



PINELLAS PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Policies & Procedures

Amended on October 2, 2006

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Chapter 1: Foundation

1. Foundation

- 1.1. Mission Statement
 - 1.2. Organizational Structure
 - 1.3. Decision Making
 - 1.4. Non-discrimination
 - 1.5. Parental Involvement
-

- (1.1) **Mission Statement:** Our mission is to maintain and grow a learning center/school where emotionally mature and creative students can advance their studies in preparation for any secondary institution of learning they choose to attend. We strive to give every student the education he or she deserves and needs.
- (1.2) **Organizational Structure:** The school is controlled and run by the Board of Directors. The Board sets policies and guidelines for the school to follow, and then hires a Principal to carry out these policies, and maintain the day-to-day operations of the school. The Principal consults with the staff members in order to allow for the greatest possible staff participation in the decision making of the school.
- (1.3) **Decision Making:** The Board of Directors is responsible for setting the budget, establishing school wide policies and overseeing the general operation of the school. It is the Principal's responsibility to ensure these policies are carried out, and to develop a system that ensures the input of school staff, students and community.
- (1.4) **Non-discrimination:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy does not discriminate against pupils or employees on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or handicap in its education programs or activities.

Retaliation against any employee, applicant, volunteer or student because he or she has made a complaint, assisted with an investigation, or instituted proceedings is also a form of discrimination.

- (1.5) **Parental Involvement:** We believe that educating a child is not something that can happen in only one environment, and requires the active participation of adults from various perspectives to best influence children. As such, we believe parental involvement in a child's education and in the school itself is essential for promoting a positive learning atmosphere.

Parents are actively encouraged to participate within the school in any way possible. This could include volunteering to assist in the classroom, volunteering to chaperon events for the school, assisting in the office, volunteering for the Parent Teacher Enrichment Group or by serving on the Board of Directors. Parents should seek ways to involve themselves within the school.

Chapter 2: Board of Directors

- 2. Board of Directors
 - 2.1. Board of Directors
 - 2.2. General Powers
 - 2.3. General Responsibilities
 - 2.4. Governance Meetings
 - 2.5. Board of Director's Officer Duties
 - 2.5.1.1 Chairman
 - 2.5.2.1 Vice Chairman
 - 2.5.3.1 Treasurer
 - 2.5.4.1 Secretary
 - 2.5.5.1 Role of the Principal
 - 2.6. Board Membership
 - 2.6.1.1 Membership Criteria
 - 2.6.2.1 Membership Terms
 - 2.6.3.1 Board Powers
 - 2.6.4.1 Conflict of Interest
 - 2.6.5.1 Confidentiality
 - 2.6.6.1 Financial Interest
 - 2.6.7.1 Application Process
 - 2.6.8.1 Election Process
 - 2.6.9.1 Removal Process
 - 2.7. Operational Procedures
 - 2.7.1.1 Meetings
 - 2.7.2.1 Executive Session
 - 2.7.3.1 Special Meetings
 - 2.7.4.1 Audience Participation
 - 2.7.5.1 Voting By Proxy
 - 2.7.6.1 Committees
 - 2.7.6.1.1 Development of Committees
 - 2.7.6.2.1 Committee Reports
 - 2.7.6.3.1 Authority
 - 2.8. Employer Responsibilities
 - 2.8.1.1 Purview of Private Employer Matters
 - 2.8.2.1 Employment Representatives
 - 2.8.3.1 Private Employment Matters

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- (2.1) **Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors is a legal requirement for a charter school organized as a not for profit organization and ensures its operations continue to focus on service to the public. In addition to its legal responsibilities the Board of Directors supports the School's mission and seeks to promote it by advocating its educational philosophy.

- (2.2) **General Powers:** All affairs of the Corporation shall be overseen by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors primary duties include but are not limited to the hiring and evaluation of the Principal, setting of Policies and Procedures, strategic planning and assessment of the school in accomplishing the mission of the Corporation and oversight of the public trust.
- (2.3) **General Responsibilities:** In exchange for direct and indirect financial assistance from state and federal governments, state charter school legislation, as well as non profit corporate law requires the Board of Directors to serve as guardians of the “public trust”. This structure makes the schools management accountable to the Board of Directors, who due to their voluntary nature, can effectively provide financial oversight since no personal gain is involved.

Election to the Board of Directors carries with it a responsibility of stewardship. The trustees are the custodians of the integrity of the school; they hold in trust the school’s reputation as created by its founders, and as developed by those who have shaped the school in the past. Current trustees accept the obligation to not only preserve, but also add to this organization. In this way board members help form not only the present, but also the future composition of the school.

- (2.4) **Governance Meetings:** The Board of Directors shall fulfill these duties by meeting no less than every other month. In compliance with the Florida Law the Board publishes the schedule of its meetings and holds them in open session, with the understanding that non-board members may attend and observe and that the Board will go into Executive Session when discussing confidential, contractual and personnel matters.
- (2.5) **Board of Director’s Officer Duties**
- (2.5.1) **Chairman:** The Chairman as the chief officer of the non profit Corporation shall preside at all meetings of the Board. He or she will sign, along with the Principal of the school all teacher contracts. He or she will sign, along with the Principal and Secretary of the Board of Directors, or any other proper agent of the Corporation authorized by the Board, any deeds, mortgages, leases or other instruments which the Board authorizes to be executed. The Chairman, at the conclusion of his or her term, will serve as immediate Past Chair until the office is filled and the successor trained.
- (2.5.2) **Vice Chairman:** The Vice Chairman fills in for the Chairman and performs all duties as assigned by the Chairman.
- (2.5.3) **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for overseeing all funds and securities of the Corporation and perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and other duties assigned to him or her by the Chair or Board of Directors. The Treasurer is responsible, with the Principal for ensuring the monthly financial reports and the end of the year audit are completed and filed with the county in a timely manner.
- (2.5.4) **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors in a book provided for that purpose and maintained at the school, be custodian of the corporations records and such duties as assigned by the Chairman or Board of Directors, and other duties incident to the office of Secretary.

