen emergencies, information will be given over radio and television stations. Usually if the city school district is closed in which the Academy is located, the Academy will also close; however, this is not always the case. Consequently, parents are asked to monitor their television or radio to be certain. The School will attempt to reach families by sending an automated call to primary contacts.

#### **H. Cars / Parking / Buses**

For the sake of order and safety, parents coming to drop off or pick up their children are to park in designated areas only. The School will give needed traffic, parking, and busing information before the opening of School.

#### **I. Breakfast / Lunch**

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to see to it that their child is provided a lunch. The School participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) food program. Students receive breakfast and lunch at no cost to the family. For information regarding the CEP, contact School administration.

#### **J. Recess**

When scheduled, students are expected to participate in outdoor recess activities during the school day, weather permitting. Generally, if a student is too sick to go outside for recess, the student should not be in

School. Please ensure that the student has the appropriate clothing with them for outdoor activities. Coats, hats, and gloves should be worn as we will be outside unless the temperature is 32 degrees or less (actual or wind chill).

#### **K. Textbooks**

Students are expected to take care of and are responsible for the textbooks assigned during the school year. A replacement fee will be charged for lost or damaged books. The student's academic records will not be released until payment of the replacement fee is settled.

#### **L. Money**

All money turned into the Academy should be in an envelope marked with the student's name, grade, amount, and purpose. Students are not to bring unnecessary money to the school. The School will not be responsible for any money brought to the School.

#### **M. Lost and Found**

Any personal items that have been left at the School will be taken to the main office. If students find personal items that belong to others, they should turn the items into the main office as soon as possible. The School is not responsible for lost money, jewelry, phones, or other personal items.

Many clothing items find their way into the lost and found containers. We urge parents to encourage their children to request permission to look for missing items. Many good clothing items are never claimed and are given to various charitable organizations as space permits.

Money, jewelry, and other personal items may be turned in at the office. Students should ask permission from their teacher to come to the office to claim any such items.

#### **N. Student Photographs**

School pictures will be taken in the fall of each school year. Parents/Guardians will be offered a package of individual and class photographs through the photography company. All students will be photographed whether or not a package is purchased unless the parent sends a written refusal.

#### **O. Visitors**

Visitors are required (for the safety and security of everyone) to report to the Academy office before their visit to a classroom or to other parts of the building. All visitors must sign in upon arrival, sign out before leaving the building, and wear a visitor's identification badge while in the building. Visitors are not to approach students and should be escorted by a staff member at all times while in the building.

All visitors must pre-arrange, through the office, any meetings or visits with the teacher or classroom. All visits are on a limited time basis. Visits for extended time periods are discouraged. Extended visits are granted only through the permission of the Principal and classroom teacher.

Visitors are asked not to attempt an impromptu parent-teacher conference while students are in the classroom.

The School reserves the right to deny access to anyone, including parents, to the School facility and grounds at any time in the Principal's sole discretion.

#### **P. Volunteer Program**

Parents and members of the community may be asked or wish to give of their time in the form of volunteering. Information regarding these opportunities will be forwarded to the parents as appropriate. This is a wonderful opportunity to become more involved with your child's school.

The protection and well-being of students enrolled in the School is paramount. To that end, a background check (FBI/BCI) may be required for volunteers depending upon their level of contact with students. Any adult having unsupervised access to children for any period of time must have a background check (FBI/BCI) on file with the School, this does include field trip chaperones. The cost of this is the responsibility of the parent or volunteer.

#### **Q. Field Trips**

Field trips may be conducted throughout the school year and are correlated with students' educational experiences within the classroom. Parental permission slips are required for a student to participate. Without a signed and dated permission slip, the student will not be able to participate in the field trip. Also, an updated Emergency Medical Authorization Form must be on file at the Academy before a student may participate. Teachers may request parents/guardians to assist in organizing and chaperoning field trips.

**Please note:** To be considered as a chaperone, it is required that you pass a BCI/FBI check prior to participating in any School activity.

#### **R. Classroom Parties**

Parties may be scheduled for special holidays and/or special occasions. The classroom teacher will coordinate and communicate dates, times and procedures for such events. Each classroom teacher will establish a party policy for their individual classroom. Parental requests for parties will be approved or denied by the classroom teacher. Any request for a child not to participate in any/all such parties or activities should be in writing and forwarded to the teacher ahead of time. All such requests will be honored.

#### **S. Cell Phones**

Although the Academy discourages students from bringing cell phones to School, it understands that some parents may wish to have a direct means of contacting their child for a variety of reasons. Students who have phones at School must not have them out during class nor may they disrupt class order or instruction. If the student does not comply with a request to put the phone away or to turn it off, the phone will be taken to the office and locked in the safe until the parent can come to retrieve it.

**Please Note:** The Academy is not responsible for the cost or replacement of lost, damaged, or stolen cell phones that are brought to the School.

#### **T. Personal Items Brought to the School**

Students are not allowed to bring personal items to School. To avoid disruption of the educational process, currently popular items such as trading cards, cell phones, electronic games, and action figures are to be left at home. Such items will be taken and returned only to the parent or to the law authorities if deemed prudent to do so by the Principal. Except for approved fundraisers, students are not permitted to sell or trade anything among themselves at School, on the School grounds or on the bus. This includes food from lunches. Pets should never be brought to School without prior permission of the Principal. Further, items should not be brought in glass jars because of the danger of breakage (e.g., lunch items).

**Please Note:** The School is not responsible for replacement of lost, damaged, or stolen items brought to School.

#### **U. Stolen Items**

The School **is not responsible** for stolen personal items, including cell phones.

