



Village Middle School

2026-27 School Handbook

Using this handbook:

- Part 1: School Operations
- Part 2: Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Part 3: Parent Rights and Responsibilities

Parents and students must acknowledge their familiarity with this handbook each year in Infinite Campus prior to attending school.

This document is provided as a resource to Academy District 20's parents and students. Readers should be aware that some of this information may be in summary form. Current policies in their entirety, including revisions which may have occurred after publication of this document, are available on the [Board Policy page](#) on the Academy District 20 website.

Policies may also be reviewed at the Education and Administration Center of Academy District 20 located at 1110 Chapel Hills Drive. Printed copies of the source documents may be requested at no cost in the administrative office of any school or by calling Legal Relations at 719-234-1200. Policies are subject to change as necessary at any time during the school year. Students are expected to be knowledgeable about and comply with District and school policies, including content from our websites and communications tools.



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Part 1: School Operations

Our Mission

We educate and inspire students to thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

Our Values

- **We believe in quality education.** We aspire to teach and learn in ways that value the growth of all students, engaging them to demonstrate excellence as we respect their individual journeys and prioritize their safety.
- **We believe people are the heart of our success.** We aspire to practice meaningful inclusion, honor diversity and develop connectedness throughout our school community.
- **We believe relationships matter.** We aspire to nurture relationships rooted in honesty, integrity, equity, transparency and student safety to drive continued growth and positive change.

Our Vision

All students will have the knowledge, skills, and character necessary for successful transition to the next level and upon graduation will be fully prepared for success.

- **Knowledge and skills:** All students will show annual growth toward increasing levels of academic proficiency, across all content areas, by meeting or exceeding Colorado academic standards and District 20 graduation requirements and will identify and pursue their areas of personal interest and ability.
- **Character:** All students will develop the qualities of character necessary to be exemplary citizens and positive contributors to society.

Village Middle School Philosophy

Village Middle School is a community where students and teachers alike are designers of their learning. We thrive by developing confident, self-driven learners through personalized experiences and meaningful relationships. By empowering every individual to lead their journey and pursue their passions, we cultivate independent thinkers ready for the challenges of tomorrow.

Before the First Day of School: Parent or Guardian To-Do Items

Task #1 – Update Information in the Extended Parent Portal

- Note Student Number/ID
 - My child's District 20 ID (6 digits): _____
- Set or Reset Student Password
 - Students new to ASD20 must set their initial password.
- Returning students may keep their current password or choose to reset it.
- My child's District 20 Password: _____
 - Update Emergency and Health Information
 - Review and sign Documents and Agreements

Task #2 – Infinite Campus Documents & Fees

- **Fees:** Log into the Infinite Campus Parent Portal and click “Fees” to pay all outstanding balances. Please note that beginning-of-year fees will be assigned the week before school starts.
- **Documents:** Click “Documents” to complete the Colorado Affidavit for each child enrolled at VMS.
- Please ensure the signature matches the name of the parent or guardian logged into the portal.
- **Contact Information:** Click “More” at the bottom of the menu to verify that all phone numbers, email addresses, and physical addresses are current.

Task #3 – D20 District Provided Device and Pickup Information

All students will be issued a District 20 laptop and charger during their scheduled orientation at Village Middle School. To ensure a smooth start to the school year, please complete the following checklist during the first week:

- **Pick Up Your Device:** Ensure your student receives both their District-Provided Device (DPD) and official charger at orientation.
- **Establish Care Expectations:** Review device care with your student. Families are fully responsible for the care and condition of both the laptop and charger until they are officially returned to the ASD20 IT Department.
- **Set Up Your Workspace:** Find a safe charging spot at home. Please note that students should not plan to use personal tablets or Chromebooks for schoolwork, as these devices do not fully support our learning management systems.

Login Information and Password Reset

District Provided Device	Username: D20 Student ID: _____ Password: D20 student created password: _____
Buzz (student) https://accelerate-villagers.vschool.com/	Username: studentID@msa.asd20.org Password (default): VMS1234! Reset password upon first login; D20 student created password recommended
Buzz (parent) https://accelerate-villagers.vschool.com/	Username: First.Last_p Password (default): VMS1234! Reset password upon first login
Microsoft Outlook (student email) outlook.office.com	Username: studentID@msa.asd20.org Password: D20 student created password
Student Hub https://asd20.sharepoint.com/sites/thestudenthub	Username: studentID@msa.asd20.org Password: D20 student created password
Google Drive (student) https://drive.google.com/drive/	Username: studentID@msa.asd20.org Password: D20 student created password
Parent Infinite Campus https://academy20co.infinitecampus.org/campus/nav-wrapper/parent/portal/parent/home?appName=academy20	Username: username@asd20.org Password: Parent created password Forgot password: https://rp6.asd20.org/ords/f?p=2220:101
Extended Parent Portal https://rp4.asd20.org/ords/f?p=176:101	Username: username_p@asd20.org Password: Parent created password Forgot password: https://rp6.asd20.org/ords/f?p=2220:101

Please note: Buzz logins will not be activated until the first day of school.

Daily Operations and Logistics

Transportation

Bus transportation is not provided for Village Middle School.

Drop-off and Pick-up Procedures

As parents and guardians arrive to drop off or pick up students, please pull all the way forward in a single line along the curbed sidewalk in front of the building. Once vehicles have moved as far forward as possible and have come to a complete stop, students may safely enter or exit.

Because we do not have a designated crosswalk or a crossing guard, students are not permitted to walk through the Drop-off / Pick-up line into the parking lot. We strongly discourage parents and guardians from parking and walking across the traffic flow (especially after 2:15 p.m.). Our afternoon dismissal takes less than ten minutes when everyone follows this process.

Additionally, because we share this parking lot with the Mountain Ridge bus loop, please remain highly alert and check your surroundings before entering and exiting the drop-off lane.

Late Arrivals and Early Check-outs

If a student arrives late or needs to leave early, a parent or guardian must park, escort the student inside, and officially check them in or out at the front office.

Student Pickup Authorization

Only legal guardians are permitted to pick up students.

- If someone other than a legal guardian needs to pick up your child on a specific day, please contact the front office at 719-234-1946.
- If an alternate individual will be picking up your child on a regular basis, please contact the office to complete a 3rd Party Pickup Consent Form.

Student Meals

Breakfast: Students may pick up a free breakfast in the morning between 8:20 a.m. and 8:35 a.m.

Lunch: Cafeteria hot lunches are provided free of charge, with several choices available each day. Students are responsible for ordering their lunch before 8:35 a.m. and picking up their lunch before 11:00 a.m.

Meal Cost: Every student's first complete breakfast and first complete lunch each day will continue to be provided at no cost. A la carte items and second meals remain available at an additional cost, as outlined on our [Food and Nutrition Services webpage](#).

Meal Accounts: Please utilize the Food Service fee tab within Infinite Campus to load funds into your student's account and view spending activity. Students can also add funds to their accounts with cash or check when ordering.

Menus: Weekly menus can be found on the [District website](#)

Home Lunches: Students may bring lunch and/or snacks from home. Please plan to provide all necessary utensils and containers.

Microwaves: Microwaves are available in the Cafe for student use.

Flexible Dining: VMS students enjoy a flexible lunch schedule and are encouraged to eat whenever they are hungry in designated areas!

Food Delivery Policy: VMS cannot accept any third-party food deliveries for students (such as Uber Eats, Grubhub, or DoorDash).

Dietary Restrictions: Processes for special dietary needs remain unchanged, and families can visit the [District Nutrislice](#) site to review menu options. In accordance with USDA regulations, any school meal modifications or substitutions require a signed form from a licensed medical authority on file. For specific guidance, required documentation, or to download the Meal Modification Form, please visit our dedicated Dietary Restrictions page under the Food and Nutrition Services section of the district website.

Please contact the health room nurse regarding your child's health care plan and severe food allergies.

Attendance Policy

At Village Middle School, we adhere to the same attendance statutes and mandates established by the Colorado Department of Education. However, because VMS operates on a hybrid model where learning occurs both on-campus and at home, the majority of our attendance is calculated based on work progress and assignment completion.

When a student has an excessive number of absences, which, in our hybrid environment, includes a lack of weekly work production, it negatively impacts their academic success. The principal may identify any student who misses 10% or more of a grading quarter (regardless of whether the absences are excused or unexcused) as "chronically absent." Because VMS is a school of choice, chronic absenteeism or a consistent lack of required academic progress may lead to the revocation of a student's enrollment choice into VMS.

Inclement Weather Procedures

Full Closure Due to Inclement Weather

- **Closures:** We follow the [district weather-related closure procedures](#). The district will communicate traditional snow days for all district buildings versus eLearning days. On Traditional Snow Day, students and staff do not report to school, and remote work is not required.
- If and when the district calls for an eLearning Day, VMS students will "school from home." All district buildings will be closed, and all staff and students will work remotely.
- **Two-Hour Late Start Due to Inclement Weather:** For VMS, a two-hour late start means the building will open at 10:20 a.m. (student pickup remains at 2:30 p.m.).

Please note: Village Middle School does not observe Academy District 20's 2-Hour PLC Late Start Schedule. These late-start days typically fall on Fridays, which are already designated as full-day "school from home" learning days for VMS students.

Early Release

Occasionally, weather conditions develop mid-day, requiring an early release of students. To ensure the safety of staff and students, in these situations:

- Parents are urged to develop a family plan in advance for unexpected early releases and use their own judgment when picking up students early.
- Parents will be notified immediately via ParentSquare.
- Closure and release updates will be posted on the district website and social media channels and shared with local media outlets.

The Annual Technology Fee

There is a \$60 annual technology fee assessed for all students for **District-Provided Device**. This fee helps support the district's digital infrastructure, software licensing, and ongoing technology maintenance. For complete details on accidental damage coverage, device travel guidelines, fee waivers, and answers to other frequently asked questions, please visit the official Academy District 20 website.

District-Provided Device: Accidental Damage & Replacements

One of the greatest benefits of a district-provided device is our dedicated technical support team, which provides live, remote assistance during regular school hours. However, if a device is lost or structurally damaged, the following rules apply:

- **Financial Accountability:** Any costs associated with device damage, loss, or charger replacement will be applied directly to student fees within Infinite Campus.
- **Accidental Damage Coverage:** The district offers specific guidelines regarding what constitutes normal wear-and-tear versus accidental or intentional damage.

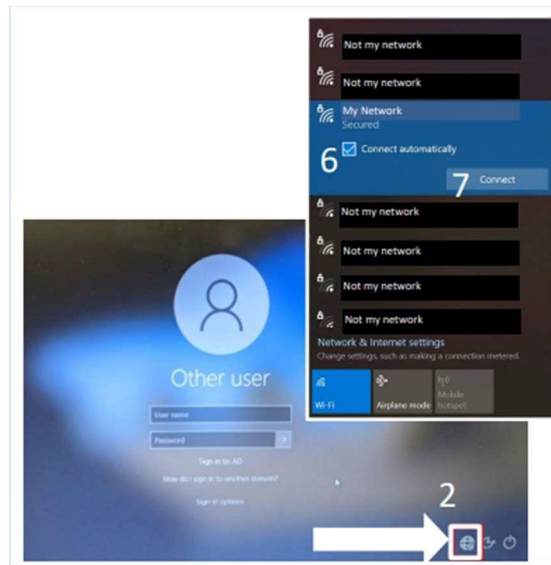
Logging Into a District Laptop at Home

These instructions will help you connect your ASD20 laptop to the internet when you are away from school. Please follow these steps for the first time connecting your laptop. After following each of these steps, your internet connection should be saved, so you should only need to log into the computer with your username and password to begin using the internet.

Connecting to WiFi

1. Turn the computer on
2. Click the internet icon to connect to your home network
3. You will see a list of the available networks in your area
4. Select your network in the list of available networks

5. Enter your Wi-Fi network password
6. Ensure "Connect Automatically" is
7. Click Connect
8. You should see this logo in the corner screen



selected
of your

If you are still unable to access the internet after waiting five minutes, email vmshelp@asd20.org.

It is recommended you shut down your laptop at the end of each school day. Many of the connectivity issues are resolved by shutting down and/or restarting our computers at home and at school.