(2.5.5) **Role of the Principal:** The Principal shall be chief administrator of the school and shall in general supervise and control all operational and educational affairs of the corporation, including but not limited to, upholding the schools mission, recruitment and supervision of teachers, school curriculum, admission standards, supervision of students, financial matters within the budget as set forth by the Board of Directors. The Principal will ensure the Board of Directors is informed on a report of revenue and expenses compared to the budget, a cash flow projection update from the accountant, a balance sheet showing the financial position of the organization at the time, a report on the number of students currently enrolled compared with the number projected and compared with the number in the same time period last year, a report on fund raising activities and results, and a list of critical issues that might affect the financial stability of the charter school.

(2.6) **Board Membership**

(2.6.1) **Membership Criteria:** The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than three (3) and no more than nine (9) voting members. Potential members for the Board shall be nominated and selected by the Board from a pool of parents, past parents, grandparents, alumni, patrons, and community members.

(2.6.2) **Membership Terms:** All newly elected Board members shall serve for a term of two (2) years beginning on the first day of the month following their fingerprinting and background check. Following the first term of service, trustees may be re-elected to serve a second term.

(2.6.3) **Board Powers:** The Board of Directors affirms that the trustees, officers, administrators, faculty and other employees of the school have an obligation to exercise their authority and to carry out the duties of their respective positions for the sole benefit of the school. They should avoid placing themselves in positions in which their personal interests are, or may be, in conflict with the interests of the school.

(2.6.4) **Conflict of Interest:** Where a potential conflict of interest exists, it shall be the responsibility of the person involved or any other person with knowledge to notify the Board of Directors of the circumstances resulting in the potential conflict. The Board of Directors can provide such guidance and take action as it shall deem appropriate. Each Board member will sign the Conflict of Interest Statement.

(2.6.5) **Confidentiality:** Each Board member will sign the Confidentiality Policy ensuring all private employment or student matters will remain confidential and will not be used to advance personal interests.

(2.6.6) **Financial Interest:** Members of the Board shall not receive any monetary compensation for their services nor shall they have any financial interest in the school other than their own monetary donations to the Corporation.

(2.6.7) **Application Process:** Any person wanting to apply to serve as a member of the Board of Directors shall submit a letter of intent which shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for review and consideration. The applicant will agree to follow all Board policies and to submit to fingerprinting and a background check.

The Board of Directors may recruit members based on the identification of strategic needs of the Board and school and solicit nominees who are natural matches.

- (2.6.8) **Election Process:** The Directors of the Corporation shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Board. If the election of officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as is convenient. Vacancies may be filled or new offices created and filled at any meeting of the Board of Directors. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected.

The Board will evaluate the needs of the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Board for the coming school year. After review of all nominees and applicants the Board shall vote on the acceptance or denial of present nominees.

- (2.6.9) **Removal Process:** Any Director or agent elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board whenever, in its judgment, the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice.

(2.7) **Operational Procedures:**

- (2.7.1) **Meetings:** The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held in July of each year. Operational Board Meetings will be held at least every other month on the second Thursday of the month. Notice of the meeting and agenda shall be posted no less than three (3) calendar days prior to each meeting. A working agenda will be distributed to Board members seven (7) calendars prior to the meeting for input prior to the distribution of the final agenda. These meetings will be held at 403 First Ave. SW Largo, FL 33770 or other such place as designated by the Chair.

- (2.7.2) **Executive Session:** On occasion, the school Board finds it necessary and appropriate to go into executive session and excuse any and all non-board members in order to discuss confidential matters.

- (2.7.3) **Special Meetings:** Special Meetings of the Board may be called by the Chairman or any two voting members of the Board. The person(s) calling such meeting may set the location of the meeting as a conveniently accessible place for all Board members and the public. Special Meetings must be scheduled with no less than one (1) day prior notice and must be established to discuss only a single issue.

- (2.7.4) **Audience Participation:** At all Operational Board Meetings any non Board member may elect to speak on each agenda item for up to three minutes. Any audience member who becomes unruly or disruptive to the proceedings may be removed from the meeting in accordance with Pinellas County School Board Policy and Procedures.

- (2.7.5) **Voting By Proxy:** Board Members may not vote by. In circumstances where attendance at the meeting is impossible, the Board member may be present by speaker phone where he/she can hear the motion and all present can hear their vote.

- (2.7.6) **Committees:**

- (2.7.6.1) **Development of Committees:** The Board of Directors by resolution adopted by a majority of voting members may designate one or more committees, each of which shall consist of at least one voting Board member, plus any non-board members as the Board sees fit to appoint.
- (2.7.6.2) **Committee Reports:** All Board Committees are subject to the direction and control of the Board and a designated Board member serving on that committee will serve as chairman or appoint a chairman who will report directly to the Board in the public Operational Board meeting, unless a Special Meeting is called and lends itself to the function of the committee.
- (2.7.6.3) **Authority:** The designation of such committees and the delegation thereto of authority shall not operate to relieve the Board of Directors or any individual member thereof of any responsibility imposed on it, him, or her by law. Committee recommendations are not binding until and unless adopted by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in session, provided a quorum is present.
- (2.8) **Employer Responsibilities:**
- (2.8.1) **Purview of Private Employer Matters:** Although the Principal is responsible for all faculty hiring and evaluations the Board sets general guidelines for the qualifications of staff, terms of contracts, performance evaluation expectations, administrative grievance procedures, non-renewal and termination processes.
- (2.8.2) **Employment Representative:** The Board of Directors may designate a Board member to be responsible for working with the Principal to set salaries and determine benefits offered based on hours worked, education, years experience and merit. Additionally, the Employment Representative is responsible with the Principal for ensuring the personnel files are maintained with current and accurate information, and making recommendations to the Board for employee terminations or advancement.
- (2.8.3) **Private Employment Matters:** Most private employment matters will be effectively handled by the Employment Representative and Principal of the school. On occasion private employment matters will need to be presented to the Board of Directors. These discussions may be held in executive session, as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Employment Representative, Principal and Chairman of the Board.