#### **V. Searches of School or Student Property**

All lockers, desks, and other storage areas, as well as computers, software, and other items provided to the student for use, remain the property of the Academy. The student has no expectation of privacy in any School property assigned to them. No student shall lock or otherwise impede access to any locker or storage area, except with a lock (if any) approved and/or provided by the Academy. Unapproved locks will be removed and destroyed. Upon authorization of the Principal, School property may be searched at any time for any reason. The Principal may authorize a search of the person and personal property of a student where there is reasonable suspicion that evidence will be obtained indicating the student's violation of either the law or School rules. Any search of the person or intimate personal belongings shall be conducted by two staff members of the same gender as the student. However, no strip searches may be conducted by School personnel.

#### **W. Parental Concerns**

Parents who wish to express concerns should contact the Principal. Classroom issues should be initially addressed with the classroom teacher through a scheduled appointment. If a meeting is scheduled to discuss the concern, persons in attendance must conduct themselves civilly. This means that foul language and name calling will not be permitted. It is expected that concerns will be expressed in a professional manner. **Disruptive or threatening behavior may result in an action to protect School personnel, such as reporting the incident to the police and/or prohibiting the parent or guardian from entering School property at any time.**

#### **X. Pesticide Notice and Log Policy**

In accordance with Ohio law, parents and guardians of minor children, adult students, faculty, and staff who are enrolled or employed at the School may request and receive prior notifications of the applications of pesticides which are scheduled for a time when School is in session. All such requests shall include the requesting party's email address and/or telephone number and shall be submitted to the Principal at the School Office. The Principal is designated as the contact person for all pesticide applications made at the School.

Additionally, pesticide logs shall be available for inspection at the School Office during normal school hours. Said logs shall be retained for one year following the date of the pesticide application.

This Policy shall not apply to disinfectants, sanitizers, germicides, and anti-microbial agents.

### **V. Health and Safety**

The School provides a safe and clean environment and takes precautions to protect students and staff.

The building doors are locked during the school day. Entrance to the building is by office permission. Closed circuit cameras cover all entrances and are placed at strategic locations throughout the building.

### **A. Reporting Injuries**

If a student is injured at the School, he/she must immediately report the injury to School personnel. The main office will complete an injury report. Parents will be notified of the injury through the sending home of the injury report and other means when necessary.

### **B. Health Clinic**

When available, the School nurse or health aide handles all non-emergency first aid through the Health Clinic, otherwise reasonable first aid issues will be handled by other School personnel. All students are required to have an Emergency Medical Authorization Form on file at the Academy. These forms will be used in case there is a medical emergency or an illness.

### **C. Emergency Medical Authorizations**

Each parent is asked to complete and return to the Academy an Emergency Medical Authorization Form, which will be included in the student's cumulative record folder. Parents are responsible for ensuring that this Authorization Form includes necessary information the School must have should an emergency arise. It is extremely important that this Authorization Form is fully completed and updated appropriately.

### **D. Medication Administration**

Students needing medication are encouraged to receive such medication at home. If necessary for the School to administer any prescription medication, the School will only do so after receiving a written request, signed by the parent or guardian, that the prescribed medication be administered to the student. In addition, the School will not administer any prescribed medication unless it also receives a signed prescriber approval containing the information listed below. The person authorized to administer the medication must receive the medication in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescriber or licensed pharmacist.

Only School employees that are licensed health professionals or that have successfully completed a drug administration training program which was conducted by a licensed health professional and considered appropriate by the School are authorized to administer medication to the School's students.

The prescriber's written approval must include the following information:

- The name and address of the Student
- The School and class in which the Student is enrolled
- The name and dose of the medication to be administered
- The times and intervals at which each dosage of the drug is to be administered
- The date the administration of the drug is to begin
- The date the administration of the drug is to cease
- Any severe adverse reactions that should be reported to the prescriber and one or more phone numbers at which the prescriber can be reached in an emergency as well as one or more phone numbers at which the parent, guardian or other person having care or charge of the student can be reached in an emergency
- Special instructions for administration of the drug, including sterile conditions and storage.

The parent, guardian or other person having care or charge of the student must submit a revised statement signed by the prescriber if any of the information originally provided to the school changes.

Parents, guardians, or other persons having care or charge of the student are responsible for keeping a record of the amount of medication at School and for sending more when needed.

The School will acquire and return copies of written requests and statements and ensure that by the next school day, a copy is provided to the person authorized to administer medication. All medications will be stored in a location determined by the School in a locked storage place, except that medication requiring refrigeration may be kept in a refrigerator not commonly used by students.

## **VI. Asthma Inhalers and Epinephrine Injectors**

Per the Ohio Revised Code students are permitted to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder Asthma Inhaler to alleviate or prevent asthmatic symptoms. Also, students are permitted to carry and use an epinephrine injector to treat anaphylaxis (an intense allergic reaction) aka epi-pen. Written approval must be obtained from the student's physician, and, if the student is a minor, from the student's parent.

The physician's written approval must include the following information:

- The name and address of the student
- The school in which the student is enrolled
- The name and dose of the medication contained in the inhaler or auto injector
- The name of the drug and the dosage to be administered
- The times or intervals at which each dosage of the drug is to be administered
- The circumstances in which the auto injector should be used
- The date the administration of the drug is to begin
- The date the administration of the drug is to cease (if applicable)
- Acknowledgement that the prescriber has determined that the student is capable of possessing and using the auto injector appropriately and has provided the student with training in the proper use of the auto injector
- Any severe adverse reactions that should be reported to the prescriber and one or more phone numbers at which the prescriber can be reached in an emergency as well as one or more phone numbers at which the parent, guardian or other person having care or charge of student can be reached in an emergency
- Special instructions for administration of the drug by the student
- Written instructions outlining procedures school employees should follow in the event the student is unable to administer the medication or the medication does not provide adequate relief
- A list of adverse reactions that may occur to a child for whom the medication was not intended who uses the medication
- And any other special instructions

The School must have the above stated documentation provided by the physician and parent or guardian if the student is a minor in order to allow a student to use an Asthma Inhaler or epinephrine auto injector or any other necessary self-administered medication.