Restarting will reconnect Wifi when moving back and forth from home to school. To restart or shut down your laptop:

- Click on the start button in the lower-left corner of your screen
- Click on the power icon that appears right above it
- Select "Shut down" or "Restart"

School Supplies

In addition to their district-provided laptop, charger, and access to a home printer/scanner, Village Middle School students are required to bring the following supplies with them when on-site:

- Charged Laptop and Charger
- Headphones or Earbuds (required for instructional purposes)
- Pencils
- Math Note-Taking System of Choice: spiral notebook, composition book or Rocketbook notebook
- Paper or Notebook for General Writing: loose-leaf paper, a notepad/legal pad, or a spiral notebook
- Certain Explores may require additional supplies.

Communication: ParentSquare

At Village Middle School, staying connected with our families is a top priority. To ensure clear, consistent, and secure communication, Academy District 20 uses ParentSquare as our primary platform for all general school-to-home and home-to-school interactions.

Why We Use ParentSquare (and Why It Matters)

ParentSquare brings everything into one central, easy-to-use location. It automatically translates communications into your preferred language and ensures you never miss critical information regarding your child's education.

You will use ParentSquare for:

- **School & Classroom News:** Class updates, newsletters, and school-wide announcements.
- **Urgent Alerts:** Weather delays, closures, or emergency notifications.
- **Permission Forms & Sign-ups:** Digitally sign permission slips, fill out school forms, and volunteer for events. No more lost paperwork at the bottom of backpacks!
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Easily book your conference time slots directly through ParentSquare.

Communication Expectations

To build a strong partnership, we have established the following guidelines for school and home communication:

- **Communication from VMS:** While urgent alerts are sent instantly, standard school and classroom updates are typically sent as a daily "Digest" in the evening so you get all your news in one clean summary. We expect all parents or guardians to activate their ParentSquare accounts and check the platform regularly.
 - **Tip:** Don't forget to customize your notification settings! You can choose to receive alerts instantly as they happen, or bundle them into a single summary at the end of the day.
- **When to Use Traditional Email:** While ParentSquare is our hub for group updates and routine logistics, we will continue to use direct email for private, personal, or grade-specific matters. Confidential student concerns, detailed grading questions, and sensitive topics of that nature should always be sent via standard email to ensure they receive the appropriate, personalized attention.
- **Response Times:** Our teachers love hearing from you! However, their primary focus during the school day is teaching. Please allow 24 hours / one business day for staff to reply to non-emergency messages.

Next Steps: Please download the free ParentSquare app (available for iOS and Android) or log in via the web at parentsquare.com using the email address or phone number on file with the school.

School Policies and Student Life

Cell Phone Policy

To promote student focus and protect the learning environment, Village Middle School maintains a restricted cell phone policy.

- **Prohibited Uses:** While on campus, students are not permitted to use cell phones for social media, sharing content with peers, internet browsing, playing games, or taking videos and/or pictures.

- **Device Storage:** Students must keep their cell phones turned off or silenced and stored inside their backpacks during instructional times. The student will assume responsibility for replacement costs in the event that an electronic device or cell phone is lost, stolen, or damaged.
- **Cell Phone Usage:** We love keeping our classrooms calm and focused on learning, so we kindly ask that you avoid calling or texting your student's cell phone during the school day. If you need to get an urgent message to your child, please call the front office and we will happily deliver it right away. Likewise, if a student needs to reach home during the day, they can utilize the office phone.
- **TAB Time Exception:** Students are permitted to access and use their cell phones during our two daily "Take a Break" (TAB) Connect times to communicate with parents and guardians via text or phone call. However, students are **not** permitted to use cell phones for sharing content, social media, playing games, taking videos or pictures, or internet browsing.
- **Audio and Music Streaming:** Students are allowed to stream music from their phones to their own earbuds or headphones. We ask that students create a designated school playlist ahead of time so they can start playing it when they arrive and immediately put their phone away for the remainder of the academic period. Music may not be shared with others (your music, your ears).

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

To protect the privacy of everyone in our community, students are strictly prohibited from taking pictures or videos at any time while on campus. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action which could include suspension, and will result in your student not being allowed to bring their cell phone to school.

Student Dress Code

Village Middle School adheres to the Academy District 20 Student Dress Code (Policy JICA). We believe student attire should support a safe, focused, and respectful learning environment. While we value self-expression, clothing must not disrupt the educational process.

Guidelines:

- Clothing may not advocate drugs, alcohol, violence, or unlawful activity.
- Clothing must not be inappropriately revealing.

If a student's attire is disruptive or unsafe, they will be asked to change into appropriate clothing before returning to class. Severe or repeated violations may result in a parent conference or disciplinary action.

Academic Integrity & Digital Citizenship

Because Village Middle School is a hybrid learning environment, academic integrity is paramount to your student's success and the accuracy of their grades. While our online platform, BUZZ, offers flexible pacing, it requires a high level of student honesty, personal responsibility, and trust.

In alignment with Academy District 20 Policy JS (Student Use of the Internet and Digital Media), all students are expected to complete their own work. Academic dishonesty undermines the learning process and is strictly prohibited. This includes:

- **Plagiarism:** Copying, submitting, or transmitting the work, ideas, or writing of another as their own.
- **Misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Using AI tools or text generators to complete lessons, assignments, essays, or assessments in an unauthorized or inappropriate manner.

- **Unauthorized Collaboration:** Switching computers, sharing answers, quizzes, or test materials with other students, or completing assignments or assessments with unapproved assistance. Your work is your work.

In a hybrid model, teachers rely on authentic student work to know exactly when to provide vital in-person support and targeted re-teaching. When a student submits work that is not their own, it obscures their actual academic needs.

Consequences: Instances of cheating, plagiarism, or AI misuse will be addressed seriously. Academic dishonesty may result in a zero on the assignment, mandatory in-person retakes, a parent-teacher conference, or further disciplinary action.

Enrollments

Village Middle School is a public school receiving public funding. In accordance with Colorado state law, no student can be enrolled simultaneously in more than one public school program.

Please note that Village Middle School does not offer dual enrollment. Students enrolled at VMS are full-time students of our program.

Secondary Enrollments and Extracurricular Participation

Village Middle School (VMS) students have unique opportunities regarding athletics and extracurricular participation, particularly given our location on the Mountain Ridge Middle School (MRMS) campus. Below is an overview to clarify expectations and secondary enrollment options across the district.

CHSAA-Sanctioned Athletics & Activities

Middle School Athletics

Village Middle School does not offer its own athletic programs. If a VMS student is interested in participating in a sport, they may enroll in an athletic program at another district school. Following standard middle school athletic guidelines, if a specific sport is not offered at VMS, students have the opportunity to participate through their assigned neighborhood school or another ASD20 middle school. Families may request participation through the district's Request for Placement process.

- Under the current District 20 placement policy, families may choose the school of participation for middle school athletics.
- VMS students may request placement at MRMS, their neighborhood school, or any other ASD20 Middle School for athletics through the established request process.
- Additional information about the Request for Placement process can be found in the [district's placement policy](#).

Band Program

Because Band is a CHSAA-sanctioned activity, VMS students may be approved to participate in the band program at MRMS with approval from the receiving school principal. This activity requires official placement once approved. This will be based on space availability. A waitlist will be established on a first-come, first-served (by grade level) basis. Placement will not be determined until mid-to-late August.

Non-Athletic Clubs & Intramurals

Clubs (Non-Athletic)

Participation in building-specific clubs is generally limited to students enrolled in that school. At this time, VMS students will not participate in MRMS clubs. Instead, Village Middle School will continue to develop and offer its own clubs and activities to meet student interests. If a specific club or non-athletic extracurricular activity is not offered at VMS, students may explore enrollment options in their assigned neighborhood school, provided the program is available there.

This approach is aligned with practices already in place at the high school level and ensures clarity, consistency, and equitable access for all students.

Our goal is to ensure that Village Middle School students feel connected, supported, and engaged while also honoring district policies and the integrity of each school's programs. If you have questions about athletics, activities, or the placement process, please reach out to the main office.

Academics

The Hybrid Model

Hybrid learning blends the flexibility of online learning with the vital benefits of an in-person school community. Our hybrid model is designed to offer a personalized experience while keeping students deeply connected to their peers and teachers.

Our Online Learning Management System (BUZZ)

The core curriculum is housed on an online Learning Management System called **BUZZ**, where students access high-quality, purchased online programming for English Language Arts (ELA), Math, Science, and Social Studies. BUZZ serves as the student's complete digital classroom. It contains:

- **The Essentials:** A personalized calendar, interactive to-do lists, and real-time grades
- **The Curriculum:** All lessons, instructions, units, modules
- **Assignments & Assessments:** Daily assignments, quizzes, tests, exams, labs, projects and essays

To ensure student success, assignments are thoughtfully paced on the BUZZ calendar. While the platform allows for flexible pacing, we highly encourage students to stick to the calendar's suggested pace to stay on track and avoid falling behind.

The Power of the In-Person Experience

While the coursework lives online, the physical school building is the heart of our community. Students come into the building for several essential reasons:

- **Academic Support:** One-of-a-kind teacher support, academic guidance, opportunity to demonstrate mastery of learning in a variety of ways, and targeted re-teaching and interventions happen exclusively in person. **This support is not offered virtually.**
- **Clubs / Groups:** Opportunities to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities that are only offered in-person.
- **Connection:** Being in the building allows students to build strong, meaningful relationships with their peers and teachers.

- **Explore Classes:** Students come to campus to pursue their passions through our Explore classes, which are only offered in person.

Work Completion, Expectations, & In-Person Exams

The Village Middle School academic year is divided into two semesters, and students receive official report cards in Infinite Campus at the end of each semester. Buzz coursework will be visible to students at least two weeks prior to the due date.

- To maintain consistent academic progress, students are expected to complete their assigned weekly work by the end of “school-from-home Friday.”
- **WIN (What I Need) Classes:** Students are responsible for attending their scheduled WIN classes when they are on campus.
- Any assignments not completed by the end of the school week (typically Friday afternoon) will be marked in the gradebook. These missing items will be calculated as zero points until they are completed and graded. While sticking to the pacing schedule is highly encouraged to avoid falling behind, there are no grade-based penalties for work turned in after the Friday deadline.
- Students always have the freedom to work ahead if they finish their tasks early; however, teachers will grade assignments according to the BUZZ Calendar pacing. If an assignment is locked, the student should contact their content-level teacher for assistance.

Village Middle School operates on a mastery learning model. Students are permitted to revise and resubmit assignments at any point during the current semester for full credit. However, the number of resubmission attempts is limited based on the type of assignment, and students may be required to check in with their teacher for additional steps prior to earning another attempt.

Daily Work Expectations

- **24/7 Course Access:** The online components of VMS courses are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, giving families the flexibility to schedule schoolwork at times that work best for them.
- To ensure steady academic growth, expect your student to spend approximately 45 to 55 minutes per subject, per day on their coursework.

Required In-Person Exams

To maintain enrollment at Village Middle School, students are strictly required to take specific standardized and high-stakes course-level assessments in person, on campus. We value your family's schedule, so communication regarding these specific in-person testing dates will always be announced in advance so you can plan accordingly. **Failure to attend these mandatory testing sessions in person puts a student at risk of having their choice enrollment at Village Middle School revoked.**

Mandatory in-person exams include, but are not limited to:

- **CMAS** (Colorado Measures of Academic Success) — Schedules will be sent out through ParentSquare.
- **IXL Benchmarks** (Beginning, Middle, and End of Year)
- **CogAT / IOWA / ITBS**
- **Course-Specific Requirements:** High-stakes assessments, such as **End of Module Math Tests**, subject-specific final exams, module projects, science labs, or essays that must be completed on-site will be clearly indicated directly within the individual assignment instructions.

School Schedule & Understanding the VMS School Day

At Village Middle School, we pride ourselves on our flexible schedule. We recognize that a valuable part of our students' education is achieved outside the classroom, experiencing life to the fullest and participating in extracurricular endeavors that may not adhere to a traditional school schedule. However, when students are not engaged in these outside activities, we highly encourage them to be on-site to receive as much in-person teacher support as possible. Our unique schedule balances academic productivity, creative exploration, and personal well-being through distinct daily periods.