Chapter 3: Employment Manual / Human Resources

- 3. Employment Manual / Human Resources
 - 3.1. Personnel Records
 - 3.2. Compensation and Benefits
 - 3.2.1.1 Salaried Employees
 - 3.2.1.2 Hourly Employees
 - 3.2.2 Dual Employment and Compensation
 - 3.2.3 Vacations / Paid Time Off
 - 3.1.3.1 Salaried Employees
 - 3.1.3.2 Hourly Employees PTO
 - 3.1.3.3 Hourly Employees Paid Holidays
 - 3.1.3.4 Approval
 - 3.1.3.5 Substitutes
 - 3.1.3.6 Overuse of PTO
 - 3.1.3.6.1 Unused PTO for Salaried Employees
 - 3.1.4 Leaves (General)
 - 3.1.4.1 Military Leave
 - 3.1.4.2 Family and Medical Leave
 - 3.1.4.3 Illness or Accident Incurred in the Performance of Duty
 - 3.1.4.4 Leave for Jury Duty
 - 3.1.5 Employee Benefits
 - 3.1.5.1 Eligibility
 - 3.1.5.2 School Contribution
 - 3.1.5.3 Termination of Coverage
 - 3.1.5.4 Leaves of Absence
 - 3.1.5.5 Worker's Compensation
 - 3.1.5.6 Benefits Payback Option
 - 3.2 Employee Behavior
 - 3.2.3 Personal Financial Obligations
 - 3.2.4 Conflicts of Interest
 - 3.2.5 Political Activities
 - 3.2.6 Academic Freedom
 - 3.2.7 Hours Of Duty
 - 3.2.8 Professional Conduct
 - 3.3 School Rights
 - 3.3.3 Rights Of The School To Request Examinations
 - 3.3.4 Employment Of Relatives
 - 3.3.5 Pre-Work Physical Examinations
 - 3.3.6 Requirements And Procedures For Initial Appointment
 - 3.3.7 Assessment Of Instructional, Administrative And Supervisory Personnel
 - 3.3.7.1 Intent
 - 3.3.7.2 Frequency
 - 3.3.7.3 Unsatisfactory

- 3.3.7.4 Miscellaneous
- 3.3.8 Initial Probationary Period
- 3.3.9 Reappointment Or Non-Reappointment Of Certificated Personnel Not Under Continuing Contract
- 3.3.10 Suspension And/Or Dismission Of Instructional And Administrative Personnel During Contractual Period
- 3.4 Employee Rights And Responsibilities
 - 3.4.3 Professional Education
 - 3.4.4 Copyrights and Patents
 - 3.4.5 Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials
 - 3.4.6 Transporting Students
 - 3.4.7 Employee Complaints
 - 3.4.8 Smoking Of Tobacco Products On School Property
 - 3.4.9 Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace
 - 3.4.9.1 Prohibition
 - 3.4.9.2 Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace
 - 3.4.9.3 Drug and Alcohol Testing
 - 3.4.9.4 Testable Substances
 - 3.4.9.5 Disciplinary Consequences If Positive Results
 - 3.4.9.6 Confidentiality
 - 3.4.10 Guidelines To Prevent Sexual Harassment
 - 3.4.10.1 Definition
 - 3.4.10.2 Reporting
 - 3.4.11 Prohibition Of Harassment
 - 3.4.11.1 Definition
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(3.1) **Personnel Records:** Personnel records shall be maintained in accordance with State and Federal Laws. The following records for each employee shall be maintained in a secure file:

- a) Evidence of successful completion of required education
- b) Florida Teaching Certificate, certificate of law for the position
- c) Employee assessments
- d) Signed contract (if required)

- e) Signed loyalty oath if required by the State of Florida or the Federal Government.
- f) Withholding allowance certificate (W-4)
- g) Copy of Social Security Card
- h) Benefits enrollment documentation
- i) Background verification (results of School District fingerprint test)
- j) Letters of reprimand and information regarding any disciplinary action taken
- k) Personal Data Sheet
- l) Employment Eligibility Verification (I9 Form)
- m) Arrest and Conviction Record
- n) Drug-Free Workplace Policy.

It is the responsibility of the employee to obtain and submit these documents:

- a) Florida Certificate: the employee must submit the original. A copy shall be made to keep within the file, and the original shall be returned to the employee.
- b) Health Certificate: Prior to initial employment and re-employment following a termination, some employees may be required to submit a certificate of health signed by a licensed medical practitioner attesting to the employee's freedom from contagious and infectious diseases and other physical and medical impairments which would prevent the applicant from performing the duties for whom an employment contract is required.
- c) Contracts: Each employee shall sign the offered contract and submit it to the school office within the specified time.
- d) Certificate Extensions/Additions: Other official correspondence with the state Department of Education and any other documents which may be requested shall be copied in the school office. Copies shall be retained and the originals shall be returned to the employee.
- e) Criminal Records: The school shall determine if the prospective employee has an arrest/conviction record.

Personnel records shall be open for inspection consistent with State and Federal laws. Social Security numbers will not be disclosed to the public. Evaluations shall be confidential and not open to the public until the end of the school year immediately following the school year in which the evaluation was made. The following payroll deductions are not open to the public: credit union cards, W-4's, tax shelter information, tax levy, court records.

Compensation and Benefits

- (3.2.1.1) **Salaried Employees:** Instructional and administrative staff members shall be salaried employees. Salaries shall be made in accordance with schedules adopted by the Board of Directors of the school.
- (3.2.1.2) **Hourly Employees:** Non instruction and non administrative employees shall be paid hourly. Hourly rates will be set by the Board of Directors of the school.

(3.2.2) **Dual Employment and Compensation:** An employee may provide services regarding a non-school developed curriculum or program or participate in programs sponsored by other agencies when approved in writing by the Principal or his designee. An employee who chooses to request temporary paid leave when engaged in such activities must remit to the School any remuneration (honorariums, stipends, consultant service fees, etc.) received. In addition, the employee shall remit any travel expense reimbursement provided by the sponsoring agency to the School when the School is liable for travel expenses authorized by the approved request.