The student may self-administer the medication or, in an emergency a School employee may administer it to the student. The School employee will request assistance from an emergency medical service provider whenever a student is administered epinephrine at an activity, event, or program sponsored by the School or in which the School is a participant.

The School nurse and/or health aide will administer all medication when possible.

#### **A. Food Allergy Action Plan**

If a student has or develops a serious food allergy, the student and his/her parent must complete a Food Allergy Action Plan, available at the School's office.

#### **B. Vision, Hearing, and other Health Screening**

All kindergarten, first, third, fifth, and seventh graders, or such grades as may be required by the Ohio Department of Health, will be offered vision and hearing screenings.

All students enrolling for the first time in either kindergarten or first grade must be screened for hearing, vision, speech and communications, and health or medical problems and for any developmental disorders prior to November 1<sup>st</sup>.

In addition, Ohio law requires certain students to be screened for indicators of dyslexia.

#### **C. Eye Protective Devices**

Every student and teacher at the School shall wear industrial quality eye protective devices at all times while participating in or observing any of the following courses, vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical educational activities, involving exposure to:

- Hot molten metals or other molten materials
- Milling, sawing, drilling, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, buffing, or stamping of any solid materials
- Heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials
- Gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes
- Repair or servicing of any vehicle
- Caustic or explosive materials
- Chemical, physical, or combined chemical-physical laboratories involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other hazards

#### **D. Reporting Child Abuse / Neglect**

When any staff member suspects abuse or neglect, they will first notify the Principal. Then the staff member will call the local reporting agency in the presence of the Principal. The staff member will document the notification. All reports are to be confidential.

#### **E. Technology and Internet Safety**

As more fully outlined in the School's Internet Safety Policy attached as **Appendix 1** to this Handbook, the use of technology is a privilege and an important part of the School's overall curriculum. The School will from time to time make determinations on whether specific uses of technology are consistent with School policies for students and employees of the School but does not warrant that the technology resources will meet any specific requirements of the student or other users, or that it will be error free or uninterrupted. The School always reserves the right to monitor and log technology use, to monitor file server space utilization by users, and examine specific network usage (as may be deemed necessary) for maintenance, safety or security of the technology resources or the safety of the user.

**By signing the Parent/Student Contract Page at the end of the Parent/Student Handbook, the parent and student agree:**

- To abide by all School policies relating to the use of technology.
- To release all School employees from any and all claims of any nature arising from the use or inability to use the technology.
- That the use of technology is a privilege.
- That use of the technology will be monitored and there is no expectation of privacy whatsoever in any use of the technology.

#### **F. Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying**

As more fully set forth in the School's Anti-Harassment, Anti-Intimidation, or Anti-Bullying Policy (attached as Appendix 2 to this Handbook), behavior meeting the definition of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying is strictly prohibited. Students who are determined to have engaged in such behavior are subject to disciplinary action which may include counseling, suspension, or expulsion from School. The School's commitment to addressing such behaviors involves a multi-faceted approach which includes the promotion of a School atmosphere in which these prohibited acts will not be tolerated by students, staff, or the School community.

It is imperative that Harassing, Intimidating, and Bullying behavior(s) be identified only when the specific elements of the definition are met, because the designation of the conduct of such behavior carries with it special statutory obligations. However, any misconduct, whether or not it meets the required definition will be reviewed and the perpetrator will be subjected to appropriate disciplinary consequences.

#### **G. Prohibited Gang Activity**

Students are prohibited from engaging in gang activities while at School, on School property, to or from School, or at a School related function or event, and on the Internet. Any student who violates this Policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from School.

The term "gang" is defined as any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the endorsement of or participation in one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.

The term "gang activity" is defined as any conduct engaged in by a student:

- On behalf of a gang
- To perpetrate the existence of a gang
- To affect the common purpose and design of any gang
- To represent a gang affiliation, loyalty or membership in any way while on School grounds or while attending a School function

These activities may include things such as recruiting students for membership in a gang and threatening or intimidating other students or staff against their will to promote the common purpose and design of any gang.

#### **H. Drug-Free School**

In accordance with federal law, the School prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on the School grounds, in the School building, on school buses, or at any School related

event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, an anabolic steroid, and any dangerous controlled substance as defined by state or federal statute, or any substance that could be considered a “look alike” controlled substance. Compliance with this School policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in this Handbook, up to and including expulsion from the School. When required by state law, the School will also notify law enforcement officials.

### **I. Weapon-Free School**

No student at any time, for any reason shall possess, handle, transmit, or use any object, which can be reasonably considered a weapon or considered a “look alike” or counterfeit weapon in or on property of the School, school bus, or any interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or School-sponsored activity held away from the School property. Possession of a weapon may result in immediate expulsion and involvement of local law enforcement.

- A weapon is anything that is commonly used or designed to hurt someone or to put someone in fear (examples: guns, knives, knuckles, clubs, box-cutters etc.)
- A dangerous instrument is anything that although not specifically designed to hurt someone, can be used to hurt someone or put someone in fear (examples: belts, combs, compasses, etc.)
- An explosive is any substance that can potentially generate a release of mechanical or chemical energy (examples: firecrackers, cherry bombs, gun shells, etc.)
- Any object, which closely resembles a weapon or explosive and could put persons in fear for their safety is included in this category (examples: starter pistols, pellet guns, toy guns, smoke bombs, etc.)

## **VII. School Records**

At the School we take student records and their confidentiality very seriously and have a policy of not disclosing any student records to anyone outside of the School except in strict accordance with state and federal law. Records of students are only released to another school upon request from that school or from a signed release by the parent/guardian or as otherwise required by law.

### **A. Current Information**

To ensure student records are up-to-date, parents must inform the School of address, telephone (home/work), and legal custody changes as they occur during the school year.