Weekly Schedule Overview

- **Monday – Thursday (On-Site Days):**
 - **Drop-off:** 8:20 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
 - **Pick-up:** 2:30 p.m.
 - **After-Hours Learning:** To ensure continued success in our program, students should plan for an additional hour or more of schooling from home at the end of each on-site day.
- **Friday (School-from-Home Day):** All students school from home for the full day to wrap up and submit their weekly assignments.

A Note on School-from-Home Time: This independent learning time is intentionally embedded into our model to support student academic success. The specific time required will vary depending on your child's pacing and how efficiently they use their time during the day. Some students may need more time, while others may need less.

Daily Components (Monday – Thursday)

Access

At Village Middle School, "Access" means having the supportive space and resources you need, exactly when you need them. We designed these dedicated periods to empower our students to take ownership of their learning in a warm, collaborative environment. During Access, students have the structured time to dive into their weekly activities, partner with classmates on exciting projects, and connect one-on-one with their teachers. It is a welcoming space where students are encouraged to ask questions, seek targeted academic guidance, and confidently build the skills they need to thrive.

Explores

This is the ultimate reason to get out of bed and come into the building! Explores are the time for students to step away from the screen, roll up their sleeves, and dive headfirst into the things they are passionate about. Forget just reading about the real world; here, they get to create it. We offer an incredible, constantly changing lineup of hands-on electives designed to let students experiment, mess up, try again, and discover what makes them tick. Check out a sample of what's available on campus:

- **Cooking and Baking:** Master the science of the kitchen and whip up incredible treats from scratch.
- **3D Print & Design:** Learn the mechanics, strategies, and logic behind how things are built.
- **Mythbusters:** Bring your curiosity, launch experiments, smash assumptions, and test the laws of science in real time.
- **Art Studio:** Take over the studio space to paint, sculpt, sketch, and bring your visual ideas to life.
- **Creative Writing:** Craft epic worlds, develop unforgettable characters, and script your own stories.
- **Interior Design:** Express your style by learning how to transform spaces through architecture, color, and layout.

- **Outdoor Sports:** Whether it's a fast-paced game of pickup touch football or backyard baseball, this is a simple, equipment-light way to enjoy some friendly competition.

Explores are hands-on, high-energy, and completely rooted in real-world discovery. It's your passion, your choice, and it's happening in-person, on campus!

Morning Meeting

Every day kicks off with our Morning Meeting. This daily event is where our entire school comes together to connect and launch the day as a community! Run by students and supported by faculty, this meeting gives our kids the platform to lead and amplify their voices. We shout-out student achievements, celebrate birthdays, and build an incredible culture of school pride. It is also the perfect place to stay in the loop and get the scoop on essential campus updates, daily events, and upcoming monthly highlights. Morning Meeting sets the tone, builds connection, and reminds us that we are all on the same team!

TAB Time ("Take a Break")

TAB is our dedicated time to unplug and recharge. TAB activities include playing board games, playing outside, or simply taking a breather away from schoolwork. Lunches are delivered to the school by 10:45 a.m. Middle schoolers enjoy a flexible lunchtime and are expected to eat whenever they are hungry, keeping in mind that they are responsible for cleaning up after themselves.

Schedule

	Mon/Wed	Tue/Thu	Fri
8:30 – 8:40 a.m.	Morning Meeting	Morning Meeting	School from Home All Day
8:40 – 9:40 a.m.	Access or Explore	Access or Explore	
9:40 – 10:40 a.m.	Access or Explore	Access or Explore	
10:40 – 11:00 a.m.	TAB	TAB	
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Access or Explore	Access or Explore	
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Access or Explore	Access or Explore	
1:00 – 1:20 p.m.	TAB	TAB	
1:20 – 2:20 p.m.	Access or Explore	Access or Explore	
2:20 – 2:30 p.m.	Clean Up / Dismissal	Clean Up / Dismissal	
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	School from Home	School from Home	

Village Middle School occasionally adjusts daily in-person hours or closes campus for special events, Orientation Days, Assessment Days, and educational excursions. Unless otherwise noted, the expectation is for students to school from home when the campus is closed, as these remain official school days. We

communicate these schedule variations in advance so families can plan accordingly. Please regularly consult our website calendar and ParentSquare for the most up-to-date schedule details.

Mentors

At the core of our community is the Mentor, a dedicated guide who walks alongside each student to ensure they feel known, valued, and supported throughout their middle school years. Rather than just tracking academic progress, a mentor takes a holistic approach to student growth, helping kids navigate social dynamics, build organizational skills, and develop emotional resilience. Through regular check-ins and thoughtful guidance, mentors provide a consistent, trusting relationship on campus.

A mentor also serves as a parent's first point of contact at the school, bridging the communication between home and campus life. By acting as both a student advocate and a direct line for families, a mentor helps students discover their unique strengths, set meaningful personal goals, and step into each day with a sense of purpose and belonging.

Who to Contact When You Need Support

Staff Member	Contact Info	Areas of Support
VMS Front Office	719-234-1940	General Questions, Attendance, Leaving Early, Arriving Late
Your Child's Mentor	Will be selected within the first 2-3 weeks of school	Your first point of contact for personalized academic guidance and social-emotional support
Principal Mike Wedor	719-234-1960 Mike.wedor@asd20.org	
Registrar Darcy Crosby	719-234-1943 darcy.crosby@asd20.org	Enrollment, Transcripts, Colorado Affidavit
School Secretary Lyndsey Jarrett	719-234-1946 lyndsey.jarrett@asd20.org	Yearbook Orders, Lunches, Volunteering, ParentSquare, School Events/Calendar
Principal Secretary/Bookkeeper Anita Cook	719-234-1941 anita.cook@asd20.org	Student Fees
District Technology Technician John Finger	vmshelp@asd20.org	Tech Support for District Device
Digital Learning Coach Alex Hilborn	alex.hilborn@asd20.org	Buzz, Online Curriculum, IXL, Web Apps
Health Room Nurse Julie Tseh-Willcockson	julie.tseh@asd20.org	Medications Allergies
School Counselor Jennifer Horn	719-234-1952 jennifer.horn@asd20.org	504s, Safe2Tell, Community Referrals & Resources, Conflict Resolution

School Assessment Coordinator Chris Ulizio	chris.ulizio@asd20.org	District and State Testing CMAS
Talented and Gifted Kristen Morin	719-234-1951 kristen.morin@asd20.org	Gifted Identification, ALPs, CogAT and IOWA/ITBS
Special Education Josie Smith	josie.smith@asd20.org	Special Education, IEPs, Academic Accommodations

Village Middle School Handbook Acknowledgment & Agreement | 2026-2027

Parents, guardians, and students: Once you have had a chance to look over the handbook together, please sign and date this page to confirm you are familiar with how VMS operates. You can turn this completed sheet into your student's mentor or bring it to the front office during orientation or by the end of our first week of school. *Note: Student form on front; Parent form on back.

Student Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and discussed the Village Middle School Student Handbook with my parent or guardian.

- **I understand our unique hybrid rhythm.** I promise to bring my energy to campus Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, and to take personal responsibility for my learning when I school from home on Fridays and after-hours.
- **I agree to the academic expectations.** I know that my online coursework lives in Buzz, that my weekly assignments are due by the end of the day on Friday, and that I need to do my own honest work. I also know that if I struggle, I can resubmit my assignments for a better grade because VMS values mastery.
- **I will be my own advocate.** I know that my parents are there to support me and will be checking my progress on their BUZZ accounts, but I take ultimate responsibility for my own learning. I promise to step up, complete my own assignments, and practice using my voice. Whenever I need extra help, have questions, or run into a hurdle, I commit to speaking up, communicating, and reaching out directly to my mentor and my content teachers for support.
- **I will protect our learning environment.** I agree to keep my cell phone turned off and tucked inside my backpack during class time, utilizing it only during designated TAB times. I will make sure my music playlists are ready ahead of time so I don't get distracted, and I will always follow the district dress code. Above all, I will support the learning environment for myself and others by honoring our shared space, giving my best effort each day, and helping keep our school a safe, kind, and focused place to grow.
- **I will care for my technology and workspace.** I will bring my district-provided laptop fully charged every day, use my earbuds or headphones respectfully, and keep my math notebooks and writing supplies ready for action.

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **Grade**
Level: _____

Parent / Guardian Agreement

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the contents of this handbook alongside my student and agree to partner with VMS for a successful year.

- **I have or will complete the before school preparations.** I have logged into the Extended Parent Portal to note my child's 6-digit District 20 ID and password. I also commit to completing the Colorado Affidavit in Infinite Campus and handling the annual \$60 technology fee.
- **I support the attendance and progress guidelines.** I understand that in a hybrid school, attendance is tied directly to regular coursework progress. I acknowledge that if my student falls behind on work or is absent for 10% or more of a quarter, they may be deemed chronically absent, which can lead to a revocation of their choice enrollment at VMS.
- **I commit to "guiding on the side."** I agree to actively support my middle schooler by keeping track of their progress through my BUZZ parent account, ensuring they stay on schedule. However, I promise to step back and allow my child to physically complete their own work, learn to self-advocate, and take the lead on communicating and reaching out to their mentor and content teachers when they need support.
- **I support our school's in-person testing requirements.** I agree to ensure my student is present on campus for our vital assessment windows in the Fall, Winter, and Spring. I also commit to having my student on campus for the state-mandated CMAS testing window from April 6–13, 2027, understanding that these high-stakes and standardized assessments must be taken in person.
- **I will cooperate with daily safety protocols.** I agree to follow the single-line Kiss-n-Go procedures along the front curb, keeping alert for shared Mountain Ridge buses and students. I will personally escort my child inside to sign them in or out if they arrive late or leave early.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Email: _____

Thank you for being such an important part of our Village!

We appreciate your commitment to making this a wonderful school year.

Part 2: Student Rights and Responsibilities

Introduction

Public school students have certain rights guaranteed by the constitution and laws of Colorado as well as the United States of America. These rights are not the same as adults because the school is a special setting. The law provides that school officials need flexibility to control student behavior in the schools and at school activities, even possibly for actions that occur off-campus, on weekends or during the summer, if the actions have a nexus to school or are detrimental to the welfare of students or staff at the school. However, students do have numerous protections from undue censorship, arbitrary actions of school staff members and elected officials, and unlawful search and seizure, among other things.

This handbook informs you of your rights and your responsibilities as an Academy District 20 student. It will help you be a successful student and citizen in our District. Please read it carefully and ask questions of your principal, your counselor, or your teachers if you do not understand.

Academic Rights

To function well in the classroom, you must have a clear idea of what the teachers expect of you. Therefore, you have a right to know exactly what the requirements are for each course in which you are enrolled. If the course requirements seem unclear to you, or if you have questions, you have not only a right but also an obligation to yourself, your fellow classmates, and to your teacher, to ask for clarification.

Academy District 20 Mission Statement

The mission of Academy School District 20 is to educate and inspire students to thrive.

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Annual Legal Notification:

In accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, the District has Asbestos Management Plans available for review at each school and at Facilities Management, 10221 Lexington Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80920. Contact the Director for Facilities with any questions. Telephone: 719-234-1510.

Assessments (administrative policy IKA):

State and federal laws require District students to take standardized assessments in the instructional areas of English language arts, math and science. If a student's parent/guardian chooses to opt the student out of taking a state assessment, the District shall not prohibit the student from participating in an activity, or receiving any other form of reward, that the District provides to students for participating in the state assessment. C.R.S. § 22-7-1013 (8)(b).

Attendance and Truancy (administrative policies JE, JH, JHB):

Daily attendance at school is a critical factor in school success. Students are expected to arrive at school each day on time, ready to learn. It is difficult to replace the learning that occurs in the classroom through the exchange of ideas with study outside the classroom. Excessive absences and/or tardies, whether excused or unexcused, may have a negative effect on a student's learning and grades.

Colorado law requires every student who is age six by August 1 and under 17 to attend school a certain number of hours [C.R.S. § 22-33-104(1)(a)]. Parents have a legal obligation to ensure that every child under their care and supervision receives adequate education and training [C.R.S. § 22-33-104(5)(a)].