An employee may not retain such compensation without utilizing personal leave chargeable to Paid Time Off (PTO), or personal leave without pay. An employee wishing such compensation must request the leave through the submittal and approval of the prescribed forms. The School will not be responsible for workers' compensation or liability protection or any benefits for employees on personal leave.

A School employee providing consultation concerning a school developed curriculum or program must remit to the School any remuneration received.

(3.2.3) **Vacations / Paid Time Off**

(3.2.3.1) **Salaried Employees:** Salaried employees will be granted Paid Time Off (PTO) within the contract/agreement with the School.

(3.2.3.2) **Hourly Employees PTO:** All full-time employees are eligible. Temporary, part-time and PRN employees are not eligible. PTO accumulates in relationship to all regular hours you actually work. PTO does not accumulate on overtime hours or on hours not worked, such as when you are using PTO or are on a leave of absence. You may begin using your PTO at any time after it accumulates, however you may not use PTO in advance of any accumulation of it.

Years of Experience	Accumulation Multiplier	Approximate Weeks Off for Full Time Employees
Year 1	0.042017	(2 Weeks)
Years 2 - 5	0.064378	(3 Weeks)
Years 6 -	0.087719	(4 Weeks)

(3.2.3.3) **Hourly Employees Paid Holidays:** Hourly employees who normally work during the following times will be provided holiday pay for the following days. The amount to be paid will be based on the annual average hours worked per day, which is calculated by finding the sum of hours in the work agreement with the employee divided by 52, divided by 5.

Paid Holidays Time

- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving (total of 3 days)
- Winter Break (total of 5 days - Schedule to be determined by the Principal)

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Memorial Day

(3.2.3.4) **Approval:** PTO requests must be approved by the Principal prior to the absence, unless the absence is a sick-day and prior notification is not possible.

(3.2.3.5) **Substitutes:** Staff members who require substitutes are responsible for making arrangements for substitutes themselves. A list of potential substitutes will be supplied to staff members annually.

(3.2.3.6) **Overuse of PTO:** If a staff member uses all PTO allotted to them, any additional sick days will be without pay. PTO time will be awarded at the beginning of the school year, should an employee leave before the end of the school, PTO will be prorated and the employee will be expected to pay back over-used PTO.

(3.2.3.7.1) **Unused PTO for Salaried Employees:** PTO remaining at the end of the year will be paid back to salaried employees at the end of the fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). For salaried employees, the amount to be paid back will be calculated by taking the employee's salary, divided by the number of days to be worked during the year, times the number of PTO days remaining.

(3.2.3.7.2) **Unused PTO for Hourly Employees:** Hourly employees are encouraged to use their PTO time during the fiscal year in which it accrues (July 1 – June 30), however, up to fourth (40) hours of accrued PTO time may be carried forward to the following fiscal year. No more than forty (40) hours may be carried forward into the next year.

(3.2.4) **Leaves (General):**

(3.2.4.1) **Military Leave:** Military leave with pay may be granted an employee when the request is supported by a copy of the military orders, up to seventeen (17) days per school year to perform military service. Such leave is not charged as PTO. It shall be established that the period selected is not at the convenience of the employee but a military necessity, if it falls within the school year. An employee called to active military service shall receive full pay for the first thirty (30) days of military leave, and the remainder of such leave shall be without pay. Application for reassignment shall be made within one year after the date of discharge, and the school shall have six months after application in which to reassign the employee.

(3.2.4.2) **Family and Medical Leave:** Family and medical leave shall be provided to qualified employees in accordance with the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FLA) (PL 103-3) of 1993.

(3.2.4.3) **Illness or Accident Incurred in the Performance of Duty:** Leave with pay for illness or accident incurred in the performance of duty shall be as provided by law and according to the following: Any employee who must be absent from duty due to personal injury received in the performance of duties or due to illness certified by a physician to be from a contagious disease (except respiratory illnesses) contracted in school work shall be entitled to accident/illness in line of duty leave. Such leave shall be authorized for a period not to exceed ten (10) days and shall be applicable only to

the year during which the accident/illness occurred. The Board of Directors may grant authorization for additional leave due to unusual circumstances. Pay will be at the employee's established rate of pay. Such authorized leave shall not be deducted from the employee's PTO.

- (3.2.4.4) **Leave for Jury Duty:** If an employee is called for jury duty during a period you are regularly scheduled to work, you are not required to use PTO to cover your absence. When you are not impaneled for actual service and only on call, you shall report back to work unless authorized by your supervisor to be absent from your work assignment.
- (3.2.5) **Employee Benefits:** The School provides a comprehensive Benefit Plan which may vary from year to year as determined by the Board of Directors.
- (3.2.5.1) **Eligibility:** Regular employees who work at least thirty (30) hours per week including job-share employees are eligible for benefits, per individual contracts.

Initial Enrollment: Enrollment and change forms are due in the office within thirty (30) calendar days of hire or change of eligibility status. Coverage becomes effective the first day of the month following thirty (30) days of employment in an eligible benefit status.

Open Enrollment: The Board provides an annual open enrollment period during which an employee may add, cancel, or change coverage. If no action is taken by the employee to change coverage, previous coverages will continue for the next calendar year.

- (3.2.5.2) **School Contribution:** The School contributes toward the cost of certain employee benefits each pay period during the school year in which a paycheck is earned. In any period during which a paycheck is not earned, the employee will owe both the School contribution amount and the normal insurance deductions. School contribution amounts vary and are determined by the Board annual.
- (3.2.5.3) **Termination of Coverage:** Insurance coverage ends the last day of the month in which an employee no longer meets eligibility requirements or terminates employment.
- (3.2.5.4) **Leaves of Absence:** While on an approved, unpaid leave of absence, employees are required to pay the entire cost of all insurance plans, including the School paid portion in order for coverages to continue. The appropriate person(s), agencies, corporations, and/or organizations must receive payment by the first of each month. Insurance coverage will be canceled for nonpayment if full payment is not received by the due date. When an employee is on an approved Family Medical Leave (FMLA), the employee is responsible only for payment of the portion of premium(s) the employee normally pays. Nonpayment of premiums will result in cancellation of coverage.