### **B. Request for Records**

The School will request student records from the previous school(s) upon completion of enrollment. Ohio mandates that the requested records must be received within fourteen (14) days. If the records are not received within fourteen (14) days, the local law enforcement agency will be notified. The requirement in Ohio that records must be received in a given time comes from school mandates relating to missing children. All fees are due at the time of record release.

### **C. Student Directory Information**

The School has designated a student’s name as directory information and may include such information in School publications, recognition lists, programs, or student directories, and may give such information to third parties without parental consent or as otherwise required by law (such as military recruiters, etc.). If you do not want the School to disclose directory information without your consent, you must notify the School in writing within ten days of your receipt of this Handbook.

#### **D. Audio-Visual Information**

The School recognizes the value of audio-visual and other types of electronic communication in providing our students with an effective education. In communicating our School-related activities, opportunities exist to photograph and/or videotape students and their work in a variety of activities. However, individual student records (academic, behavioral) will not be disclosed. Communications may include School newsletters, local newspapers, community access cable channel, School-sponsored web pages, marketing materials and other publications. Highlighting the achievements and celebrating student successes in our schools is an integral part of the reporting responsibility to the community.

However, we will respect your wish for privacy in this area. Please call the School should you have any questions or concerns. You may also notify the School in writing if you prefer that we do not use your student's name, picture and/or work product for presentations or other uses.

#### **E. Release of Student Records**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within forty-five (45) days after the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit a written request to the Principal, or appropriate school official, that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The Principal or appropriate school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If copies are requested, the School may charge the requesting party reasonable copying costs.
2. The right to request an amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Principal, or appropriate school official, clearly identifying the part of the education record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to provide written consent before the School discloses personally identifiable information from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to a School Official with a legitimate educational interest in the education records. A "School Official" is a person employed, contracted, or volunteering with the School in an administrative, supervisory, academic or support staff position (whether paid or unpaid), included but not limited to School employees (whether employed directly by the Board or by a third party on behalf of the Board); a member of the School's Threat Assessment Team; a person with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (i.e. attorney, auditor, outside consultant); or a person serving on the Board. A School Official has a "legitimate educational interest" if the School Official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility on behalf of the School, such as when the School Official is performing a task that is specified in his or her job description or by a contract agreement or other official appointment; performing a task related to a student's education; performing a task related to the discipline of a student; providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student's family, such as health

care, counseling, or assisting with the college application procedure; and any other purpose that the Board deems necessary as related to a student's education.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

**Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202**

5. The School intends to forward any and all education records to another school which has requested such records for the purpose of the student's potential enrollment at that school. The student's parents, or eligible student, upon request, may receive copies of the records disclosed or have an opportunity for a hearing to amend the records that were disclosed. The School has the discretion of which education records to disclose to the potential new school and FERPA does not provide parents, or an eligible student, the right to prevent such disclosure or prevent the School from communicating general information about the student to the school in which the student seeks to or intends to enroll.

#### **F. Non-Custodial Parent Record Request**

The School will only give access to or release records to parents who have a legal right to the records of their child. If a parent has ever been to court for custody, those court documents must be on file with the school. Both custodial and non-custodial parents have equal access to the following unless there is a court order to the contrary:

- Cumulative file (including the enrollment file, academic file, vocational file, Title One file, and graduation file)
- Health records
- Psychological records
- Parent conferences and lab observations

Only the custodial parent can have access to Due Process where the child is classified as having a disability, and only the custodial parent can make decisions about the child.

The stepparent does not have access to the stepchild's records unless the stepparent has adopted the child, the natural parent has given power of attorney, or the natural parent himself/herself shows the record to the stepparent.

#### **G. Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) Notification**

##### **Description of Intent**

The School follows a philosophy of continuous improvement and honest, objective data analysis. This philosophy requires well-planned and sometimes independent research efforts to determine the effectiveness of the School's programs and strategies. From time to time, the School will collect and analyze student performance data and various measures of effectiveness. Also, families may be asked to participate in surveys or focus groups. Such research shall always be undertaken ensuring student privacy is protected and in compliance with the PPRA, as revised by the *No Child Left Behind Act*. For example, the names of the student, Parent/Guardian, and family members will not be revealed, and results will only

be reported in the aggregate or by sub-groupings of sufficient size so that anonymity of the participants is safeguarded.

### **Rights Afforded by the PPRA**

The PPRA affords Parents certain rights regarding the School's conduct of surveys, collection, and use of information for marketing purposes, and conduct of certain physical exams. These rights include the following:

- The right to provide consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more protected areas ("Protected Information Survey") if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education. Protected areas include the following:
  - Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent
  - Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family
  - Sex behavior or attitudes
  - Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior
  - Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships
  - Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or clergy
  - Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or Parent
  - Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility
- The right to receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of the following:
  - Any other Protected Information Survey, regardless of funding
  - Any nonemergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the School or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law
  - Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others
- The right to inspect, upon request and before administration or use, of the following:
  - Protected Information Surveys of students
  - Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes
  - Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

### **Notification Procedures**

The School will work to develop and adopt policies regarding these rights in consultation with Parents. The School will also work to make arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of Protected Information Surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

The School will directly notify the Parent of these policies annually in this PPRA Notice or after any substantive changes. The School will also directly notify by U.S. mail, e-mail, or other reasonably available method any Parent of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys described in this PPRA Notice and will provide an opportunity for the Parent to opt students out of participation in the specific activity or survey. The School will make this notification to Parent near the beginning of the school year if it has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, the Parent will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys covered by the PPRA and will be

provided an opportunity to opt their students out of such activities and surveys. The Parent will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. The following is a list of the specific activities and surveys covered under this requirement:

- Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution
- Administration of any Protected Information Survey funded in whole or in part by U.S. Department of Education
- Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination, or screening as described above in the Rights Afforded by the PPRA

Where a student is scheduled to participate in these activities, the student will be notified as described above.

