



STARR DETROIT ACADEMY

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

2014-2015

Starr Detroit Academy is dedicated to the mission of preparing students for academic mastery, college, work and life.

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I. FOREWARD

The primary goal of Starr Detroit Academy is to create a positive learning environment in which all students are provided opportunity to grow academically and socially. In order to attain this goal there must be a shared commitment among parents, staff and students to understand and accept a balance between individual freedom and the limitations of responsible behavior.

The Student Code of Conduct (“Code”) was developed to answer any of the commonly asked questions that you and your parents may have during the school year about your responsibilities as a student within Starr Detroit Academy. The Code contains important information that you should know. Become familiar with the contents and keep the Code available for reference. If you have any questions that you believe are not addressed by the Code, please talk to your teachers and/or principal.

The Code summarizes the current status of Michigan law as it pertains to student conduct, and more specifically, the subsequent discipline that may be imposed when students engage in certain types of unacceptable behavior. The Code also contains many of the official policies and administrative guidelines that the Board of Education and the School have adopted. This Code, in immediate effect, supersedes any prior Code and/or other written material on the same subject.

This Code does not equate to an irrevocable contractual commitment to the student, but only reflects the current status of the law, Board policies and School rules as of June 30, 2014. If the law or any of the policies or administrative guidelines referenced herein are revised after June 30, 2014, the language in the most current policy or administrative guideline prevails.

II. STARR DETROIT ACADEMY RESPECT CODE

Mutual respect among all members of our school community is the cornerstone of our interaction and behavior. We acknowledge the dignity and worth of one another. We strive to create a welcoming atmosphere by our courtesy to others and our conduct.

Students and staff of Starr Detroit Academy have the right to be physically safe. In order to enjoy this right, staff and students have the following responsibilities:

1. to refrain from harming other people or their belongings; and
2. to value school property and help maintain a clean and safe environment.

In addition, students and staff have the right to be emotionally safe. This right can only be maintained if the acceptance of self and others is promoted and consideration and/or sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others is honored.

Further, the right of students and staff to communicate their needs and feelings is also valued within Starr Detroit Academy. However, each individual has the responsibility of expressing him/herself in a constructive, non-threatening manner. If a student offends another individual via his/her communication, it is expected that he/she will attempt to make amends with the offended individual with an adult present to mediate.

III. STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A major component of the educational program at Starr Detroit Academy is to prepare students to become responsible citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accord with established standards. The School expects each student to do the following:

1. abide by National, State, and local laws as well as the rules of the School;
2. respect the civil rights of others;
3. act courteously to adults and fellow students;
4. be prompt to school and attentive in class;
5. work cooperatively with others when involved in accomplishing a common goal, regardless of the other's ability, gender, race, religion, height, weight, age, sexual orientation, familial status, marital status, disability, or ethnic background;
6. complete assigned tasks on time and as directed;
7. help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly and productive; and
8. act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and the School.

In addition to the above, the School also recognizes that students cannot be successful in their educational endeavors without the strong support and/or involvement of parent(s)/guardian(s). To that end, it is imperative that parent(s) and/or guardian(s) commit to the following:

1. support the school's effort to provide a safe and orderly learning environment;
2. ensure that the student attends school regularly and on time;
3. provide for the general health and welfare of the student;
4. provide a home atmosphere and a study area suited for learning and the development of good study habits;
5. cooperate with school personnel and community agencies in solving their student's problems;
6. work within the existing structure of the school to address concerns; and
7. know and support school and School rules and policies.

A. STUDENT SAFETY

School safety is the responsibility of both the staff and students. All staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire and tornado drills, and accident reporting procedures. Should a student become aware of any dangerous situation or accident, he/she must notify any staff person immediately.

B. STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES TO STUDENTS

School staff have the following responsibilities to students:

1. provide a positive atmosphere for learning and teaching;
2. accept students as important and worthwhile individuals;
3. help students as group members to act in responsible ways;
4. enforce the rules and policies of the school consistently and fairly;

5. encourage students to participate in classroom, extracurricular and other school related activities; and
6. participate in the formulation of rules and procedures in the school.

C. TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES TO STUDENTS

In addition to the aforementioned responsibilities of staff, teachers within at Starr Detroit Academy have the following responsibilities to students:

1. schedule conferences with students, parents and other school personnel in an effort to understand and resolve academic and behavioral problems before they become serious matters;
2. keep parents informed of a child's progress and/or problems; and
3. provide homework to students who are out of school for excused absences.

D. BUILDING ADMINISTRATORS' RESPONSIBILITIES TO STUDENTS

Building Administrators within the School have the following responsibilities to students:

1. provide leadership, supervision and evaluation of the total educational program;
2. listen to and advise students, faculty and parents;
3. enforce fairly the policies of the School;
4. use appropriate methods for handling discipline problems to ensure that a student's rights are respected;
5. maintain proper disciplinary measures that protect the rights of the individual to learn in a safe and orderly environment; and
6. ensure that school rules and due process procedures are clearly presented to students, parents and faculty.

E. THE SDA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO STUDENTS

The Board of Director's has the following responsibilities to students:

1. ensure that school employees implement local Board policies and other Board recommendations relative to the Student Code of Conduct; and
2. act on recommendation for expulsion and discipline.

F. STUDENT AND PARENT COMPLAINTS

The policy and procedures in this section **DO NOT** apply to action(s) that may be taken against students and/or the due process rights associated with said action(s). Thus, to the extent that parents and/or students have complaints about student disciplinary issues, the procedures set forth under Section III of this Code should be reviewed and followed. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as limiting the right of any student or parent to discuss complaints with appropriate school administrators. No reprisals of any kind shall be taken by anyone against any student as a result of initiating this process.

The School is committed to promoting understanding and equitable resolution of non-disciplinary concerns that may arise during the school year. To that end the procedures outlined below have been developed to assist in bringing problems to the attention of involved school personnel, as well as appeal procedures for use if problems are not resolved satisfactorily. Parents and students are encouraged to initially make every effort to resolve concerns with the school principal. This process should begin with an informal conference between the staff member involved or the principal. Open and effective lines of communication should be offered by all concerned. The procedure below is to be utilized only in the event the informal conference fails to resolve the problem.

1. Students and parents should first attempt to settle concerns by direct contact with the staff member involved. This may be accomplished by telephone, in writing, or by scheduling a conference with the student, parent and staff member.
2. If the parent and/or student has been unable to resolve the problem or is not satisfied with the decision made by the staff member, the parent and/or student may contact the principal to schedule a conference.
3. If the parent and/or student are not satisfied with the decision made by the principal, the parent and/or student may appeal to the hearing officer. This request for an appeal must be in writing and should include any pertinent facts, the principal's decision and the remedy requested. The hearing officer will review all information and may schedule meetings with the parent and/or student, and building principal (together and/ or separately). The hearing officer will make a decision that is in line with School policies and student interest.
4. If the Hearing Officer upholds the decision of the school principal, the parent and/or student may contact the Board of Education in writing. The Board will consider all information provided and may or may not grant the hearing. If the Board does not grant a hearing, the decision of the Hearing Officer is final and no further appeal process will be considered.

G. PERSONAL PROPERTY

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. Therefore, students are encouraged not to bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, large amounts of money and the like, are tempting targets for theft and/or extortion. The School cannot be responsible for their safekeeping and will not be liable for loss or damage to personal valuables, nor will school personnel be able to search for missing items.

H. USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Students must receive the permission of the teacher before using any equipment or materials in the classroom and the permission of an administrator to use any other school equipment or facility. Students will be held responsible for the proper use and safe keeping of any equipment or facility they are allowed to use. Students must also adhere to the School's Computer Technology and Networks policy (as outlined in the Student/Family Handbook) when utilizing hardware and software that has been placed in School offices, labs or classrooms.

IV. STUDENT DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Students who violate the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to discipline, which may include but is not limited to suspension and/or expulsion from the School. In all cases, the School shall attempt to make discipline prompt and equitable and to have the punishment match the severity of the incident. The imposition of discipline however, except as specifically mandated by State or Federal law, is within the sound discretion of staff and administration.

If a student and/or parent disagree with any disciplinary action that is imposed, every effort should be made to resolve these concerns with the principal. Nothing in this policy, however, should be construed as limiting the right of any student or parent to discuss complaints with appropriate school administrators.