Suspension Without Pay: While on suspension without pay, an employee is considered to be on unpaid leave of absence. As such, the employee is entitled to maintain insurance coverage by paying the total cost of insurance. If the employee elects to continue insurance and is reinstated, the employee will be refunded the School contribution paid during the period of suspension. If the employee elects to continue

insurance and is not reinstated, the insurance will terminate the last day of the month in which the employee is dismissed. If the employee chooses not to continue insurance and is reinstated, insurance will be reinstated the first of the month following the date of the final order and the employee will be responsible for any regular employee contributions.

- (3.2.5.5) **Worker's Compensation:** The School provides Workers' Compensation benefits pursuant to Florida Statute.
- (3.2.5.6) **Benefits Payback Option:** If an employee decides not to participate in the benefit options provided, the school agrees to provide the amount allowed as an addition to the employee's paycheck. The employee must acknowledge that his amount would then become a taxable amount on their paycheck. If an employee elects this option, the school shall provide a form during the open enrollment period for the employee to make this election. The school will also deduct employer costs from the amount it adds to the employees pay check (federal employment taxes, insurance costs, administrative fees, etc.).

Employee Behavior

- (3.3.1) **Personal Financial Obligations:** Employees are expected to handle their personal financial obligations in such manner as to prevent the involvement of the school.
- (3.3.2) **Conflicts of Interest:** No employee or directors of the School shall solicit students, employees, or the School for the selling of goods and services, other than as part of a school or PTEG activity.

No employee shall accept any gift, favor, or service of value from persons or organizations that now are engaged in, or are being considered for, doing business with the school.

Expenses for trips to evaluate products or equipment shall be paid by the School if previously approved by the Principal or his designee. However, once equipment is purchased or leased, personnel may attend training sessions at the expense of the company if training is included as a service within the purchase or lease price, and is approved by the Principal.

When a seminar, training, or educational meeting or session is provided by an industry representing more than one company and offered at no cost, or at reduced or partial costs, to staff, and the resulting knowledge or training is judged by the Principal (or designee) to be in the School's interest with no advantage or obligation given to an individual company, and to be no conflict of interest, the Principal (or designee) may authorize attendance.

No employee shall accept other employment which might impair the employee's independence of judgment in the performance of duties for the School.

Violation of this policy may constitute grounds for dismissal from employment.

- (3.3.3) **Political Activities:** *Leaves of absence:* The School recognizes the right of its employees to campaign for and to hold elective public office, except as prohibited under 112.313(10) F.S. and any other provisions under the statutes and laws of Florida. Accordingly, the School authorizes both short term and long term personal leaves of absence, without pay, for its employees in order that such employees abstain from conflicts which may arise between the employees' performance of their official duties in this School and their political activities.

Protection against conflicts: The Principal (or designee) is directed to provide procedures that will guarantee such employee rights, while at the same time protecting the school system against any conflicts that might arise, such as interferences with the normal discharge of one's duty, as the result of an employee's engaging in political activities and/or while holding public office.

General Regulations:

- a) School employees engaging in political activities shall make it clear that their utterances and actions are theirs as individuals and that they in no manner represent the views of the School.
- b) Employees are prohibited from engaging in political activities on School premises.
- c) Employees requesting personal leaves of absence for political activities shall apply in writing to the Principal, giving full particulars for such requests for leave. The Principal (or designee), shall, within a reasonable period of time, advise the employee of the decision concerning the employee's request for leave.
- d) Employees engaging in political activities or in the holding of public office shall not use time, facilities, or personnel of the School to engage in such activities. Specifically, the use of copy reproduction equipment or other machinery or supplies, the use of secretarial help, or any other school facilities or personnel is strictly prohibited. Telephone use for such political activities during duty hours shall be confined to emergencies only, and then only in such a manner as shall not conflict with the employee's school related duties. Such office holder, or other politically active employees, are expected to discourage constituents, or other persons with whom they are associated in their political capacities, from making telephone calls to them, during duty hours.
- e) Any employee who has been suspended or removed from public office, the grounds for which have been as those provided within 1012.795 F.S., shall not return to duty with the School until such charges against the employee have been dismissed or otherwise legally terminated in the employee's favor.

Campaigning:

- a) Employees who confine campaign activities to off-duty hours, as provided above shall not be required to take personal leave.

- b) Employees who desire to take personal leave for campaign activities shall make a request to the Principal for personal leave for a definite period of time, not to exceed ninety (90) calendar days.
- c) Upon expiration of their personal leaves, employees shall be returned to their same positions.
- d) Employees desiring to return to their positions earlier than specified, as provided above, may be returned to their positions, upon written request to do so, provide that it is convenient for the School; otherwise, they shall be returned to their positions when the leave expires or as soon as it is convenient for the school.

Employees Holding Part Time Public Office

- a) Employees who have been elected to public office for duties which do not require full time responsibilities may be permitted to make personal arrangement for intermittent leave(s), without pay, with the Principal's (or designee) approval, provided such leave(s) does not conflict with the employee's School-related duties, and provided especially that the interests of students are not impaired.
- b) The School reserves the right to deny or to terminate such personal arrangements, as are provided above, when, in the judgement of the Principal (or designee), such arrangements are in conflict with, or are not in the best interests of, the School or its students.
- c) Any employee whose personal leave arrangements have been denied or terminated, as provided above, shall be permitted to take an extended personal leave, as provided below.

Employees Holding Full Time Public Office

- a) Employees who have been elected to public office which requires full time responsibilities shall, upon written request to the Principal, as provided above, be granted a personal leave of absence when such leave does not create an undue hardship for the School.
- b) Employees whose terms of elected office extend beyond one (1) year shall be required to request a leave of absence each year during their terms of office.
- c) Upon termination of the personal leave for the holding of public office, the employee shall be assigned to the same or similar position held prior to the personal leave, if possible. Reemployment shall be dependent upon the needs of the School at the time.