### **Reporting a Violation**

The Parent or student who believes their rights have been violated may file a complaint to the following:

**Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901**

## **VIII. Child Find**

The School is participating in an effort to assist the State of Ohio in identifying, locating, and evaluating all children who may have disabilities that may be hindering their ability to receive Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) such as hearing impairments, visual impairments, speech or language impairments, specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, multiple disabilities, cognitive impairments, physical impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, and other health impairments.

The School is committed to affording all children their right to a free and appropriate education, regardless of any disability a child may have. However, in order to accomplish this, the School must know that a need is present.

Parents, guardians, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are used to help schools find any child, birth through age 21, who may have a disability and need special education and related services. If you are aware of a child who may have special needs, please notify the Principal.

The School will contact the parents or guardians of the child to find out if the child needs to be evaluated and seek parental consent should an evaluation be needed. Free testing is available to families to determine whether or not a special need exists. If a need is identified, the child can begin receiving special education and related services.

For more information on the rights of students with disabilities, please contact the Department of Educational Services and Resources, or refer to the publication, *A Guide to Parent Rights in Special Education*. Available at [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us).

## **IX. Parents' Right to Know Teacher Qualifications**

A parent or guardian may request information on the professional qualifications of each classroom teacher who provides instruction to the parent' or guardian's child. The information that may be requested includes:

- Licensure and certification information
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher
- Qualifications of Instructional Aides (if applicable)

## **X. Parent Involvement**

The School's Title I program is intended to foster and enhance parent-involvement in the School. The goal of the School is to involve parents in their children's learning and to form an open line of communication between school and home. This will be accomplished through the following policies:

1. Information. Parents are informed about school activities and events through interim progress reports, report cards, and notes sent home, parent newsletters, parent/teacher conferences and informal personal and telephone conferences.
2. Annual Title I and/or Federal Programs Meeting. Parents have an opportunity to review Title I programs and provide input into the planning process during the annual Title I meeting held at the School during flexible dates and times. Additionally, parent's rights and Title I requirements will be discussed. Additionally, parents should contact the Principal about ways to be involved at the School including the process for providing input regarding Title I planning and the parent involvement policy.
3. Open Door Policy. Parents are invited to come to the School to observe the education of their children on any day with prior notification.
4. Volunteer Program. All parents are invited to volunteer in the School on any given day of the week with prior notification and proof of a valid BCI and FBI background check clearance.
5. Curriculum. The School provides a high-quality curriculum to enable the students to meet high standards. The School shares student progress with parents and provides an explanation of results to parents during the course of the school year.
6. Board of Directors Meetings. The Board meets numerous times throughout the year. Board meeting dates and times are posted at the School and published in the local newspaper. All parents and guardians are invited to attend Board meetings and can receive a Board meeting calendar upon request.

## **XI. Complaint Procedure**

Parents who wish to express concerns should contact the Principal. Classroom issues should be initially addressed with the classroom teacher through a scheduled appointment. If a meeting is scheduled to discuss the concern, persons in attendance must conduct themselves civilly. It is expected that concerns will be expressed in a professional manner. Disruptive or threatening behavior may result in an action to protect School personnel, such as reporting the incident to the police and/or prohibiting the parent or guardian from entering School property at any time.

A student or parent may file a written complaint that should be submitted to a teacher or the Principal. If the matter cannot be resolved informally by the Teacher and/or Principal, the steps in resolving the complaint should adhere to the Board's Complaint Policy and Procedures.

Initially, complaints should be addressed formally or informally with the School personnel in a civil, respectful manner in order to be considered by School personnel. To file a complaint with the Principal, the Complaint must be in writing on a form developed by the Principal with the facts and specific outcome desired by the parent/guardian.

Complaints received directly by the Board, Sponsor or Ohio Department of Education shall be handled in accordance with the Board's Complaint Policy and Procedure.

Upon resolution of the Complaint, the Principal will issue a letter to the Complainant referred to as a "Finding." The Finding will officially inform the Complainant that his or her Complaint was either Substantiated or Unsubstantiated.

**An Unsubstantiated Finding means: Compliance** – (findings were unsubstantiated, and the School has complied).

**A Substantiated Finding means: Non-Compliance** – (noting the areas of non-compliance, recommending possible changes/technical assistance and statement that the School will respond to Complainant with a corrective action(s) plan letter within 10-15 business days)

All documentation of the Complaint, findings and any corrective action(s) plan will be placed in the appropriately marked complaint file for closure.

## **XII. Non-Discrimination and Title IX/Section 504 Notice**

The School does not discriminate on the basis of religion, religious expression, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic status, homelessness, sex, or disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. At this time the School does not provide third parties with access to School facilities. The following staff members have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and can advise parents on the specific civil rights grievance procedure.

### **Title IX Coordinator**

Tony Campbell  
ACCEL Schools  
tcampbell@accelschools.com  
(513) 921-7777  
3280 River Road, Cincinnati, OH 45204

### **Section 504 Coordinator**

Leah Donley  
Principal  
ldonley@cariverside.com  
(513) 921-7777  
3280 River Road, Cincinnati, OH 4520

## **XIII. Homeless Student Education**

Children who meet the Federal definition of "homeless" will be provided a free and appropriate public education in the same manner as all other students of the School. To that end, homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and will be assigned to the school serving those non-homeless students residing in the area in which the homeless child is actually living. Pursuant to the School's Open Enrollment Policy, any homeless child in the State of Ohio is eligible to attend the School. No homeless student will be denied enrollment based on a lack of proof of residency. No Board policy, administrative guidelines, or practice will be interpreted or applied in such a way as to inhibit the enrollment attendance, or school success of homeless children.