It is important to remember that the Student Code of Conduct applies to students traveling to and from school, at school, on school property, at school sponsored events and on school transportation. If misconduct occurs during any of these times and/or events, a student shall be subject to two types of discipline: formal or informal.

A. INFORMAL DISCIPLINE

Informal discipline takes place within the school. It may include the following:

1. Written assignments;
2. Change of seating or location;
3. Detention;
4. In school restriction;
5. Work detail/school community service;
6. Time-Out or In-School Suspension

B. FORMAL DISCIPLINE

Formal discipline removes the student from school. It includes suspension for up to five (5) school days, long-term suspensions for ten (10) to eighty-nine (11-89) days, expulsion for ninety (90) up to one hundred eighty (180) school days, and in certain extreme or legally mandated circumstances, permanent expulsion. Before a student may be suspended or expelled from school, there are specific procedures that must be followed.

1. Due Process Rights – Suspension

According to Starr Detroit Academy policy and school law, the Director of Schools and Principal, or his/her designee is delegated the authority to temporarily separate or suspend a student from the School. Suspensions of more than five (5) days but less than eleven (11) require a Due Process by the Principal or designee. Removals of students for more than ten (10) days requires a due process hearing before a school district hearing officer appointed by the superintendent but acting on behalf of the Board of Education. That decision can be appealed within five (5) school days. In an effort to provide fair and equitable treatment of students under such actions, the following procedures will be followed:

- a. A student will be fully informed of the incident in which he/she is accused of violating school policy or the Student Code of Conduct. Students will be given the opportunity to explain his or her version of the incident to an administrator investigating the incident.
- b. The parent/guardian will be notified immediately by telephone and a formal letter will be mailed if the student is to be suspended from the school. In order to meet this requirement, it is the parent's responsibility that the school has a working phone number. Written notation for the suspension will be logged in the student's discipline file.
- c. The student's right to have copies of all documents to be used in the hearing and a list of all witnesses slated to testify.
- d. The student's right to present evidence on his or her behalf.
- e. The student's right to an impartial hearing.
- f. The student's right to rebut adverse testimony.
- g. The student's right to be represented by qualified counsel at the hearing.
- h. The student's right to a record of the hearing.
- i. The student's right to a appeal:
 - Appeal procedures available to parent/guardians include:
 1. As a first step, parent/guardian should request a conference with the School Director or Principal who issued the suspension. The Director of Schools/Principal will affirm or modify the terms of the discipline within two school days of the conference.
 2. Within five school days from the Administrator's decision, the parent/guardian may appeal the decision to the Director of School or Principal. (Suspensions 3 days or less may not be appealed.) The Director of School Principal will affirm or modify the decision within two days from hearing the appeal.
 3. The Director of Schools or Principal has the final authority in matters of suspension.

2. Due Process – Expulsions/Long Term Suspensions¹

When the School Director or Principal determines that a student has committed an offense(s) which is (are) grounds for expulsion, the Principal or designee will forward the appropriate misconduct report to the Starr Detroit Academy Board of Directors, and the assigned hearing officer. The student will be suspended for up to 5 school days pending an expulsion hearing conducted by a hearing officer designated by the Starr Detroit Academy Board of Directors. After the expulsion hearing, the hearing officer will then make a written report within two (2) days to the Starr Detroit Academy Board of Directors summarizing the grounds for expulsion and the evidence presented at the hearing and making a recommendation as to whether to expel the student and, if so, for what period of time. Students can be expelled for periods of time from 5 days to permanently, depending on the severity of the offense. The Starr Detroit Academy Board of Directors will review the recommendation and determine whether to accept the conclusions of the

¹Michigan's mandatory expulsion law defines a dangerous weapon as a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over 3 inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles. See MCL 380.1313(4). It should be further noted that the School will not be required to expel a student for possessing a weapon if the student establishes in a clear and convincing manner at least one of the following: 1) the object or instrument was not possessed by the student for use as a weapon, or for direct or indirect delivery to another person for use as a weapon; 2) the weapon was not knowingly possessed by the student; 3) the student did not know or have reason to know that the object or instrument constituted a dangerous weapon; 4) the weapon was possessed at the suggestion, request, or direction of, or with the express permission of, school or police authorities. See MCL 380.1311(2).

hearing officer. The decision will be communicated to the parent and student within three (3) days of the hearing.