(3.3.4) **Academic Freedom:** It is the rightful duty of a qualified teacher to encourage within students a never-ending search for truth in its many forms. Such a search may inevitably lead to areas of controversy. It is the belief of the School that discussion of such issues, dealing with local, state, national and international affairs, shall be encouraged. Free, logical, and intelligent dialogue within the classroom is a necessity in the search for truth. Such freedom of expression should be viewed, not simply as a constitutional guarantee, but as a fundamental necessity for the successful practice of scholarship in a free society. All sides of such controversial issues shall be presented. To the fullest extent possible, all positions regarding any topic under discussion shall be presented

It is recognized that the application of this principle in a K-12 program differs somewhat from its application at higher educational levels. Teachers shall consider the relative level of maturity of their students and their need for guidance in the study of such issues to arrive at objective and balanced views.

Teacher use of potentially controversial materials: It is the responsibility of the teacher (or other instructional staff member) that intends to use materials that may be considered offensive to reasonable persons within the community, to notify the principal of the potentially controversial materials. It is the Principal's responsibility to insure that the materials used are at grade level or below, and appropriate and consistent with the Sunshine State Standards. If the materials are potentially controversial, a notice will be sent home to the parents giving them the opportunity to allow their student to do an alternative project.

- (3.3.5) **Hours Of Duty:** Each teacher shall be on duty not less than eight (8) hours per day. Teachers shall not leave school during duty hours for any reason without permission of the principal except during lunch period provided regular classes are not interfered with, provided further that the office is notified, and provided further that the teacher does not have any duties that are expected to be performed during such lunch period(s). If it is absolutely necessary that a teacher leave during duty hours, the teacher must first submit such a request to the Principal in writing identifying how coverage of that time will be conducted. The Principal will decide if the request will be approved.
- (3.3.6) **Professional Conduct:** Employees shall not use the classroom, nor any other part of school facilities, as a platform for making disparaging remarks against students, parents, teachers or administrators. Conduct contrary to this policy may constitute grounds for disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

All employees are required to comply with SBE Rule 6B-1.001, Code of Ethics of the Education Profession in Florida and SBE Rule 6B-1.006, Principles of Professional Conduct for the Educational Profession in Florida.

Employees agrees that at all times, they will perform all duties with, and communicate with, the Pinellas County School Board, Florida Department of Education, and any and all other county, state or charter school officials in a courteous and professional manner.

School Rights

- (3.4.1) **Rights Of The School To Request Examinations:** The School reserves the right to require an employee at any time to submit to a physical or psychiatric examination, in addition to examinations required by other policies or procedures, by one or more physicians or psychiatrists to be chosen from a list of doctors approved by the Board. The expense for such examination shall be borne by the school, unless stipulated to by the employee.

- (3.4.2) **Employment Of Relatives:** No prospective employee shall be hired without the disclosure of a close relative holding any position with the school, as either another employee of Board member. If a close relative holds a position, both persons must agree in writing to maintaining professional conduct while on duty with the School.

Close relative shall be defined as the first degree of kindred: Husband, wife, father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, and in-laws of the same degree.

- (3.4.3) **Pre-Work Physical Examinations:** Pre-work physical examinations are required of some employees, as mandated by Florida Law, and as prescribed by the School. The form of the examination and required tests shall be as prescribed by the School.

- (3.4.4) **Requirements And Procedures For Initial Appointment:** Except as otherwise provided for in Florida Statute, applicants for teaching positions must be eligible for a Florida Certificate and qualified for the positions for which they are recommended.

Appointments shall be made only by the Principal (or designee). The School may offer contracts to outstanding applicants as early as November in anticipation of openings for the following school year. Priority shall be given to the employment of elementary teachers who are competent to teach reading and/or mathematics skills and concepts. Teachers who profess such competencies but do not or cannot demonstrate them, whether deliberately or not, may be terminated at the discretion of the Principal. The School may require newly appointed teachers to participate in staff development activities up to 40 hours in reading, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Such training shall be given outside regular school hours at no cost to the teacher.

An adjunct instructor may be employed on an annual, daily, or part-time hourly basis, and shall not be eligible for a professional services contract.

Employment decisions shall be made by the principal, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The Principal may interview and make hiring decisions, and the final decision will be considered “pending Board of Approval”

- (3.4.5) **Assessment Of Instructional, Administrative And Supervisory Personnel:**

- (3.4.5.1) **Intent:** It is the intent of the School that assessments of personnel be used for two reasons:

- 1) Determining the suitability for retention of the continuing and professional service of contract personnel.
- 2) Method of assisting staff in their professional development to best impact the education of students and operation of the school.

- (3.4.5.2) **Frequency:** An assessment of the performance of duties and responsibilities of all instructional, administrative, and supervisory personnel shall be made each year. Supervisors shall be frank and honest with the persons they supervise. Employees have the right to be treated fairly by their supervisor. Such a relationship between and among

the supervisor and the persons being supervised should bring about an atmosphere of pleasant working conditions, good employee morale, and the kind of atmosphere that is best for the students of the School.

- (3.4.5.3) **Unsatisfactory:** Any employee failing to meet standards expected by the School and thus receiving an unsatisfactory assessment will receive intensive assistance from the administration in an attempt to improve the areas of weakness. If, with these supports, the performance does not improve, the employee may not be retained as a member of the staff.
- (3.4.5.4) **Miscellaneous:** The following policies are also in place in respect to assessment of employees:
- a) A written record of the assessment of each employee shall be made at least once a year and maintained in the personnel file.
 - b) Such assessment shall be made by the Principal or person directly responsible for the supervision of the employee. The Principal (or designee) shall make at least two (2) formal observations of each employee during the fiscal year.
 - c) The evaluation of the Principal will be conducted by the Board led by the Chairman. To complete the Principal's evaluation, surveys will be collected from Board and staff members as well as observations conducted by the Chairman (or designee).
 - d) During the pre-school period each year the Principal (or designee) shall explain to the entire staff the criteria, purpose and procedure for assessment.
 - e) At least one personal conference shall be held with each employee during the school year prior to submitting the written assessment.
 - f) The written report of the assessment for each employee shall be shown to, and discussed with, the employee by the person responsible for preparing the report. Each report shall be signed by the Principal and any other person who has prepared the assessment. An employee shall have the right to request an appeal of an evaluation through the Principal to the Board when overall ratings of less than "meets expectations" have been administered.
 - g) The signature of the employee on the written report of the assessment shall indicate only that the person who has been assessed has read the report. It does not indicate that the employee agrees with the content of the report. Refusal to sign shall be documented by the supervisor and shall not invalidate the assessment.
 - h) Employees have the opportunity to respond in writing to each evaluation, provided that such a response is submitted within one (1) week of the receipt of the evaluation.
 - i) The assessment of each employee shall include discussion of the employee's strengths and weaknesses in application and knowledge of school policy.
- (3.4.6) **Initial Probationary Period:** Employees shall be subject to an initial probationary period of ninety (90) calendar days. Should the employee be discharged for unsatisfactory performance during such initial probationary period, as provided in Section 443.131, Florida Statutes, the School will not be liable for any unemployment compensation benefits.