Homeless students will be provided services comparable to other students in the School including:

- Transportation
- Educational services for which the homeless student meets eligibility criteria including services provided under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or similar State and local programs, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency
- Programs in vocational and technical education
- Programs for gifted and talented students
- School nutrition programs

#### McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Program Overview

Zakia McKinney (zmckinney@accelschools.com) shall serve as the School's local liaison for homeless children and youth. To the extent that the School receives assistance from the Federal Program for Education for Homeless Children and Youth, it shall comply with requirements to coordinate services for homeless students with local social service agencies and programs, including those funded under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

### **XIV. Missing Children**

A student at the time of his or her initial entry to School shall present to the person in charge of admission any records given to him or her by the school he or she most recently attended and a certification of birth or a comparable certificate or certification issued pursuant to Ohio law. Within 24 hours of a student's entry into the School, a School official shall request the student's official records from the school he or she most recently attended. The Principal shall notify the law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in the area where the student resides that the student may be a missing child if:

- The school the student claims to have most recently attended states that it has no records of the student's attendance;
- The records are not received within fourteen (14) days of the request; or
- The student does not present a birth certificate or comparable certificate.

The School shall make available to parents and community members in the School's office copies of informational materials acquired or prepared of the Ohio Attorney General's Missing Children Clearinghouse.

### **XV. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports**

The Board has adopted a policy to guide the use of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and the limited use of restraint and seclusion at the School. It is the Board's belief that every effort should be made to prevent the need for the use of restraint and for the use of seclusion. The use of a non-aversive effective behavioral system such as PBIS shall be used to create a learning environment that promotes the use of evidence-based behavioral interventions, thus enhancing academic and social behavioral outcomes for all students.

Restraint or seclusion shall not occur, except when there is an immediate risk of physical harm to the student or others and shall occur only in a manner that protects the safety of all children and adults at

School. Every use of restraint or seclusion shall be documented and reported in accordance with the Board adopted policy.

The PBIS prevention-oriented framework or approach applies to all students, all staff, and all settings. Research supports the conclusion that PBIS, when integrated with effective academic instruction, provides the support students need to become actively engaged in their own learning and academic success.

# Parent-Student Handbook Contract

## 2023-2024

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
*PRINT*

Parent's/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*PRINT*

We have read and understand all of the information contained in this manual including but not limited to the student code of conduct, internet usage policy and related policies. We agree to abide by and support the Academy's policies, procedures and code of conduct as outlined in the Parent – Student Handbook. We recognize that although this Handbook reflects the current policies of the School, it may be necessary to make changes from time to time to best serve the needs of the School and its students. As a result, we agree to make affirmative efforts to review new policies and information related to changes at the School on a regular basis.

Agreed to by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent / Guardian's Signature Date

Please return signed form to the main office at Riverside Academy.

This agreement will be placed into the student's file.

## Student Media Images Release

2023-2024

### STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please print clearly:

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of participating student

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/town/zip \_\_\_\_\_ Grade

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT or GUARDIAN:

I/We understand that as part of our child's/my attendance at the Academy, photos, videos, and quotations may be taken for use in publications and reports about the program. I/We further understand that members of the news media invited to cover the program may take photos, videos and quotations. I/We grant permission to use such materials for the promotion of the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date

- PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM CLEARLY AND COMPLETELY.
- PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE OFFICE.

**Riverside Academy**  
**Internet Safety Policy**

The Board of Directors has adopted the following policy with respect to Internet safety. The School shall employ technology protection measures that: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access, including but not limited to “hacking”, and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and (d) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act. All computers are to be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to this policy and the guidelines below will result in the revocation of the user’s access privilege. Unacceptable uses of the computer/network include but are not limited to:

1. Violating the conditions of the state or federal laws dealing with students’ and employees’ rights to privacy;
2. Using obscene, profane, lewd, rude, inflammatory, threatening, derogatory, or other language that may be offensive to another user;
3. Reposting (forwarding) personal communication without the author’s prior consent;
4. Copying commercial software in violation of copyright law;
5. Harassing another person;
6. Posting false or defamatory information;
7. Plagiarizing information found on the Internet;
8. Using the network for financial gain, for commercial activity or for any illegal activity;
9. Accessing, viewing, and/or transmitting inappropriate material;
10. Damaging technology devices or systems;
11. Using technology to disrupt the educational process, or in violation of this policy;
12. Unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors; and
13. “Hacking” or gaining unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or attempting to gain such unauthorized access.

To the extent practicable, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Filtering, or blocking, is applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene, child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. The filter serves to block minors from accessing inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web.

The technology protection measures may only be disabled by an authorized person and only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Additionally, it shall be the responsibility of all members of the staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet and ensure that the same is in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act and the Protecting Children in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act. To the extent feasible, the School shall take steps to promote the safety and security of users of the School's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

The School will provide age-appropriate training for students who use the School's Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote the School's commitment to:

- a. The standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth herein;
- b. Student safety with regard to:
  - i. Safety on the Internet;
  - ii. Appropriate behavior while online, on social networking Websites, and in chat rooms; and
  - iii. Cyberbullying awareness and response
- c. Compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act

The School makes no warranties of any kind, either express or implied, that the functions or the services provided by or through School's network will be error-free or without defect. The School will not be responsible for any damage users may suffer, including but not limited to, loss of data, interruptions of service, or exposure to inappropriate material or people. The School is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained through the system. The School will not be responsible for financial obligations arising through the unauthorized use of the system. Users or parents of users will indemnify and hold the School harmless from any losses sustained as the result of misuse of the system by user.

The use of technology is a privilege and an important part of the School's overall curriculum. The School will, from time to time, make determinations on whether specific uses of technology are consistent with School policies for students and employees of the School but does not warrant that the technology resources will meet any specific requirements of the student or other users, or that it will be error free or uninterrupted. The School always reserves the right to monitor and log technology use, to monitor file server space utilization by users, and examine specific network usage (as may be deemed necessary) for maintenance, safety or security of the technology resources, or the safety of the user.