The parent and student will have the right to appeal the recommendation of the hearing officer within 5 days of written notification of the recommendation. The appeal should be in writing and sent along with any additional evidence to the Starr Detroit Academy Board of Directors who will deliver their final decision within 10 days of the recommendation of the hearing officer. The final decision shall be delivered by the most expedient means of communication identified by the Parent/Guardian or student at the hearing (telephone, e-mail, etc.) and shall also be delivered by certified mail.

Expulsion Steps in Order:

- a. Principal or designee recommends student for expulsion with a misconduct report to the Starr Detroit Academy Board of Directors and assigned hearing officer. Principal or designee contacts (minimum three attempts) parent to schedule an expulsion hearing, documents those contact efforts, and notifies parent of the expulsion hearing via certified mail.
- b. Principal or designee schedules expulsion hearing.
 1. Designated hearing officer will conduct expulsion hearing.
 2. Representatives of the principal may present evidence or witnesses.
 3. Parent is strongly urged to attend.
 4. Due process is afforded by student or parent being allowed to refute charges and present evidence.
 5. Parent may bring a representative or legal counsel to the hearing. Prior notice to the hearing officer is strongly encouraged.
- c. Hearing officer makes recommendation regarding expulsion to the Principal, and Starr Detroit Academy Board of Directors within two (2) days of the hearing. The Board makes its decision whether or not to accept the recommendation within three (3) days of the hearing and notifies the parent, principal of its final decision in writing.
- d. Parent or student may appeal recommendation in writing to the designated representative of Starr Detroit Academy within 5 days of notification of the Board decision.
- e. Parent or student may present an argument for the decision of the Starr Detroit Academy Board to be overturned at either the next scheduled Starr Detroit Academy Board meeting or a special meeting. Decisions by the Starr Detroit Academy Board of Directors are final, and there are no additional appeal opportunities.

3. Due Process – Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

C. SEARCH & SEIZURE

Search of a student and his/her possessions, including vehicles, may be conducted at any time the student is en route to and from school, is at school or is in attendance at any school related activity, provided there is reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of a law or school rules. A

search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student’s consent.

Students are provided lockers, desks, and other equipment in which to store materials. It should be clearly understood that this equipment is the property of the school and may be searched at any time if there is reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or school rules. Locks are not allowed at the school and if they are in place do not to prevent searches.

Anything that is found in the course of a search that may be evidence of a violation of school rules or the law may be taken and held or turned over to the police. The school reserves the right not to return items which have been confiscated. In the course of any search, students’ privacy rights will be respected regarding any items that are not illegal or against school policy.

Review of such information may be done by the School with or without the student’s knowledge or permission. The use of passwords does not guarantee confidentiality, and the School retains the right to access information in spite of a password. All passwords or security codes must be registered with the instructor. A student’s refusal to permit such access may be grounds for disciplinary action.

V. STUDENT CONDUCT

Each of the behaviors described below shall subject the student to disciplinary action, which may include suspension and/or expulsion from school. It is also important to note that attempts toward completion of any of the following acts will constitute a violation and may be punishable to the same extent as if the attempted act had been completed. And further, lying to staff or obstructing an investigation or the operation of the school may result in disciplinary consequences. Police involvement may also be necessary in some instances.

A. USE, POSSESSION, SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS

The school has a “Drug Free” zone that includes the school building, 1000 feet beyond the school building, any school related activity and transportation, i.e., buses that are provided by the School. This means that any activity— sale, possession, distribution or use of drugs, which includes but is not limited to, narcotics, marijuana, any controlled substance, anabolic or other steroids, inhalants, look-alike drugs, or over-the-counter medication is prohibited. Students shall be subject to suspension or expulsion for violation of prohibition.

B. USE, POSSESSION, SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The use, possession, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages within the school’s “drug free” school zone (i.e., the school building, 1000 ft. beyond the school building, any school related activity and transportation provided by the School) is expressly prohibited.