Per District policy JE and state law, excused absences are as follows:

1. Absences approved by the principal or designee.
2. Absences due to temporary illness or injury.
3. Absences for an extended period of time due to physical, mental or emotional disabilities.
4. Absences due to being in the custody of the court or law enforcement authorities.

If an absence does not fall into one of the above categories, it will be considered unexcused. Medical notes may be requested if a student has excessive absences.

State statute defines any student who has four unexcused absences in a month or ten unexcused absences in a school year as habitually truant. [Administrative policy JE and C.R.S § 22-33-102(3.5)]. Be aware that the District will first take steps to work with families to reduce truancy, but that the District partners with local juvenile courts to intervene and address “habitual truancy.” When a student has an excessive number of absences, whether excused or unexcused, they negatively impact the student’s academic success. The principal may identify a student who is absent 10% of a quarter, even if the absences are excused, as “chronically absent.” [Administrative policy JH, Student Absences and Excuses]. Legal action may be taken by school administrators if parents and students fail to follow compulsory attendance laws [Administrative policy JHB, Truancy].

Balancing Rights and Responsibilities

With student rights come student responsibilities. In most cases, this means “follow the rules.” The rights of all others in the school environment are protected when students exercise responsibility and follow the rules.

The rules and regulations, the most important of which are summarized in this handbook, are designed to protect rights, yours and others’. They help set expectations so that students learn behavior patterns which enable them to become responsible members of society. The rules also allow the District, if necessary, to discipline individuals who do not respect rules. They also help protect every student’s right to an education. Given the Columbine tragedy and other more recent events, students need to tell an adult if they are aware of other students who are planning to harm themselves or others in the school or community. This is not being a “snitch” or a “tattle-tale.” It is responsible citizenship that could save lives, including your own. Safe2Tell® provides a way for students to anonymously report any threatening behaviors or activities endangering them or someone they know. A report can be made by calling 877-542-SAFE (877-542-7233) or online at .

Bullying (administrative policy JICDE):

The District supports a school climate that is free from threats, harassment and any types of bullying behavior. All types of bullying are unacceptable. “Bullying” is defined in District policy JICDE and state law as “the use of coercion or intimidation to obtain control over another person or to cause physical, mental, or emotional harm to another person. Bullying can occur through written, verbal, or electronically transmitted expressions (i.e., cyberbullying) or by means of physical act or gesture.” Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of their academic performance, on the basis of their weight, height, or body size, or any basis protected by federal and state law, including disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family composition, national origin, religion, ancestry or the need for special education services, whether such characteristic(s) is actual or perceived. Bullying does not necessarily include all conflicts between students. A student who engages in an act of bullying and/or a student that takes retaliatory action against a person, who in good faith reports an incident of bullying, is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The District cannot respond to allegations of bullying unless it knows about them. Please tell an adult in your building if you have been bullied or if you have witnessed bullying.

Safe2Tell® is a way to anonymously report any threatening behavior that endangers you, your friends, your family or your community. To make a report using Safe2Tell®, call 877-542-SAFE (877-542-7233) or online at .

Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices (administrative policy JICJ)

Policy JICJ allows students to carry electronic communication devices approved by the building principal, but these devices must be turned off and put away during instructional time unless they are being used for instructional purposes and with approval of the teacher. During non-instructional time, school staff may restrict students' use of such devices if, in staff's judgment, use of the devices interferes with the educational environment. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic communication device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic communication device is confiscated. School personnel will not accept responsibility for lost or stolen personal property. The student will assume responsibility for replacement costs in the event that an electronic device or cell phone is lost or stolen.

Clubs (see Student Organizations, administrative policy JJA)

Meetings of student groups must be organized, scheduled, and conducted within the guidelines established by policy JJA and accompanying procedure. All proposed student organizations shall use the common District-wide application that can be found in JJA E. The principal, or designee, will communicate a final decision to all proposals using the submitted District-wide application.

College Classes-Opportunity to Earn College Credits and Accelerate Learning Pathways to College

Students may earn college credit at a significant cost and time savings.

Concurrent Enrollment (CE) Programs Act [C.R.S § 22-35- 103(6)(a)] and District 20 Concurrent Enrollment policy IHCD make it possible for eligible students in grades 9-12 who are under the age of 21 and officially registered at an Academy District 20 high school and at a qualified institution of higher education with whom the District has a written cooperative agreement to earn college credit at a significant cost and time savings. Interested students may contact the high school counselor for information on the eligibility criteria and application process as identified by the statute and the District policy.

Confidential Student Records-also see (The) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and administrative policy JRA/JRC)

The District protects the confidentiality of student records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Therefore, without written consent from a parent or guardian, we do not disclose personally identifiable information from a child's education records unless disclosure is covered by one of the exceptions in FERPA (see administrative policy JRA/JRC). If you wish to allow a third party (for example, a step-parent or other family members) access to personally identifiable information from your child's education records, please contact your building administrator to request a third-party consent form. Each parent or guardian must complete the form and have his or her signature notarized. Return the notarized forms to your building administrator. The permission will be effective until a parent/guardian revokes permission in writing and submits the revocation to the building administrator, or through the end of the current school year, whichever comes first.

Disciplinary Removal from Classroom (administrative policy JKBA)

It is the policy of the District to maintain classrooms in which student behavior does not interfere with the ability of the licensed staff member to teach effectively or the ability of other students to participate in classroom learning activities.

Students shall be expected to abide by the code of conduct adopted by the District and any other appropriate classroom rules of behavior established by the licensed staff member, and approved by the building principal, for the purpose of maintaining order and a favorable academic atmosphere. Any student who violates the code of conduct or other classroom rules may be subject to removal from class and/or disciplinary removal.

Student removal from class is a serious measure and should not be imposed in an arbitrary, casual, discriminatory or inconsistent manner. Behavioral expectations are always more constructive and more likely to be followed when they are communicated as clearly as possible to students. However, it is neither possible nor necessary to specify every type of improper or inappropriate behavior, or every circumstance that would justify removal from class under this policy. Licensed staff members are expected to exercise their best professional judgment in deciding whether it is appropriate to formally remove a student from class in any particular circumstance. All instances of formal removal from class shall be documented.

A licensed staff member is authorized to immediately remove a student from his or her classroom if the student's behavior:

1. violates the code of conduct adopted by the District administrative policy; or
2. is dangerous, unruly, or disruptive; or
3. seriously interferes with the ability of the teacher to teach the class or of the students to learn.

A student with a disability may be removed from class and placed in an alternative educational setting only to the extent authorized by state and federal laws and regulations.

Removal from class under this policy does not prohibit the District from pursuing or implementing additional disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, detentions, suspensions, or expulsions for the conduct or behavior for which the student was removed, in accordance with District policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary interventions. Parents/guardians should be notified of the student's removal from class in accordance with established procedures.

Equal Educational Opportunity (administrative policy JB)

Every student in this school district shall have equal educational opportunities through programs offered in the school district regardless of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family composition, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services.

Evaluation

You have a right to be evaluated fairly. Grades, progress reports, and other forms of evaluation should be based on requirements that are clearly set forth by teachers and they should be applied fairly to all students.

(The) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (administrative policy JRA/JRC and procedure JRA/JRC R), Notification of Rights under:

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("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 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The parent or eligible student will be provided an electronic copy of the file through a secure link.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal, within 10 school days of the date records were first examined, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specifying why it should be changed. 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 advise them 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 (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. FERPA does permit disclosure without a parent's or guardian's written consent to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including but not limited to paraprofessionals, transportation personnel, health and law enforcement unit personnel) or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own staff members and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.
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 is:

U.S. Department of Education
Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

FERPA Notice for Directory Information (administrative policy JRA/JRC):

FERPA requires that the District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, the District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;

- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's or guardian's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require local educational agencies (LEAs) receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the LEA that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you may adjust this setting in your Infinite Campus account.

The District has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student's name
- Student's photograph
- Student's grade level
- Dates of attendance
- Enrollment status
- Participation in officially recognized activities & sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Major field of study
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended

Please note that FERPA contains a specific exclusion for records such as investigative reports, risk assessments, and other records created and maintained by school security personnel, which may be disclosed without consent. 20 U.S.C. § 1232g(a)(4)(A)(ii);(B)(II).

Free Association

You are generally free to associate with groups of your own choosing. However, any group, school-sponsored or not, that acts to interfere with the rights of others, or disrupt the educational process, may be subject to disciplinary actions by school officials or appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Free or Reduced Lunch (administrative policy EF)

Students do best in school if they have eaten a nutritious and balanced meal. Academy District 20 participates in the National School Lunch Program, as well as the Healthy School Meals for All Program that provides free meals to all students. The Board of Education agrees to the federal eligibility regulations, and the food service program meets all state and federal requirements relating to meal and menu records, fiscal controls and accountability, free and reduced-price meals, civil rights compliance, sanitation, and safety.

Gangs (administrative policy JICF):

Gang activities at school impose a threat to the welfare and safety of students and others in the school community and cause substantial disruption to the educational process.

The term "gang" as used in this policy refers to two or more individuals who share a common interest, bond, or activity characterized by criminal, delinquent, or otherwise disruptive conduct engaged in collectively or individually.

The Board of Education and District administration desire to keep District schools and students free from the threats of harmful influence of any groups or gangs which advocate drug and/or alcohol use, violence, or disruptive behavior. School district personnel shall maintain supervision of school premises, school vehicles, and school-related activities to deter gang intimidation of students and confrontations between members of different gangs. The superintendent or designee shall establish open lines of communication with local law enforcement authorities to share information and provide mutual support in this effort. The superintendent or designee shall provide periodic training to help staff members identify gangs and gang symbols, recognize early manifestations of disruptive activities and respond appropriately to gang behavior.

Any apparel or manner of grooming which by virtue of its color, arrangement, trademark, or any other attribute denotes membership in or affiliation with any gang is prohibited on school premises, in school vehicles, and at school-related activities. Any gestures, signals, or graffiti which connote gang membership or activities are also prohibited. These prohibitions shall be applied at the principal's discretion after consultation with the superintendent or designee, as the need arises at individual school sites.

Homeless Students Notification

Specific rights and protections are ensured to parents, children and youth experiencing homelessness as defined under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. For more information about services for homeless students, refer to administrative policy JFABD or contact the Homeless Liaison Coordinator Aubrey Ranson at 719-234-1362.

Homework Responsibilities

To function well in the classroom, you must do homework as required by the teacher. Homework is a critical component of the instructional program. Homework provides opportunities for extended learning for students. The District has a homework policy (administrative policy IKB) which states that each school must develop homework guidelines and communicate those to students and parents.

Identification

For the protection of all, you must identify yourself when requested by school authorities: in the school building, on school grounds, on the bus, at the bus stops or at school activities, including off-campus activities.

Individual Dignity

Every person is entitled to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family composition, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services.. The dignity of each individual is best served when all concerned, whether staff or students, treat one another respectfully. Academy District 20 is committed to a learning and working environment free from any form of violence or abuse including, but not limited to, actions, words, or insults towards our students, staff, and parents.

The District does not tolerate harassment or bullying in Academy District 20 schools, at school activities or on school buses or at District bus stops. To enhance safety on school buses, video and audio recording devices have been installed and may be in operation at any time.

Non-Discrimination under Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, Age Discrimination ACT, Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, Notice of:

In accordance with federal and state law, Academy District 20 does not discriminate on the basis of disability, race, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, transgender status, religion, national origin, immigration/citizenship status, ancestry, age, pregnancy, marital status, veteran status, disability, family composition and genetic information in its programs, activities, operations and employment decisions and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Administrative policy AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity, and procedures AC R 1, AC R 2, and AC R 3 outline the formal complaint process. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Compliance Coordinator
Academy District 20
1110 Chapel Hills Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
719-234-1200

Peaceful Assembly

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution allows students of a school to peacefully assemble on the school grounds, in compliance with attendance rules and procedures as well as building regulations.