- (3.4.7) **Reappointment Or Non-Reappointment Of Certificated Personnel Not Under Continuing Contract:** The Principal may recommend reappointment of personnel at the regularly scheduled May Board of Directors meeting.

If an employee has received an unsatisfactory performance assessment, the Principal or supervisor shall confer with the employee and shall make specific recommendations for actions the Principal or supervisor believes should result in improvement.

An annual contract teacher who is not to be recommend for reappointment shall be notified of this fact at least one week prior to the regularly schedule May Board of Directors meeting where reappointments will be considered.

- (3.4.8) **Suspension And/Or Dismissal Of Instructional And Administrative Support Personnel During Contractual Period:** Suspension of instructional and administrative personnel during the contractual period shall be by the Principal. Whether such suspension will be with or without pay will be at the discretion of the Principal Dismissal must first be approved by the Board of Directors. The employee will be provided an opportunity to state their case before the Board in executive session prior to the Board's decision on dismissal. The Principal (or designee) shall promptly notify each employee who has been suspended or dismissed.

Employee Rights And Responsibilities

- (3.5.1) **Professional Education:** The School and the Pinellas County School Board conduct various types of professional education which shall serve to increase the efficiency of all staff members, instructional, administrative and supportive. Staff members are expected to participate in such professional education activities. Days and times designated as pro-ed or training must be used as such unless Principal agrees to another use of the time in writing.
- (3.5.2) **Copyrights and Patents:** In those instances in which a product is clearly outside the job description of an employee, the results of those employee's work are the employee's private property. School employees have the privilege to do research, write articles, pamphlets and books, and to present papers before learned societies, to enter into contracts for the publication of their works, to procure copyrights and patents for their products, and to receive royalties that may accrue to them as a result of the sale of such works. Such work may not interfere with the performance of the employee's regular or assigned duties.

When such a product is connected with the employee's work assignment, and the employee desires to obtain a copyright or patent, a written outline of the project and a statement of the employee's intent to acquire a copyright or patent shall be presented to the Principal (or designee) who shall have sixty (60) days to determine whether the school shall have an interest in such a product. If, at the end of such a sixty (60) day period, the employee has received no such statement from the Principal (or designee), the employee shall be free to consider such a product as personal property. In the event

the Principal informs the employee that the School has an interest in such product, the employee and the School may enter into whatever contractual agreement(s) may be in their mutual interests.

- (3.5.3) **Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials:** School employees are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the provisions of the copyright laws currently in force under Title XVII of the United States Code. Any reproduction of copyrighted materials shall be done either with permission of the copyright holder or within the bounds of the “fair use” doctrine of the copyright law; otherwise, the individual responsible for reproduction may be liable for breach of copyright under existing laws.
- (3.5.4) **Transporting Students:** Unless an employee is transporting a student at the direction of the Principal during an emergency or during an officially approved trip in accordance with School procedures, such transportation shall be furnished at the employee’s own risk or liability. The school does not expect employees to transport students except when such transportation is provided during an emergency or an officially approved trip. An employee who provides such transportation except for an emergency or during an officially approved trip shall be acting outside the scope of that employee’s employment.
- (3.5.5) **Employee Complaints:** The procedure to be followed by each employee regarding a complaint or problem related to employment, or any policy or procedure including allegations of discrimination in personnel practices, is to discuss the matter in a personal conference with the Principal or supervisor. The Principal shall direct applicants for employment who have complaints regarding alleged discrimination to the Board of Directors.

In the event an employee intends to register a complaint with the school, remedies should be sought through administrative channels before reporting to other means of resolving disputes. The School expects both employees and their supervisors to make every reasonable effort to resolve such conflicts. The following procedure is intended to facilitate these remedies.

- a) Employees should first express their complaint(s), in writing, to their immediate supervisor(s).
 - b) If no resolution is reached between the employee and the immediate supervisor, the employee should request that the Principal hear an appeal.
 - c) If no resolution is reached between the employee and the Principal, the employee should request that the Board hear an appeal. Such appeal must be submitted in writing through the Principal.
- (3.5.6) **Smoking Of Tobacco Products On School Property:** The purpose of this policy is to comply with the “Florida Clean Indoor Air Act” in protecting the public health, comfort and environment by creating areas in all school facilities that are free from tobacco smoke. No person may be in possession of a lighted cigarette, lighted pipe, lighted cigar, or any other lighted tobacco product, in any school facility, including the outside grounds, or within 100 feet of any building or area used by the School. No areas for

smoking shall be designated on school property, or within 100 feet of any building or area used by the School.

(3.5.7) **Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace:** This policy is derived from, and complies with, the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988. Additionally, the purpose of this policy is to comply with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations for the establishment and implementation of anti-drug programs in the motor carrier industry as set forth in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 391 “Qualifications of Drivers” and 394 (Notification and Reporting of Accidents.” These parts of the CFR include, by reference, the requirements of 49 CFR Part 40 “Procedures for Transportation Workplace Drug Testing Programs” which apply to all Department of Transportation regulated industries and set forth the procedural requirements for testing, from urine sample collection through analysis and verification of test results.