C. USE OF TOBACCO

Smoking and other tobacco uses are a danger to a student’s health and to the health of others. The school prohibits the sale, distribution, use or possession of any form of tobacco and/or tobacco

paraphernalia during school time or at any school activity. This includes inhaling or chewing a tobacco product and the smoking of electronic, vapor or substitute forms of cigarettes, clove cigarettes or other lighted smoking devices. This prohibition also applies when going to and from school and at school bus stops. Violations of this rule shall result in either suspension or expulsion.

D. STUDENT DISORDER/DEMONSTRATION

Students will not be denied their rights to freedom of expression, but the expression is not unlimited and it may not infringe on the rights of others. Disruption of any school activity will not be allowed. Students who feel there is need to organize some form of demonstration should contact the Principal to discuss the proper way to plan such an activity. Students who disrupt school activities as described above shall be subject to suspension or expulsion.

E. POSSESSION, SALE OR USE OF A WEAPON

A weapon includes conventional objects, whether operable or inoperable, like guns, pellet guns, knives, or club type implements. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. Criminal charges may be filed for this violation. Possession of a weapon shall subject a student to expulsion and possible permanent exclusion. It makes no difference whether or not the weapon belongs to someone else, unless the student can provide convincing evidence that the weapon was placed in the student's possession without his/her knowledge. If it can be confirmed that a student other than the one who possessed the weapon brought a weapon on School property, that student shall also be subject to the same disciplinary action.

State law mandates that a student be expelled from school if found guilty of this offense, subject to a petition for possible reinstatement (as outlined in Section III) if s/he brings onto or has in his/her possession on school property or at a school-related activity any of the following: a firearm², dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three (3) inches in length, a pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar or brass knuckles, or other devices designed to or likely to inflict bodily harm, including but not limited to, air guns and explosive devices. Under the law, a student expelled for possessing any of the above-referenced weapons may not attend another public school.

F. USE OF AN OBJECT AS A WEAPON

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to objects identified in #5 above, padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers or jewelry. Intentional injury to another can be a crime and could result in a lawsuit from the injured person.

Use of any of the objects identified in #5 above as a weapon will result in the expulsion of a student from the School. Use of any other object as a weapon shall result in either suspension or expulsion.

²A firearm is defined as any weapon from which a dangerous projectile may be propelled by using explosives, gas or air as a means of propulsion, except any smooth bore rifle or handgun designed and manufactured exclusively for propelling BB's not exceeding .177 caliber by means of spring, gas or air. See MCL 8.3t & 18 USC 921.

G. KNOWLEDGE OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS OR THREATS OF VIOLENCE

Because the Board believes that students, staff members and visitors are entitled to function in a safe school environment, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons (as defined in #5 above) or threats of violence to the principal. Failure to report such knowledge shall subject the student to discipline.

H. ARSON

Anything, such as fire, that endangers school property and its occupants will not be tolerated. Arson is a felony and thus, any student that engages in such conduct shall be subject to expulsion.

I. PHYSICALLY ASSAULTING (FIGHTING) A STAFF MEMBER/PERSON ASSOCIATED WITH THE SCHOOL

In accordance with State law, a student who physically assaults a School employee, volunteer or contractor while at school will be expelled regardless of whether the assault results in injury. Physical assault is defined as “intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.”

J. PHYSICALLY ASSAULTING (FIGHTING) A STUDENT

A student who physically assaults another student while at school shall be subject to suspension or expulsion, regardless of whether the assault results in injury.

K. VERBAL THREATS/BOMB THREATS

Verbal assault at school against a School employee, student, volunteer or contractor or making bomb threats or similar threats directed at a school building, property or a school related activity shall result in suspension or expulsion. Verbal assault is a communicated intent to inflict physical or other harm on another person, with a present intent and ability to act on the threat.

Students who are found guilty of making bomb threats shall be required to pay restitution to the School for any expense(s) incurred as a result of the following:

1. the City of Harper Wood’s police and/or fire department(s) being dispatched to school property; or
2. the use of School personnel/staff (beyond regular school hours) assisting in the search and/or seizure of purported bombs.

L. EXTORTION

Extortion is the use of threat, intimidation, force or deception to take or receive something from someone else. Extortion is against the law. Violations of this rule will result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension or expulsion.

M. GAMBLING

Gambling, including casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting and any other form of wagering, is prohibited. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved will also be banned from that activity. Violations of this rule shall subject a student to suspension or expulsion.