(The) Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), Notification of Rights Under (policy JLDAC E):

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), 20 U.S.C. § 1232h, affords parents certain rights regarding the District's conducting of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following 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 (ED) -

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent/guardian;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sexual behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom the student has a close family relationship;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian;
8. Income (other than as required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program; and/or
9. Social security number.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of -

1. Activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information.
2. The administration of any protected information survey; and

3. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening (other than a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening) that is:
 - a. Required as a condition of attendance;
 - b. Administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
 - c. Not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students.

Inspect, upon request and before administration or use -

1. Protected information surveys of students;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor (“eligible student”) under state law.

Academy District 20 has developed and adopted policies, in consultation with parents, regarding these rights, as well as 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 District will directly notify parents of these policies at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify, such as through U.S. Mail or email, parents/guardians of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted above and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt their child out of participation in the specific activity or survey. The District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District 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, parents/guardians will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys listed below and be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys. Parents/guardians will also be provided an opportunity to review any pertinent surveys. 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 not funded in whole or in part by ED.
- Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening as described above.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor (“eligible student”) under state law.

Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:

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

Respect for Property

Students are expected to treat all property with care and respect. This applies to property of the school, private property brought to school by school staff or other students, and to property surrounding the school. Neither the District nor the school is responsible for loss, damage or theft of personal property.

Screening and Testing of Students (and Treatment of Mental Disorders) [administrative policy JLDAC] and Notification of Rights Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) [JLDAC E]

Parents and eligible students have the right to review any survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students. Parents and eligible students have the right to consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more protected areas, and to opt out, as detailed in administrative policy JLDAC and accompanying notification JLDAC E.

Seeking Change through the Proper Channels

Students and parents are encouraged to participate in the District in a variety of ways. Building and District committees offer positive ways of influencing the operation of the District. Most positive changes come about through the committee process. The District and the Board of Education also want to maintain open lines of communication. Administrative policy KE and the associated regulation KE R contain information on public concerns and complaints.

Sex Education/Health and Family Life

The District teaches about family life and sex education in regular courses on anatomy, physiology, science, health, and consumer and family studies. If a separate program for family life or sex education is developed, it shall not be required. Any curriculum that includes instruction on human sexuality shall comply with applicable law and the District's academic standards. See policy IMB – Teaching About Controversial Issues. In accordance with this policy, procedure IMB R details how a parent may request an exemption from such curricula.

Sex Offenders, Notification Regarding:

Colorado Revised Statute § 22-1-124 instructs school districts to notify parents of their right to request information concerning registered sex offenders in the community. More information on accessing such information may be obtained online at either of the following:

[El Paso County Sheriff's Office Sex Offender Search](#)

OR

[Colorado Springs Sex Offender Information](#)

For additional information parents may also contact the District's Director for Security at 719-234-1300.

Sexual Harassment (administrative policy JBB)

Academy District 20 complies with Title IX and the implementing regulations. In accordance with administrative policy AC and its corresponding regulations, no discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, transgender status, or family composition is permitted in the programs or activities District 20 operates. Sexual harassment is recognized as a form of sex discrimination and thus is a violation of the laws which prohibit sex discrimination. A learning environment that is free from sexual harassment shall be maintained. It shall be a violation of policy for any staff member to harass students or for students to harass other students through conduct or communications of a sexual nature, or to retaliate against anyone that reports sexual harassment or participates in a harassment investigation.

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature may constitute sexual harassment, even if the harasser and the student being harassed are the same sex and whether or not the student resists or submits to the harasser. Acts of verbal or physical

aggression, intimidation or hostility based on sex, but not involving conduct of a sexual nature may also constitute sexual harassment.

Students are encouraged to report all incidents of sexual harassment to an adult at school and file a complaint, through the District's complaint process outlined in JBB E. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the totality of the circumstances, the nature of the conduct, and the context in which the alleged conduct occurred shall be investigated. See administrative policy JBB, Sexual Harassment of Students, and the reporting form JBB E.

Sharing/Release of Student Information (administrative policy JRCA):

To the extent required or allowed by state law, the District will facilitate the sharing of relevant student records and information when necessary to protect the safety and welfare of school district staff, visitors, students, and the public and to protect property. School personnel who share disciplinary and attendance information concerning a student pursuant to this policy are immune from civil and criminal liability if they act in good faith compliance with state law. Within the bounds of state law, school district personnel shall seek to obtain such information regarding students as is required to perform their legal duties and responsibilities; such information may be obtained from the judicial department or any state agency that performs duties and functions under the Colorado Children's Code. If such information is shared with another school or school district to which a student may be transferring, it shall only be shared in compliance with the requirements of federal law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). See policy JRCA, Sharing of Student Records/Information between School District and State Agencies.

Student Code of Conduct:

The descriptions below are summaries of more detailed policies. For complete information, please consult the latest version of each administrative policy at [Board/Administrative Policies](#).

Code of Conduct (administrative policy JICDA):

The principal or designee may suspend or recommend expulsion of a student who engages in one or more of the following activities while in school buildings, on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event and off school property when the conduct has a nexus to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event.

1. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or stealing or attempting to steal school property of value.
2. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property or stealing or attempting to steal private property.
3. Willful destruction or defacing of District property.
4. Commission of any act which if committed by an adult would be robbery or assault as defined by state law.
5. Committing extortion, coercion or blackmail, i.e., obtaining money or other objects of value from an unwilling person or forcing an individual to act through the use of force or threat of force.
6. Engaging in verbal abuse, i.e., name calling, ethnic or racial slurs, either orally or in writing or derogatory statements addressed publicly to others that precipitate disruption of the District or school program or incite violence.
7. Engaging in "hazing" activities, i.e., forcing prolonged physical activity, forcing excessive consumption of any substance, forcing prolonged deprivation of sleep, food, or drink, or any other behavior which recklessly endangers the health or safety of an individual for purposes of initiation into any student group.

8. Violation of the District's policy on bullying prevention and education.
9. Violation of criminal law which has an effect on the District or on the general safety or welfare of students or staff.
10. Violation of any District policy or regulations, or established school rules.
11. Violation of the District's policy on weapons in the schools. Expulsion shall be mandatory for bringing or possessing a firearm, in accordance with federal law.
12. Violation of the District's policy on student conduct involving drugs and alcohol.
13. Violation of the District's violent and aggressive behavior policy.
14. Violation of the District's tobacco-free schools policy.
15. Violation of the District's policies prohibiting sexual or other harassment.
16. Violation of the District's policy on nondiscrimination.
17. Violation of the District's dress code policy.
18. Violation of the District's policy on gangs and gang-like activity.
19. Throwing objects, unless part of a supervised school activity, that can or do cause bodily injury or damage to property.
20. Directing profanity, vulgar language or obscene gestures toward other students, school personnel or others.
21. Lying or giving false information, either verbally or in writing, to a District staff member.
22. Engaging in scholastic dishonesty, which includes but is not limited to cheating on a test, plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work.
23. Making a false accusation of criminal activity against a District staff member to law enforcement or to the District.
24. Behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel, including behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the student exhibiting the behavior or to one or more other students.
25. Repeated interference with the District's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
26. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority including deliberate refusal to obey a member of the District staff.

Dress Code for Students (administrative policy JICA):

You have a right to dress as you want in accordance with your own taste so long as it is not materially and substantially disruptive to the educational process. The Student Dress Code, administrative policy JICA, defines certain clothing or appearance as disruptive if it advocates drug use, violence, or unlawful activity. If your clothes are inappropriately revealing or tattered and torn, you will be in violation of the dress code as well. A safe and disciplined learning environment is essential to a quality educational program. District-wide standards on student attire are intended to help encourage school pride and thereby help students concentrate on schoolwork, reduce discipline problems, and improve school order and safety. The District administration recognizes that students have a right to express themselves through dress and personal appearance; however, students must not wear apparel that is deemed disruptive or potentially disruptive to the classroom environment or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school.

Any student deemed in violation of the student dress code will be notified of the violation and required to change into appropriate clothing or make arrangements to have appropriate clothing brought to school immediately. Disciplinary actions subsequent and/or repeated violations of the student dress code may include a parental conference and more severe disciplinary consequences, including suspension or expulsion.

The following items are deemed disruptive to the classroom environment or to the maintenance of a safe and orderly school and are not acceptable in school buildings, on school grounds or at school activities:

1. inappropriately sheer, short, tight or low-cut clothing that bares or exposes traditionally private parts of the body including, but not limited to, the stomach, buttocks, back and breasts
2. Any clothing, paraphernalia, grooming, jewelry, hair coloring, accessories, or body adornments that are or contain any advertisement, symbols, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that:
 - a. Refer to drugs, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons
 - b. Are of a sexual nature
 - c. By virtue of color, arrangement, trademark, or other attribute denote membership in gangs which advocate drug use, violence, or disruptive behavior
 - d. Are obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, or legally libelous
 - e. Threaten the safety or welfare of any person
 - f. Promote any activity prohibited by the student code of conduct
 - g. Otherwise disrupt the teaching-learning process

Exceptions:

Appropriate clothing may be worn in physical education. Clothing normally worn when participating in school sponsored extracurricular or sports activities (such as cheerleading uniforms and the like), may be worn to school when approved by the sponsor or coach.

Drug and Alcohol Use by Students (administrative policy JICH):

It shall be a violation of District policy and considered to be behavior that is detrimental to the welfare and safety of other students or school personnel for any student to possess, use or distribute alcohol or drugs, or to possess drug paraphernalia on school property or at school-sponsored events. **Sharing any controlled substance, including prescription medication, is also a violation of District policy.** In order to promote a healthy and safe learning environment, the school district will take disciplinary action that may include suspension or expulsion from school and may include referral to law enforcement for criminal prosecution.

Students who use or possess alcohol or drugs or are under the influence of alcohol or drugs in violation of policy JICH will be disciplined in the following manner:

- First Offense - The student may be suspended for up to three school days, and the principal may recommend additional suspension and/or expulsion/deferred expulsion. At the discretion of the principal and with the concurrence of the superintendent, a portion of the suspension may be held in abeyance if the student completes an appropriate program, which may include an alcohol and/or drug education/treatment/counseling program and/or community service, details of which shall be agreed to between principal and parent. Costs of the program shall be the responsibility of the student and parent. Failure to provide documentation of completion of the program within the prescribed time limits will result in the reinstatement of the original suspension.

Based on circumstances of individual cases, including but not limited to situations involving particularly pernicious, harmful, or addictive illegal drugs such as felony class controlled substances, the principal or designee, at his or her discretion, may recommend additional suspension or expulsion. Violations of administrative policy JLCD on Administering Medications to Students may result in disciplinary action, at the discretion of the principal or designee.

- Second Offense - The student may be suspended for up to five school days, and the principal may recommend additional suspension and/or expulsion/deferred expulsion.
- Third and Subsequent Offense(s) – The student may be suspended for up to 10 school days and the principal may recommend to the superintendent expulsion of the student for up to one calendar year for the third offense and all subsequent offenses occurring within three years.

Penalties for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

Students who possess drug paraphernalia at school, on the school bus, or at school sponsored events may be disciplined in the following manner:

1. First Offense - The student may be suspended for up to three school days.
2. Second Offense - The student may be suspended for up to five school days.
3. Third Offense - The student may be suspended for five school days and the principal may recommend an additional five days' suspension, or expulsion.

Penalties for Distribution, Selling, Purchasing or Exchanging Alcohol or Drugs

Students who distribute, sell, purchase or exchange alcohol or drugs, whether by selling or giving, may be expelled, provided that the purchase or exchange of over-the-counter drugs may be limited to a suspension in appropriate circumstances at the discretion of the principal.

Electronic Communication Devices, including Cell Phones (administrative policy JICJ):

Electronic communication devices can play a vital communication role. However, unless expressly permitted by a teacher for instructional purposes, the use of electronic communication devices within the classroom is not permitted. For purposes of this policy, an "electronic communication device" is any device which records, replays, transmits, receives or otherwise conveys information electronically between the student and another person or entity.

Students may carry electronic communication devices approved by the building principal, but these devices must be turned off and put away during instructional time, unless they are being used for instructional purposes and with approval of the teacher. Regarding non-instructional time, school staff members have the authority to restrict students' use of such devices in school buildings, on school buses, at school-sponsored activities and on field trips, if in the judgment of the staff member, the use of the device interferes with the educational environment. Use of a device to record all or part of any classroom instruction is permissible only with the prior approval of the teacher.