A user who violates this Policy, shall at a minimum, have his or her access to the computer network and Internet terminated, which the School may refuse to reinstate. Violation of this Policy may include the user permitting another to use his or her account or password to access the computer network or Internet, including any user whose access has been denied or terminated.

## DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Policy:

A “minor” is anyone under the age of 18.

“Harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that: (a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity or sex; (b) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

“Technology Protection Measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

1. Obscene, as that term is defined in Section 1460 of Title 18 of the United States Code;
2. Child Pornography, as that term is defined in Section 1226 of Title 18 of the United States Code; or
3. “Harmful to minors.”

“Sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in Section 2246 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

APPENDIX 2

**ANTI-HARASSMENT, ANTI-INTIMIDATION OR ANTI-BULLYING POLICY**

**RIVERSIDE ACADEMY  
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# ANTI-HARASSMENT, ANTI-INTIMIDATION OR ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

## I. Introduction

It is the policy of the Board of Directors that any form of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying behavior, whether in the classroom, on school property, including, without limitation, school buses, to and from school, at School-Sponsored events, or online via the Web, is expressly forbidden. Periodically, the School shall review the policy and consult with parents, school employees, school volunteers, students and community members regarding necessary revisions.

- A. Students who have been determined to have engaged in prohibited behaviors are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from school. The School's commitment to addressing such prohibited behaviors, however, involves a multifaceted approach, which includes education and the promotion of a school atmosphere in which Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying will not be tolerated by students, faculty or school personnel.
- B. It is imperative that Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying be identified only when the specific elements of the definition are met because the designation of such prohibited incidents carry special statutory obligations. However, misconduct by one student against another student, whether or not appropriately defined or not, will result in appropriate disciplinary consequences for the perpetrator.

## II. Definition of Terms

- A. "Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying" means either of the following:
  - 1. Any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:
    - a. Causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and
    - b. Is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student.
  - 2. Violence within a dating relationship.
- B. "Electronic Act" means an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device or other electronic communication device.

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- C. In evaluating whether conduct constitutes Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying, special attention should be paid to the words chosen or the actions taken, whether such conduct occurred in front of others or was communicated to others, how the perpetrator interacted with the victim and whether the victim's reaction was reasonable or foreseeable under the circumstances, and the perpetrator's motivation, either admitted or appropriately inferred.
- D. A School-Sponsored Event shall mean any activity conducted on or off school property (including school buses and other school-related vehicles) that is sponsored, recognized or organized by the School or on behalf of the School.

### III. Types of Conduct

- A. Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying can include many different behaviors including overt intent to ridicule, humiliate or intimidate another student or school personnel. Examples of conduct that could constitute prohibited behaviors include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. Physical violence and/or attacks;
  - 2. Threats, taunts and intimidation through words and/or gestures;
  - 3. Extortion, damage or stealing of money and/or possessions;
  - 4. Exclusion from the peer group or spreading rumors; and
  - 5. Repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies and other Web-based/online sites (also known as "cyber bullying"), such as the following:
    - (a) Posting slurs on Web sites where students congregate or on Web logs (personal online journals or diaries);
    - (b) Sending abusive or threatening instant messages or email;
    - (c) Using camera phones to take embarrassing photographs of students and posting them online or sending them to third parties; and,
    - (d) Using Web sites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students; and
    - (e) Excluding others from an online group by falsely reporting them for inappropriate language to Internet service providers.

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### **IV. Publication of Policy**

#### **A. Publication of the prohibition against Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying and related procedures.**

1. The prohibition against Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying shall be publicized in any student handbooks and in any of the publications that set forth the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and students in the School. In addition, information regarding the policy shall be incorporated into employee training materials.

### **V. Complaints**

#### **A. Written Complaints**

1. Students and/or their parents or guardians may file reports regarding suspected Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying. Such written reports shall be reasonably specific including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of suspected Harassment, Intimidation and/or Bullying, and the names of any potential student or staff witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any school staff member or administrator, and they shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal for review and action in accordance with Section 6.

#### **B. Verbal Complaints**

1. Students, parents or guardians and school personnel may make verbal complaints of conduct that they consider to be Harassment, Intimidation and/or Bullying by verbal report to a teacher, school administrator, or other school personnel. Such verbal complaints shall be reasonably specific as to the actions giving rise to the suspicion of Harassment, Intimidation and/or Bullying, including person(s) involved, number of times and places of the alleged conduct, the target of the prohibited behavior(s), and the names of any potential student or staff witness. A school staff member or administrator who receives a verbal complaint shall promptly document the complaint in writing, including the above information. This written report by the school staff member and/or administrator shall be promptly forwarded to the building principal for review and action in accordance with Section 6.

#### **C. Protection of Person Filing Complaint**

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1. Individuals who make complaints as set forth above may request that their name be maintained in confidence by the school staff member(s) and administrator(s) who receive the complaint. The complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action will be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that (1) does not disclose the source of the complaint, and (2) is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of Harassment, Intimidation and/or Bullying. The School will follow appropriate intervention strategies for protecting a victim or other person from additional harassment, intimidation or bullying, and from retaliation following a report, including anonymous reporting.

### D. False Complaint

1. It is a violation of this policy and procedure to knowingly report false allegations of Harassment, Intimidation, and/or Bullying. Persons found to knowingly report or corroborate false allegations will be subject to appropriate discipline.