N. FALSIFICATION OF SCHOOLWORK, IDENTIFICATION, FORGERY

Students demonstrate integrity and pride by doing their own work on individual assignments and contributing their own work to team projects. Cheating and plagiarism (defined as stealing or copying something from another person's work) are serious offenses. Students caught cheating will receive a "zero" on the assignment. Students caught plagiarizing an assignment may be given one (1) opportunity to redo the assignment and submit it within three (3) days. The amount of credit for the make-up assignment is at the discretion of the teacher who assigned the original work. A student with repeated infractions for plagiarism may be denied the opportunity for resubmission of the assignment with teacher guidance at the discretion of the principal.

O. ACTIVATING THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND/OR MAKING FALSE REPORTS

A false emergency alarm, report or bomb threat endangers the safety forces that are responding, the citizens of the community and persons in the building. What may seem like a prank is a dangerous stunt. Violations of this rule shall subject a student to suspension or expulsion.

P. EXPLOSIVES

Explosives, fireworks and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, pipe bombs, bottle bombs, small firecrackers and poppers are forbidden and dangerous. Violations of this rule shall subject a student to suspension or expulsion.

Q. TRESPASSING

Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the school to restrict access on school property. If a student has been removed, suspended or expelled, the student is not allowed on school property without authorization of the principal. In addition, students may not enter school property at unauthorized times or areas of the school determined to be inappropriate. Violations of this rule shall subject a student to suspension or expulsion.

R. THEFTS AND POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

When a student is found guilty of stealing or acquiring school or someone else's property without consent, s/he will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Theft or possession of stolen property shall subject a student to suspension or expulsion.

S. DISOBEDIENCE/FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL

School staff is allowed, by law, to direct a student as would a parent. This applies to all staff, not just teachers. If given a reasonable direction by a staff member, the student is expected to comply. Disobedience shall subject a student to suspension and/or expulsion.

1. Refusing to Accept Discipline

The school may use informal discipline to permit the student to receive corrective action without being removed from school. When a student refuses to accept the discipline imposed for an infraction, the refusal shall result in a sterner action such as suspension or expulsion.

2. Aiding or Abetting Violation of School Rules

If a student assists another student in violating the Code, they will be disciplined and shall be subject to suspension or expulsion. Students are expected to resist peer pressure and exercise sound decision-making regarding their behavior.

3. Violation of Individual School/Classroom Rules

Each learning environment has different rules for students. Rules that are specific to a particular school and/or classroom are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to these rules, all of which will be consistent with the policies of the School. Persistent violations of rules shall subject a student to suspension or expulsion.

4. Cafeteria Misconduct

If a student fails to comply with lunchroom regulations, he/she shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include but is not limited to detention, suspension or expulsion.

5. Off-campus Misconduct in General

If a student engages in misconduct off-campus, which may include criminal activity or bullying, intimidation, theft, trespassing, fighting, or vandalism, he/she shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include detention, suspension or expulsion.

6. Habitual Persistent Misconduct

Students that habitually engage in misconduct as described within this section or any other provision with the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to discipline, which may include detention, suspension or expulsion.

T. DAMAGING PROPERTY

Vandalism and disregard for school property will not be tolerated. Student and/or Family will be financially responsible for any damages to school property. Violations shall subject a student to suspension or expulsion.

U. POSSESSION OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Students are not allowed to bring personal electronic devices to school without the permission of school administration. Cell phones must be powered off when students arrive at school and may be powered on when students leave school. Students are not allowed to use their cell phone to make calls, send text messages, or emails while on school campus or departing by bus. Students in violations of the rules may be subject to detention, suspension, or expulsion.

The School is not responsible for any lost electronic equipment.

V. HARASSMENT

Harassment of students is prohibited and will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate conduct by other students as well as any other person in the school environment, including employees, Board members, parents, guests, contractors, vendors and volunteers. It is the policy of the School to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. This policy applies to all activities on school property and to all school-sponsored activities, whether on or off school property.