Use of electronic communication devices with cameras is prohibited in locker rooms, bathrooms, or other locations where such operation may violate the privacy rights of another person. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the device is turned off and out of sight during unauthorized times.

Violation of this policy and/or use that violates any other District policy may result in disciplinary action and confiscation of the electronic communication device. A conference between the parent/guardian, student and school personnel may be required in the event an electronic communication device is confiscated.

The District shall not be responsible for loss, theft or destruction of electronic communication devices brought onto school property.

Screening and Testing of Students (and Treatment of Mental Disorders) (administrative policy JLDAC)

Parents/guardians and eligible students have the right to review any survey, assessment, analysis or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students whether created by the District or a third party. "Eligible student" means a student 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor. Any survey, assessment, analysis, or evaluation administered or distributed by a school to students shall be subject to applicable state and federal laws protecting the confidentiality of student records.

Parents/guardians and eligible students shall receive notice and have the opportunity to opt a student out of activities involving the collection, disclosure or use of personal information collected from the student for the purpose of marketing or selling that information or otherwise providing the information to others for that purpose.

School personnel are prohibited under state law from recommending or requiring the use of psychotropic drugs for students. School personnel are also prohibited from testing or requiring testing for a student's behavior without giving notice to the parent/guardian describing the recommended testing and how any test results will be used. Prior to conducting any such testing, school personnel shall obtain written permission from the parent/guardian or eligible student in accordance with applicable law.

Licensed school personnel are encouraged to be knowledgeable about psychiatric or psychological methods and procedures but shall not be involved in any diagnosis, assessment or treatment of any type of mental disorder or disability unless appropriately certified.

Student Expression

Students have a limited right to free expression based on the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The right to speak (including written expression), however, must not create a material and substantial disruption to the educational process, be obscene, lead to unlawful action, harm someone's reputation, or create a clear and present danger to others.

These legal requirements also apply to how students dress when they come to school or school activities. If students cross the line from protected speech, where they are expressing their point of view/opinion, to speech which creates a material and substantial disruption, they may be disciplined. See policies on Student Publications, JICE; Suspension, Expulsion and Denial of Admission, JKD/JKE; and the Student Dress Code, JICA.

Student Conduct (administrative policy JIC):

It is the intention of the Board of Education and District administration that the District's schools help students achieve maximum development of individual knowledge, skills and competence and that they learn behavior patterns which will enable them to be responsible, contributing members of society.

The District, in accordance with state law, has adopted a written student conduct and discipline code based upon the principle that every student is expected to follow accepted rules of conduct and to show respect for and to obey persons in authority. The code shall emphasize that certain behavior, especially behavior that disrupts the classroom, is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. The code shall emphasize proportionate disciplinary interventions and consequences and keeping students engaged in learning. The code shall be enforced uniformly, fairly and consistently for all students.

All administrative policies and regulations containing the letters "JIC" in the file name shall be considered as constituting the conduct section of the legally required code.

The rules shall not infringe upon constitutionally protected rights, shall be clearly and specifically described, shall be printed in a handbook or some other publication made available to students and parents/guardians, and shall have an effective date subsequent to the dissemination of the published handbook.

The superintendent shall arrange to have the conduct and discipline code distributed once to each student in elementary, middle, junior high and high school and once to each new student in the District. The superintendent shall ensure reasonable measures are taken to ensure each student is familiar with the code. Policies are maintained online with public access. Copies can be printed upon request at any District school.

The code shall apply to behavior in the classroom, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at school activities and events, and in certain circumstances, to off-campus behavior. In all instances, students shall be expected to conduct themselves in keeping with their level of maturity, acting with due regard for the

supervisory authority vested by the board in all District staff members, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, the widely shared use of school property, and the rights and welfare of other students. All staff members of the District shall be expected to share the responsibility for supervising the behavior of students and for seeing that they abide by the established rules of conduct.

Student Discipline (administrative policy JK)

The District, in accordance with state law, has adopted a written student conduct and discipline code based upon the principle that every student is expected to follow accepted rules of conduct and to show respect for and to obey persons in authority. The Code also emphasizes that certain behavior, especially behavior that disrupts the classroom, is unacceptable and may result in disciplinary action. Additionally, the District has adopted policies and procedures for handling general and major discipline problems for all students of the District which are designed to achieve these broad objectives. All administrative policies and regulations containing the letters “JK” in the file name constitute the discipline section of the legally required code.

Student Fees and Fines (administrative policy JQ)

Families that are eligible for the **Free and Reduced Program** should provide their household income information by completing the Free and Reduced Application. While meals are provided for free to all Academy District 20 students through Healthy School Meals for All, it's important for us to gather this information in order to receive federal funding.

By providing this information, families support the District in accessing additional federal funds that go directly to schools to help cover the cost of meals, as well as after school programs and other nutritional programs for students.

Families who qualify may receive discounted school fees, athletics, bus passes, device fees and more.

Applications and information regarding the free and reduced-price lunch program can be obtained by contacting the free and reduced lunch registrar at 234-1416 or free-and-reduced@asd20.org.

Student Interrogations, Searches, and Arrests (administrative policy JIH):

The Board of Education and District administration seek to maintain a climate in the schools which is conducive to learning, and protective of the safety and welfare of staff and students. To achieve this goal, it may be necessary for school personnel to search the person and/or the personal property of the student and to seize any property deemed injurious or detrimental to the safety and welfare of students and staff.

Interviews by school administrators

When a violation of District policy or school rules occurs, the principal or designee may question potential student victims and witnesses without prior consent of the student's parent/guardian. If a report of child abuse is made to school officials and the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, no contact with the student's family will be made.

Searches conducted by school personnel

Searches may be conducted by a school official who has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the student has violated either the law or policy. When reasonable grounds for a search exists, the school principal or designee may search a student and/or the student's personal property while on school premises or during a school activity in accordance with this policy and may seize any illegal, unauthorized, or contraband materials.

Whenever possible, the student shall be informed of the reason(s) for conducting the search and the student's permission to perform the search shall be requested. A student's failure to cooperate with school officials conducting a search shall be considered grounds for disciplinary action.

Search of school property

School lockers, desks and other storage areas are school property and remain at all times under the control of the school. All such lockers, desks and other storage areas, as well as their contents, are subject to inspection at any time, with or without notice.

Students shall assume full responsibility for the security of their lockers and/or other storage areas in the manner approved by the administration. Students shall be responsible for whatever is contained in desks and lockers assigned to them by the school, as well as for any loss or damage relating to the contents of such desks and lockers.

Search of the student's person or personal effects

The principal or designee may search a student or a student's personal effects such as a purse, backpack, book bag, briefcase, or vehicle parked on school property or at school-sponsored events or activities if the school official has reasonable grounds to suspect that the search will uncover

- Evidence of a violation of District policies, school rules, or federal, state, or local laws.
- Anything which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person

Search of the person shall be limited to the student's pockets, any object in the student's possession such as a purse, backpack, book bag, or briefcase, and a "pat down" of the exterior of the student's clothing by a staff member who is the same sex as the student being searched. Staff members may also utilize a handheld metal detector on the exterior of a student's clothing and personal items. The extent of the search of a student's person or personal effects, as well as the means to conduct the search, must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and the nature of the suspected violation. Additionally, school officials conducting the search shall be respectful of privacy considerations and religious beliefs, in light of the sex and age of the student.

Except in situations presenting a significant risk to the safety or welfare of students, school personnel, or property, personal searches of a student shall be conducted in a private room by a person of the same sex as the student and witnessed by another person of the same sex as the student.

Searches of a student's person and/or personal effects may be conducted without the prior consent of the student's parent/guardian. However, the parent/guardian of any student searched shall be notified of the search as soon as reasonably possible.

Searches of the person which may require removal of clothing other than a coat or jacket shall be referred to a law enforcement officer. School personnel shall not participate in such searches.

Seizure of items

Anything found in the course of a search conducted by school officials which is evidence of a violation of law or District policy or school rules or which by its presence presents an immediate danger of physical harm to self or others may be:

- Seized and offered as evidence in any expulsion proceeding. Such material shall be kept in a secure place by the school administration or security until it is presented at the hearing.
- Returned to the student or the parent/guardian.
- Turned over to a law enforcement officer in accordance with this policy.

Law enforcement officers' involvement--Interrogations and interviews

When law enforcement officials request permission to question students when students are in school or participating in school activities, the principal or designee shall ascertain that the law enforcement officer has proper identification. Except when law enforcement officers have a warrant or other court order, or

when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist, such interrogations and interviews are discouraged during students' class time.

It is the responsibility of the law enforcement officer interviewing student witnesses or interrogating student suspects to assure compliance with all applicable procedural safeguards. Upon request by law enforcement to interview a student witness or interrogate a student suspect, school officials shall make an effort to notify the student's parent/guardian, except in cases involving investigation of reported child abuse where the suspected perpetrator is a member of the student's family, when law enforcement has a court order directing that the student's parent/guardian not be notified, or when an emergency or other exigent circumstances exist. However, whether or not to postpone the interview or interrogation until the parent/guardian arrives is the law enforcement officer's decision.

Search and seizure

The principal or designee may request a search on school premises be conducted by a law enforcement officer. When law enforcement officers respond to such a request, no school staff member shall assist or otherwise participate in the search. It is expected that searches by law enforcement will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of applicable law.

Custody and/or arrest

Students will be released to law enforcement officers if the student has been placed under arrest or if the student's parent/guardian and the student consent to such release. When a student is removed from school by law enforcement officers for any reason, school officials will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parent/guardian.

It is expected that all procedural safeguards prescribed by law are followed by law enforcement officers conducting student arrests. However, District staff is not responsible for an officer's legal compliance when arresting a student.

Parking Lot/Vehicle Searches (administrative policy JIHB)

The privilege of bringing a student-operated vehicle on to school premises is conditioned on consent by the student driver to allow for search of the vehicle when there is reasonable suspicion that the search will yield evidence of contraband.

Refusal by a student, parent/guardian, or owner of the vehicle to allow access to a motor vehicle on school premises at the time of request to search the vehicle shall be cause for termination without further hearing of the privilege of bringing the vehicle on to school premises. If a student refuses to consent to search, a parent or guardian will be contacted to obtain their consent to search. If the consent to search is denied by parent, then the vehicle shall be removed immediately from District property and forever banned from all District property. In such cases, there will be no refund of the parking fees paid, and the student will not be permitted to purchase a future parking pass. Should the vehicle be subsequently found on District property, it is subject to being towed at the owner's expense immediately without notice. Refusal to submit to search also may result in disciplinary action and notification of law enforcement officials.

Student Organizations (administrative policy JJA)

Students in middle and high schools in this District shall be permitted to conduct meetings of student clubs or student organizations to meet on school premises during noninstructional time, in accordance with administrative policy JJA. Curriculum-related student organizations serve as an extension of the regular school curriculum. The function of curriculum-related student organizations is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools. Curriculum-related student organizations must articulate how the content and activities of the proposed student organization will extend the curriculum of a course/s offered in the school. Student

organizations meeting these criteria and approved by the principal will be deemed to be officially recognized, school-sponsored student organizations. All proposed student organizations shall use the common District-wide application that can be found in JJA E. The principal, or designee, will communicate a final decision to all proposals using the submitted District-wide application.

Secondary school students are also permitted to organize and conduct meetings to pursue activities outside of the school curriculum. Such organizations must be student initiated and directed, and persons not attending school in this District, parents, school personnel or non-school persons are prohibited from directing, conducting, controlling, or regularly attending the activities of a noncurricular student group. Noncurricular student groups shall not be deemed to be curriculum-related or endorsed, but must be supervised by a licensed District staff member. Students seeking approval for a student organization to meet at school during noninstructional time should seek approval from the principal or his or her designee in accordance with administrative procedure JJA R.