## VI. School Personnel Responsibilities

### A. Teachers and Other School Staff

1. Teachers and other school staff, who witness acts of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying, as defined above, shall promptly notify the building principal and/or his/her designee of the event observed, and shall promptly file a written, incident report concerning the events witnessed. Teachers and other school staff who receive student or parent reports of suspected Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying shall promptly notify the building principal and/or his/her designee of such report(s). If the report is a written complaint, such complaint shall be forwarded promptly (no later than the next school day) to the building principal or his/her designee. If the report is a verbal complaint by a student that is received by a teacher or other professional employee, he or she shall prepare a written report of the verbal complaint which shall be promptly forwarded (no later than the next school day) to the building principal or his/her designee.
2. In addition to addressing both written and verbal complaints, school personnel are encouraged to address the issue of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying in other interactions with students. School personnel may find opportunities to educate students about Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying and help eliminate such prohibited behaviors through class discussions, counseling, and reinforcement of socially appropriate behavior. School personnel should intervene promptly whenever they observe student conduct that has the purpose or effect of

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ridiculing, humiliating or intimidating another student/school personnel, even if such conduct does not meet the formal definition of “Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying.”

### B. Administrator Responsibilities

#### 1. Investigation

- (a) The principal and or his/her designee shall be promptly notified of any written or verbal complaint of suspected Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying. Under the direction of the building principal or his/her designee, all such complaints shall be investigated promptly. A written report of the investigation shall be prepared when the investigation is complete. Such report shall include findings of fact, a determination of whether acts of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying were verified, and, when prohibited acts are verified, a recommendation for intervention, including disciplinary action shall be included in the report. Where appropriate, written witness statements shall be attached to the report.
- (b) Notwithstanding the foregoing, when a student making a verbal complaint has requested anonymity, the investigation of such complaint shall be limited as is appropriate in view of the anonymity of the complaint. Such limitation of investigation may include restricting action to a simple review of the complaint (with or without discussing it with the alleged perpetrator), subject to receipt of further information and/or the withdrawal by the complaining student of the condition that his/her report be anonymous.

#### 2. Remedial Actions

- (a) Verified acts of Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying shall result in an intervention by the building principal or his/her designee that is intended to ensure that the prohibition against Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying behavior is enforced, with the goal that any such prohibited behavior will cease.
- (b) Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying behavior can take many forms and can vary dramatically in seriousness and impact on the targeted individual and other students. Accordingly, there is no one prescribed response to verified acts of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. While conduct that rises to the level of Harassment, Intimidation or

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Bullying, as defined above will generally warrant disciplinary action against the perpetrator of such prohibited behaviors whether and to what extent to impose disciplinary action (detention, in and out-of-school suspension; or expulsion) is a matter for the professional discretion of the building principal.

### VII. Reporting Obligations

- A. The parent or guardian of any student involved in a prohibited incident will be notified in writing and, to the extent permitted by state and federal laws governing student privacy, will have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident.
- B. Report to the Parent or Guardian of the Perpetrator
  - 1. If after investigation, acts of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying by a specific student are verified, the building principal or his/her designee shall notify in writing the parent or guardian of the perpetrator of that finding. If disciplinary consequences are imposed against such student, a description of such discipline shall be included in such notification.
- C. Reports to the victim and his/her parent or guardian
  - 1. If after investigation, acts of bullying against a specific student are verified, the building principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent or guardian of the victim of such finding. In providing such notification, care must be taken to respect the statutory privacy rights of the perpetrator of such Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying.
- D. List of verified acts of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying
  - 1. A requirement that the School administrator semiannually provide the president of the School board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on the district Web site, if one exists. The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, whether in the classroom, on school property, to and from school, or at school-sponsored events.
  - 2. This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit a reasonable and civil exchange of opinions or debate that is conducted at appropriate times and places and is protected by State or Federal Law. The disciplinary action for any student guilty of harassment, intimidation,

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or bullying, which shall not infringe on any student's rights under the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

### **VIII. Police and Child Protective Services**

Allegations of criminal misconduct will be reported to law enforcement, and suspected child abuse must be reported to Child Protective Services, per required timelines. The School must also investigate for the purpose of determining whether there has been a violation of the School Policy or Procedure, even if law enforcement or CPS is also investigating. All School personnel must cooperate with investigations by outside agencies.

### **IX. Training**

The School agrees to provide appropriate staff and volunteer training in the implementation of the above policy and prevention of harassment, intimidation and bullying in the School.

### **X. Publication of the Prohibition Against Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying**

At least once each year, a written statement in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, describing the policy and the consequences for violations of the policy must be sent to each student's custodial parent or guardian. The statement may be sent with regular student report cards or may be delivered electronically.

In addition, the policy shall appear in the student handbook and in any publication that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct of the School.

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## **Exhibit A**

### **ANNUAL NOTICE** **OF** **ANTI-BULLYING, ANTI-INTIMIDATION AND ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY**

It is the policy of the School that any form of Bullying behavior, whether in the classroom, on school property, including, without limitation, school buses, to and from school, at School-Sponsored Events, or via Electronic act (defined as an act committed through the use of a cellular telephone, computer, pager, personal communication device, or other electronic communication device) is expressly forbidden.

Students who have been determined to have engaged in prohibited behaviors are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from school. The School's commitment to addressing such prohibited behaviors, however, involves a multifaceted approach, which includes education and the promotion of a school atmosphere in which Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying will not be tolerated by students, faculty or school personnel.

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying means either any intentional written, verbal, graphic, physical or Electronic act that a student or group of students exhibits toward another particular student more than once which causes mental or physical harm to the other student and creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student. Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying is also defined to include violence within a dating relationship.

Students who believe they have been harassed or bullied by fellow students or School employees are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to a school staff member or administrator.

Complaints will be documented and investigated in accordance with the School's policy.

Teachers and other school staff, who witness acts of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying, shall promptly notify the building principal and/or his/her designee and shall promptly file a written, incident report concerning the events witnessed.

Additional provisions of the policy may be found in the Parent/Student handbook or obtained from the School office at any time.