Harassment is defined as inappropriate conduct that is repeated enough, or serious enough, to negatively affect a student's educational, physical or emotional well-being. This would include harassment based on any of the legally protected characteristics, such as gender, race, color, age, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation or disability. This policy, however, is not limited to these legal categories and includes any harassment that would negatively impact students. This would include such activities as stalking, bullying, name-calling, taunting, hazing, threatening gestures and other disruptive behaviors.

Any student who believes he/she has been or is the victim of harassment should immediately report the situation to a teacher, guidance counselor, the principal or assistant principal.

Every student should—and every staff member must—report any situation that they believe to be improper harassment of a student. Reports may be made to a building administrator.

If the investigation finds harassment occurred it will result in prompt and appropriate corrective action. This may include up to expulsion for students; up to discharge for employee; exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors; and removal from any officer position and/or a request to resign for Board members.

Retaliation against any person for complaining about harassment, or participating in a harassment investigation, is prohibited. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment. Intentionally false harassment reports, made to get someone in trouble, are also prohibited. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

The following definitions are provided for guidance only. If a student or other individual believes there has been harassment, regardless of whether it fits a particular definition, s/he should report it and allow the administration to determine the appropriate course of action.

1. Harassment in General

This is when unwelcome conduct or communication (as described above) becomes a factor in a student obtaining the benefit of an education.

2. Sexual Harassment—may include but is not limited to:
 - a. verbal harassment or abuse based on gender or sexual orientation;
 - b. pressure for sexual activity;
 - c. repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications;
 - d. unwelcome touching;
 - e. suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, safety, job or performance or public duties.
3. Bullying—intimidation of others by acts, such as but not limited to:
 - a. threatened or actual physical harm;
 - b. unwelcome physical contact;
 - c. threatening or taunting verbal, written or electronic communications;
 - d. taking or extorting money or property;
 - e. damaging or destroying property;
 - f. blocking or impeding student movement.
4. Hazing—any type of initiation procedure for any school related activity, which involves conduct such as but not limited to:
 - a. illegal activity, such as drinking or using drugs;
 - b. physical punishment or infliction of pain;
 - c. intentional humiliation or embarrassment;
 - d. dangerous activity;
 - e. activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress;
 - f. forced detention or kidnapping;
 - g. undressing or exposing one's genitalia.

W. CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT

In compliance with State law, the Board shall expel any student who commits criminal sexual conduct on School property, including school buses and other school transportation.

X. CRIMINAL ACTS

Any student engaging in any criminal act at or related to the school will be reported to law enforcement officials and shall also be subject to discipline by the school, which may include suspension or expulsion. Criminal acts include but are not limited to physical violence, gang related acts, illegal possession of a controlled substance, analogue or other intoxicants, trespassing, property crimes, i.e., theft or vandalism, which occurs in the school or within the community. It is not considered double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime), when a student is both disciplined for violation of school rules and punished by the courts for a crime as a result of the same incident.

Y. DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

1. Conduct which materially and substantially interferes with the educational process.
2. Horseplay: The act of bodily contact, such as pushing, pulling, tripping, etc. (short of injury and without intent to harm) in or on school property or going to or from school, including any activity under school sponsorship.
3. Malicious mischief including “pranks.” This could include disruption of performances and ceremonies with “catcalls,” paraphernalia and any actions used to distract and demean a student, employee, event or activity. Students who engage in any of the above referenced conduct shall be subject to suspension or expulsion.

Z. GANG BEHAVIOR/ACTIVITY/INSIGNIA

Gang behavior, activity and insignia will not be tolerated. Examples of gang behaviors or activities are those promoted or committed by organized groups which threaten the safety or well-being of persons or which are disruptive to the school environment.

Students wearing, carrying or displaying gang paraphernalia or exhibiting behaviors or gestures or using language which symbolize gang membership or causing and/or participating in activities which are designed to intimidate another student shall be subject to suspension or expulsion.

AA. GROSS MISBEHAVIOR

The act of deliberate or willful conduct detrimental to the normal functioning of a program or school related activity, which may include but is not limited to prohibited conduct as outlined within the Code, computer/internet misuse, gambling, open defiance, persistent disobedience and acts of poor judgment which either interrupt normal school routine or threaten the health, safety and welfare of others. If a student is found guilty of gross misbehavior he/she shall be subject to suspension or expulsion.