Student Use of the Internet, Electronic Communications, and Digital Media (administrative policy JS)

The utilization of the Internet, electronic communications, artificial intelligence, and digital media is integral to supporting educational curricula and substantially enriching the learning environment. Engagement with these resources necessitates students to exercise critical thinking, information analysis, effective communication, proficient writing skills, problem-solving abilities, and the cultivation of digital competencies essential for current employment demands. Moreover, leveraging these tools fosters a mindset of continual learning and provides avenues for remote education participation, peer interaction, and access to educational informational resources. For this policy's purposes, "digital resources" means District network and any device, hardware, software, website, database, or other technology used to access the Internet.

Blocking or filtering obscene, pornographic, or harmful information

Recognizing the dynamic nature of the digital landscape, wherein students may encounter materials of varying content, including potentially harmful content, the District will make reasonable measures to safeguard students from accessing material deemed obscene, pornographic, or otherwise detrimental to minors, in accordance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). Students shall take responsibility and use good judgment when using District digital resources to avoid exposure to inappropriate material.

No expectation of privacy

District-owned digital resources are intended for educational purposes and are subject to monitoring and oversight by the District. Students should be aware that there is no expectation of privacy when accessing or using District digital resources or within the District network. Students' District-provided devices will be filtered at all times. Student personal devices are filtered while on the District network.

Unauthorized and unacceptable uses

Students shall use District technology devices in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Unauthorized and unacceptable uses of digital resources encompass a spectrum of behaviors, including, but not limited to, accessing, creating, or transmitting material unrelated to educational objectives. All material and information accessed/received through the District network shall remain the property of Academy District 20 and subject to disclosure under the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

No student shall access, create, transmit, retransmit, generate using an artificial intelligence tool, or forward material or information:

- that promotes violence or advocates destruction of property including, but not limited to, access to information concerning the manufacturing or purchasing of destructive devices or weapons
- that is not related to District education objectives

- that contains pornographic, obscene, or other sexually oriented materials, either as pictures or writings, that are intended to stimulate erotic feelings or appeal to prurient interests in nudity, sex or excretion
- that harasses, threatens, demeans, or promotes violence or hatred against another person or group of persons in violation of the District's nondiscrimination policies
- for personal profit, financial gain, advertising, commercial transaction, or political purposes
- that plagiarizes the work of another
- that uses inappropriate or profane language likely to be offensive to others in the school community
- that is knowingly false or could be construed as intending to purposely damage another person's reputation
- in violation of any federal or state law or District policy, including but not limited to copyrighted material and material protected by trade secret
- that contains information protected by confidentiality laws
- using another individual's Internet or electronic communications account
- that impersonates another or transmits through an anonymous remailer
- that accesses fee services without specific permission from the system administrator
- as a means for cyberbullying (policy JICDE)

Security and safety

Ensuring the security and safety of digital resources is of paramount importance. Students must promptly report any security concerns they encounter while using digital resources to designated District personnel. Additionally, students are prohibited from engaging in activities that compromise the integrity or functionality of District networks or digital resources, including acts of vandalism, hacking attempts or unauthorized access attempts which includes using another person's password or any other identifier. Inappropriate use or vandalism against District networks or digital resources are subject to disciplinary measures, including loss of the digital resource, loss of network privileges, suspension, expulsion, or civil or criminal liability under applicable laws.

In the interest of student safety and security, schools integrate digital citizenship and media literacy skills into instruction as part of their accreditation process. Students are reminded to exercise caution if sharing personally identifiable information (PII) and to refrain from arranging in-person meetings with individuals encountered online.

District Provided Devices (DPD)

Students must handle and maintain District-provided devices carefully to avoid fines for damages. They are responsible for the safekeeping, proper use, and accountability of these devices, including refraining from putting stickers or other modifications on the device. Damage or loss of devices must be reported within 24 hours, and if a student leaves the District, the device must be returned at the time of disenrollment. Student DPDs must not be taken out of the country.

Student use is a privilege

The District emphasizes that the use of digital resources, including access to the Internet, electronic communications, artificial intelligence, and digital media services, is a privilege contingent upon responsible and ethical conduct. Failure to adhere to established usage guidelines may result in the loss of access privileges, restitution for damages incurred, and disciplinary action in accordance with District policy.

School district makes no warranties

Students and parents/guardians are required to annually review the District's Student Use of the Internet, Electronic Communications, and Digital Media (JS E 1) before accessing Internet, electronic communications, or digital media accounts. It is important to note that the District assumes no liability for the content accessed or the quality of information received via digital resources, and students utilize such resources at their own risk.

Students with Life-Threatening Allergies (administrative policy JLCDA)

The District recognizes that many students are being diagnosed with potentially life-threatening food allergies. To best protect students and to meet state law requirements concerning the management of food allergies and anaphylaxis among students, the District requires the following:

Health care plan

The school nurse, or a school administrator in consultation with the school nurse and parent, shall develop and implement a health care plan (plan) for each student with a diagnosis of a potentially life-threatening food allergy. The plan shall address communication between the school and emergency medical services, including instructions for emergency medical responders.

Reasonable accommodations

Reasonable accommodations shall be made to reduce the student's exposure to agents that may cause anaphylaxis within the school environment. If a student qualifies as a student with a disability in accordance with federal law, the student's Section 504 plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), and/or other plan developed in accordance with applicable federal law shall meet this requirement.

Access to emergency medications

Emergency medications for treatment of the student's food allergies or anaphylaxis need not be locked, but shall be kept in a secure location away from the reach of students. The student's parent/legal guardian shall supply the school with the medication needed for treatment of the student's food allergies or anaphylaxis, unless the student is authorized to self-carry such medication in accordance with administrative policy JLCD, Administering Medications to Students. Even if the student is authorized to self-carry, the parent is strongly encouraged to provide self-injectable epinephrine to the school.

Staff training

The principal or designee, in consultation with the school nurse, shall determine the appropriate recipients of emergency anaphylaxis treatment training, which shall include those staff directly involved during the school day with a student who has a known food allergy.

Suspension, Expulsion and Denial of Admission (administrative policy JKD/JKE):

Academy District 20 shall provide due process of law to students, parents/guardians and school personnel through written procedures consistent with law for the suspension or expulsion of students and the denial of admission.

The Board and its designee(s) may consider the following factors in determining whether to suspend or expel a student:

1. the student's age;
2. the student's disciplinary history;
3. the student's eligibility as a student with a disability;
4. the seriousness of the violation committed by the student;
5. the threat posed to any student or staff; and
6. the likelihood that a lesser intervention would properly address the violation.

The following are grounds for suspension or expulsion under state law and/or District policy:

1. Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority.
2. Willful destruction or defacing of school property.
3. Behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel, including behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the child or to other children. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the school district's authority to suspend a student with a disability for a length of time consistent with federal law.
4. Declaration of the student as a habitually disruptive student, pursuant to administrative policy JK and its accompanying administrative procedure.
 - a. For purposes of this paragraph, "habitually disruptive student" means a child who has caused a material and substantial disruption three times during the course of the school year on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at school activities.
 - b. The student and the parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian shall have been notified in writing of each disruption counted toward declaring the student as habitually disruptive and the student and parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian shall have been notified in writing and by telephone or other means at the home or the place of employment of the parent or legal guardian of the definition of "habitually disruptive student."
5. The use, possession, or sale of a drug or controlled substance.
6. The commission of an act that, if committed by an adult, would be robbery or assault other than third degree assault under C.R.S. 18-3-204 if committed by an adult
7. Possession of a dangerous weapon without the authorization of the school or the school district.
8. Repeated interference with a school's ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.
9. Carrying, bringing, using, actively displaying, or threatening with the use of a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on school property without the authorization of the principal or designee.
10. Failure to comply with the immunization requirements as specified in Colorado law and administrative policy JLCB unless one of the following has been provided: a written authorization signed by a parent/guardian requesting local public health officials administer the immunizations; a certificate of medical exemption; a certificate of completion of the online education module administered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; or a certificate of non-medical exemption. Any exclusion for such failure to comply shall not be recorded as a disciplinary action but may be noted in the student's permanent record with an appropriate explanation.

Grounds for denial of admission

Admission to Academy District 20 may be denied a student for the following reasons:

1. Graduation from the 12th grade of any school or receipt of any document evidencing completion of the equivalent of a secondary curriculum;
2. Failure to meet the requirements of age, by a child who has reached the age of 6 at a time after the beginning of the school year, as fixed by the Board of Education;
3. Having been expelled from any school district during the preceding 12 months;
4. Not being a resident of the District, unless otherwise entitled to attend under Colorado law;
5. Behavior in another school district during the preceding twelve months that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or of school personnel; or
6. Failure to comply with the immunization requirements of Colorado law and administrative policy JLCB. Any suspension, expulsion, or denial of admission for such failure to comply shall not be

recorded as a disciplinary action but may be noted in the student's immunization record with an appropriate explanation.

Expulsion or Denial of Admission for unlawful sexual behavior or crime of violence

When a petition is filed in juvenile court or district court that alleges a student between the ages of 12 to 18 years has committed an offense that would constitute unlawful sexual behavior or a crime of violence if committed by an adult, basic identification information, as defined in state law, along with the details of the alleged delinquent act or offense, is required by law to be provided immediately to the school district in which the juvenile is enrolled.

The information shall be used by the superintendent to determine whether the student has exhibited behavior that is detrimental to the safety, welfare, and morals of the other students or school personnel and whether educating the student in the school may disrupt the learning environment in the school, provide a negative example for other students, or create a dangerous and unsafe environment for students, teachers, and other school personnel. The District shall take appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion, in accordance with the student code of conduct and related policies.

The superintendent may determine to wait until the conclusion of court proceedings to consider expulsion, in which case it shall be the responsibility of the District to provide an alternative educational program for the student as specified in state law.

Tobacco Free Schools (administrative policy ADC):

To promote the general health, welfare and well-being of students and staff, smoking, chewing, vaping or any other use of any tobacco product by staff, students and members of the public is prohibited on all school property

Possession of any tobacco product by students is also prohibited on school property.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

1. "School property" means all property owned, leased, rented, or otherwise used or contracted for by a school including but not limited to the following:
 - a. All indoor facilities and interior portions of any building or other structure used for District-enrolled students for instruction, educational or library services, routine health care, daycare or early childhood development services, as well as for administration, support services, maintenance, or storage.
 - b. All school grounds over which the school exercises control including areas surrounding any building, playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation areas and parking areas.
 - c. All vehicles used by the District for transporting students, staff, visitors or other persons.
 - d. At a school sanctioned activity or event.
2. "Tobacco product" means:
 - a. Any product that contains nicotine or tobacco or is derived from tobacco and is intended to be ingested or inhaled by or applied to the skin of an individual, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco; and
 - b. Any electronic or other device that can be used to deliver nicotine to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, hookah, vape pen or vape MODS (mechanical modified delivery systems) which produce vapor from an electronic cigarette or other similar device.
 - c. "Tobacco product" does not include any product that has been approved by the appropriate federal agency as a tobacco use cessation product.
3. "Use" means lighting, chewing, smoking, ingesting or application of any tobacco product

Signs will be posted in prominent places on all school property to notify the public that smoking or other use of tobacco products is prohibited in accordance with state law and District policy. This policy will be published in all staff member and student handbooks, posted on bulletin boards and announced in staff meetings.

Any member of the general public considered by the superintendent or designee to be in violation of this policy will be instructed to leave school district property.

Disciplinary measures for students who violate this policy will include in-house detention, revocation of privileges and exclusion from extracurricular activities. Repeated violations may result in suspension from school. In accordance with state law, no student will be expelled solely for tobacco use.

Use of Physical Intervention and Restraint (administrative policy JKA and JKA R)

To maintain a safe learning environment, District staff members may, within the scope of their employment duties and consistent with state law, use physical intervention and restraint with students in accordance with District policy and accompanying regulation. JKA E 3 represents the process that must be followed when a student or the student's parent/guardian wishes to file a complaint about the use of restraint or seclusion by a District staff member.

Weapons in School (administrative policy JICI):

Possession, use, and/or threatened use of a dangerous weapon by students is detrimental to the welfare and safety of the students and school personnel within the District. Using, possessing or threatening to use a dangerous weapon on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event, and off school property when the conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event without the authorization of the school or school district is prohibited.

As used in this policy, "dangerous weapon" means:

A firearm

- A firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;
- The frame or receiver of any weapon described above;
- Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
- Any destructive device.
 - A "destructive device" is defined as any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas including a bomb, grenade, or rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or device similar to the devices described above.
 - Any pellet gun, BB gun, or other device, whether operational or not, designed to propel projectiles by spring action or compressed air;
 - A fixed-blade knife with a blade that exceeds three inches in length;
 - A spring-loaded knife or a pocket knife with a blade exceeding three and one-half inches in length;
 - Any knife or cutting instrument possessed without authorization of school officials;
 - Any device capable of temporarily immobilizing a person by the infliction of an electrical charge, including stun guns or taser guns; or
 - Any object, device, instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or inanimate, that is used or intended to be used to inflict death or serious bodily injury including, but not

limited to, a slingshot, a bludgeon, nun chucks, brass knuckles, or artificial knuckles of any kind.

- Students who use, possess, or threaten to use a dangerous weapon in violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with District policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions, and other disciplinary interventions.

Carrying, using, actively displaying or threatening with the use of a firearm facsimile that could reasonably be mistaken for an actual firearm on District property, when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the District or one of its schools, during a school-sponsored or District-sponsored activity or event, and off school property when such conduct has a reasonable connection to school or any District curricular or non-curricular event without the authorization of the school or school district is prohibited. Students who violate this policy provision may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion, in accordance with Board policy concerning student suspensions, expulsions and other disciplinary interventions.

In accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 7961 ("Gun Free Schools Act"), a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to a school, or to have possessed a firearm at a school, shall be expelled for not less than one year, except that the superintendent may modify this requirement in writing for a student on a case-by-case basis.

School administrators shall consider violations of this policy on a case-by-case basis to determine whether suspension, expulsion or any other disciplinary action is appropriate based upon the individual facts and circumstances involved.

Wellness, School (administrative policy ADF):

Academy District 20 promotes healthy schools by supporting student wellness, including good nutrition, regular physical activity, and social-emotional well-being as part of the total learning environment and encourages school health teams in every building.

Part 3: Parent Rights and Responsibilities

Summative Statement

In Academy District 20, we are committed to honoring the rights of parents and promoting parental involvement in the District. We believe that parents and guardians are each student's first and most important teachers and have the first priority in leading their student's educational journey. We value their voice in every aspect of their student's experience and have created this document to serve as a guide outlining the shared rights and responsibilities of parents, guardians, and the school.

We partner together to ensure safe, supportive, high-quality learning environments for every student to ensure they have the knowledge, skills and character to succeed into the future. This document summarizes what families can expect (rights) and what we ask of them (responsibilities), aligned to current policies and procedures.

Parental Rights Section

Safe, Supportive Schools Rights

Every learner deserves safety, dignity, and connectedness. The District works to prohibit and address bullying and discrimination, follow fair discipline processes, report concerns quickly, and uphold conduct that supports a positive school climate.

Parents shall:

- Have clear information about campus safety practices, including visitor check-in, ID requirements, and controlled entry.
- Understand the role of School Resource Officers (SROs) and how to submit anonymous tips via Safe2Tell.
- Have timely, lawful notifications about safety incidents as permitted by policy and privacy laws.
- Be provided with learning environments for their students that are free from unlawful discrimination and harassment. (AC; notice & compliance officer info)
- Be provided with environments for their students that are protected from bullying, violent or aggressive behavior, and weapons. (JICDE; JICDD; JICI)
- Have clear, fair discipline with due process for students. (JKD/JKE)
- Be notified when a staff member has been accused of specific criminal offenses. (KDBA)

Welcoming Environment & Communication Rights

A welcoming environment, powered by clear and accessible communication strengthens partnership. The District works to share timely information, resolve concerns, and ultimately provide the most welcoming environment possible to support learning for students.

Parents shall:

- Have accessible digital content and tools that meet Colorado standards (e.g., Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1/2.2) and a process to request alternatives if needed. (ACE)
- Receive timely, respectful responses to concerns—including a clear pathway for complaints/appeals. (KE; KFA)
- Have opportunities to engage as partners in learning and school life. (KB; KBA Title I)

Academic Excellence Rights

Rigorous, standards-aligned instruction helps every student thrive. The District provides transparent curriculum review, handles sensitive topics with balance, and offers established procedures for requesting alternatives or challenging materials.

Parents shall:

- Have an environment for students that has high-quality instruction aligned to the Colorado Academic Standards, reviewed on a regular cycle. (IIAC & procedures)
- Have an environment for students that has objective, age-appropriate instruction on complex or controversial topics with space for respectful questions and discourse. (IMB/IMB-R)
- Have a clear process to request alternative materials or to challenge content, including library materials, with forms made available upon request. (KEC; IJL)
 - And have the ability to have their students not participate in programming that does not align with family values.
 - This includes Human Sexuality curriculum, in which families directly select participation for their students via school-based opt-in forms. Families that do not select a participation are opted out of this curriculum for their students.
- Have supplemental educational resources approved and governed by age-appropriate restrictions. (IIAC E-1)
- Have clear attendance expectations and prompt outreach when absences occur. (JH; JHB)
- Have annual notice of no-tuition concurrent-enrollment options, anticipated textbook/fee costs, and transferability of credits. (Concurrent Enrollment policy)

Data Privacy Rights

Student data must be protected and used responsibly. The District honors the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), provides annual notices, safeguards privacy, and offers opt-out options for families where possible.

Parents shall:

- Have a FERPA right to inspect and request amendment of education records, control disclosure of directory information, and file complaints. (JRA/JRC; JRA/JRC-E-1)
- The ability to opt out of disclosure to military recruiters. (JRA/JRC-E-2)
- Have advanced notice and opt-outs for protected information surveys, and certain exams or data collection. (PPRA and other applicable policy content)
- The right to request video review via the established video process. Note: Safety/security video may include other students and is generally protected by FERPA.

Health, Wellness & Student Medications Rights

We believe healthy students learn best. The District follows health plans and medication procedures, shares essential medical information with families, complies with immunization requirements or lawful exemptions, and provides health and safety supports when needed.

Parents shall:

- Have a school environment where support services are offered and available at each school; with the ability to contact the counselor or office to access support.
 - Confidentiality has limits under FERPA and safety laws; staff will communicate when those limits apply.
- Have a school environment with safe administration of medications at school with nurse oversight; documented storage and record-keeping. (JLCD)

- Have a school environment with clear allergy/anaphylaxis plans; permission to self-carry epi-pens/inhalers when authorized; availability of emergency opiate antagonists. (JLCDA; JLCD; naloxone policy)
- Have access to immunization information, required forms, and exemptions as provided by law. (JLCB; JLCB-E1/E2)
- Have parameters for medical marijuana administration to qualified students. (JLCDB)

Technology, Digital Citizenship & Data Security Rights

Technology should expand learning while protecting students. The District and its parents, staff, and students shall use devices and accounts responsibly, practice digital citizenship, report misuse or security issues, and comply with network safety expectations.

Parents shall:

- Have a school environment with age-appropriate digital citizenship and device-use training will be provided to students.
- Have a school environment with reasonable protection from harmful online content on District networks and devices (CIPA compliance). (JS; ACE)

Transportation & Activities Rights

Safe travel and activities enrich the student experience. The District and its parents, staff, and students shall follow transportation rules, meet eligibility and conduct expectations for athletics and activities, and communicate needs or concerns in advance.

Parents shall:

- Have clear guidelines for eligibility for athletics and activities that aligns with District policy and CHSAA guidelines; academics and attendance are factored into eligibility.
- Have a school environment free from hazing/harassment; this behavior may result in both activity and disciplinary consequences.
- Have access to student transportation per District policy; with clear safety expectations on buses and at stops. (EEA; EEA-E; cross-refs in JECC)
- Have clear rules for athletics/activities participation and assignments. (IGDJ and regulations)
- Have a school environment with activities such as clubs that are governed by appropriate rules and review by administrators at each site. (JJA)
- Have safe, supervised student field trips with advanced information. (IJOA & exhibits)

Choice, Enrollment & Family Arrangements Rights

Transparent enrollment processes support family choice and student stability. The District and its parents, staff, and students shall provide accurate documentation, follow placement and transfer procedures, and honor lawful custody and records access.

Parents shall:

- Have clear processes for administrative transfer and choice enrollment, subject to capacity and safety. (JECC; JFAA cross-refs)
- Have a District that respects legal custody arrangements and access to records consistent with court orders. (KBBA)

Parental Responsibilities Section

Safe, Supportive Schools Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Follow posted visitor procedures (check-in, ID, badge) and respect staff directions during drills and emergencies.
- Utilize Safe2Tell for threats to student or school safety. Please report concerns to school contacts or Safe2Tell promptly.
- Treat others with dignity; follow school rules and staff directions. (JKD/JKE)
- Report safety concerns, including cyberbullying. (JICDE; JS)
- Ensure students follow dress, appearance and behavioral expectations that support a safe, orderly school.

Welcoming Environment & Communication Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Keep contact information current; and review school and district communications including regularly scheduled school and district newsletters.
- Use the District's concern/complaint process constructively and at the lowest level first. (KE/KE-R)

Academic Excellence Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Discuss coursework with students; use established procedures to request alternatives or lodge challenges when needed. (IMB-R; KEC)
- Ensure regular, on-time student attendance; notify the school of absences; participate in plans if attendance becomes a concern. (JH; chronic absenteeism provisions)

Data Privacy Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Review annual notices; submit directory information or recruiter opt-out forms by stated deadlines. (JRA/JRC E-1/E-2)

Health, Wellness & Student Medications Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Provide required health documentation and medications; follow medication and health-plan procedures. (JLCD; JLCB)

Technology, Digital Citizenship & Data Security Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Report nonfunctioning District-provided devices via the classroom teacher, then to the help desk and finally to the District for support to avoid instructional disruption.
- Use District devices and accounts ethically; protect privacy; follow the Student Responsible Use rules (annually reviewed). (JS; cross-refs)
- Report security or misuse concerns immediately. (JS)

Transportation & Activities Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Follow transportation safety rules; adhere to CHSAA/District eligibility and conduct expectations in activities. (IGDJ regs)
- Submit permissions and required forms on time; meet academic/behavioral expectations for participation. (IJOA)

Choice, Enrollment & Family Arrangements Responsibilities

Parents will:

- Provide accurate residency/custody documentation; follow transfer and appeal steps in policy. (JECC; KBBA)

Shared Responsibility & Additional References

Shared Responsibility on Raising Concerns

Most issues are solved closest to where they arise. The District instructs families to address concerns beginning with the appropriate staff member, move to school leadership if needed, and use the District's posted complaint or appeal process when an issue remains unresolved.

Established Process:

1. Start with the staff member closest to the issue.
2. If unresolved, contact the school principal/department lead.
3. Escalate per policy to the principal's supervisor or District office.
4. If still unresolved, follow KE/KE-R to the Superintendent; the Board is the final step for public complaints, with separate KEC procedures for instructional resources. (KE; KEC)

Important Notes:

- Be Respectful, Constructive and Timely—in meetings, emails, and online spaces.
- Public-conduct expectations apply at school and district events.
- Staff are not available 24/7 and do not typically have the ability to respond outside of their scheduled workday.

Quick Reference to Core Policies (non-exhaustive)

- Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity: AC (+ AC-E notice)
- Bullying/Violence/Weapons: JICDE; JICDD; JICI; KFA (public conduct)
- Discipline/Due Process: JKD/JKE (+ Students with Disabilities procedure)
- Student Records/FERPA: JRA/JRC; JRA/JRC-E-1; JRA/JRC-E-2 (military opt-out)
- Instructional Materials/Challenges: IIAC (+ R-1/R-2); IMB (+ IMB-R); IJL; KEC
- Parent Engagement: KB; KBA (Title I)
- Accessibility: ACE (Digital Accessibility)
- Technology Use: JS (Student Use of the Internet, Electronic Communications & Digital Media)
- Attendance: JH; JHB (truancy)
- Health & Medications: JLCD; JLCDA; JLCB (+ E1/E2); JLCDB; naloxone provisions
- Transportation: EEA (+ EEA-E); JECC cross-refs
- Field Trips: IJOA (+ exhibits)
- Athletics/Activities: IGDJ (and regs)
- Custody: KBBA