(3.5.7.1) **Prohibition:** Employees are prohibited from engaging in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, being under the influence of, or use of alcohol and/or a controlled substance (as defined in Chapter 893 of the Florida Statutes): in the workplace; or during the workday; or when on duty; or in the presence of students or students’ families as part of any school or work-related activities. Violation of this prohibition shall result in appropriate disciplinary action up to and including termination and referral for prosecution.

(3.5.7.2) **Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace:** A drug-free and alcohol-free workplace shall be maintained. Each employee shall be given a copy of this policy as part of this Policy Manual. Additionally, each employee shall be notified that, as a condition of employment, the employee will abide by the terms of this policy and notify the employer of any criminal drug and/or alcohol statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after such conviction. The employer will initiate certification/revocation proceedings pursuant to Section 1012.795 F.S. for certificated employees convicted of criminal charges. Within thirty (30) days of notification, appropriate personnel action against such an employee shall be taken, up to and including termination. Employees can also be required to participate satisfactorily in a drug and/or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for such purposes by a Federal, State, or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency.

(3.5.7.3) **Drug and Alcohol Testing:** The School retains the right to perform testing for Drugs and Alcohol at the following times:

Pre-employment testing: All individuals whom the School intends to hire on a permanent or temporary basis may be tested at the discretion of the School.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing: When a covered employee’s conduct or appearance is directly observed as indicative of being under the influence of a drug or alcohol during on-duty time.

Post-Accident Testing: As soon as practicable following an accident, a driver (unless deceased) shall be tested for alcohol and controlled substances when any person

involved in the accident has been fatally injured or the covered employee received a citation for a moving traffic violation arising from the accident. Testing will be conducted not later than thirty-two (32) hours after the accident for drugs and not later than eight (8) hours after the accident for alcohol. For the purpose of this rule an accident is defined as an incident involving a commercial motor vehicle in which there is either a fatality, an injury treated away from the scene, or a vehicle is required to be towed from the scene.

Follow-Up Testing: As part of or as a follow-up to counseling or rehabilitation the covered employee is subject to unannounced follow-up drug or alcohol testing. The covered employee shall be subject to a minimum of six (6) follow-up drug or alcohol tests in the first twelve (12) months.

Random Testing: Random testing can be performed at any point in time at the discretion of the Principal.

Return to Duty Testing: Before a covered employee returns to duty requiring the performance of a safety-sensitive function after engaging in a prohibited conduct the covered employee shall undergo a return-to-duty test. In the event a return-to-duty test is required, a substance abuse professional (SAP) must also evaluate the covered employee and the employee must participate in any assistance program prescribed.

(3.5.7.4) **Testable Substances:** Individuals shall be tested for the following drugs: marijuana, cocaine, opiates, amphetamines, phencyclidine (PCP), alcohol, and all other illegal or controlled substances. Covered employees who engage in prohibited drug and/or alcohol related conduct must be immediately removed from duties. Such removal shall be affected for the following, in addition to other actions deemed dangerous or improper by the Principal.

- a) Using alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions.
- b) When required to take a post-accident alcohol test, using alcohol within eight (8) hours following the accident or prior to undergoing a post-accident alcohol test, whichever comes first.
- c) Refusing to submit to a drug or alcohol test required by post-accident, reasonable suspicion or follow-up test requirements.
- d) Reporting for duty or remaining on duty, requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions, when the covered employee uses any drug, except when instructed by a physician who has advised the covered employee that the drug does not adversely affect the covered employee's ability to safely operate a CMV.
- e) Reporting for duty, remaining on duty or performing a safety-sensitive function, if the covered employee tests positive for drugs.

(3.5.7.5) **Disciplinary Consequences If Positive Results:** Disciplinary action up to and including termination may be instituted against covered employees who have violated

the standards of conduct cited in this policy. Nothing will preclude the School from seeking prosecution for violation of this policy where the Board deems appropriate. An employee who receives a positive drug test result or an alcohol test result (.04 or greater concentration) from a required test during on-duty time will be immediately suspended without pay and recommended for dismissal. An employee who refuses to submit to a required alcohol or controlled substances test will be immediately suspended and recommended for dismissal. Refusal to submit to an alcohol or controlled substances test is defined as: (1) failing to provide adequate breath for testing without a valid medical explanation after the employee has received notice of the requirement for breath testing; (2) failing to provide adequate urine for controlled substances testing without a valid medical explanation after the employee has received notice of the requirement for urine testing; or (3) the employee engaging in conduct that clearly obstructs the testing process. The employee will be provided with the name(s) of a qualified substance Abuse Professional (2) (SAP) and resources available from which the employee may choose to seek assistance.

An offer of employment will be withdrawn for any individual who receives a positive drug test result or who receives a result showing an alcohol concentration of .02 or greater on a required pre-employment test.

An employee who receives a result showing an alcohol concentration of .02-.039 from a required test shall be removed from performing any safety-sensitive function for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours. Duty time missed shall be charged to unpaid leave or may be charged to PTO time if available. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the School's policies.

An employee who receives a result showing an alcohol concentration of .02-.039 from a required post-accident test shall be removed from performing any safety-sensitive function for a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours. Duty time missed shall be charged to unpaid leave or may be charged to PTO time if available. Any covered employee who is cited and found guilty of a violation as a result of involvement in an accident will also receive a letter of reprimand. Disciplinary action for subsequent incidents will be taken in accordance with the school's policy.

An employee who is convicted of felony driving under the influence (DUI) or any drug related offense will be recommended for dismissal. As used in this policy, conviction is defined as a finding of guilt, a plea of guilt, a plea of Nolo Contendere, or entering a Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI) program, whether or not there is a formal adjudication of guilt.

- (3.5.7.6) **Confidentiality:** The laboratory may disclose test results only to the Principal (or designee). Any positive results which the School justifies by acceptable and appropriate medical or scientific documentation to account for the result as other than the intentional ingestion of an illegal drug will be treated as a negative test result and may not be released for the purpose of identifying illegal drug use. Test results will be protected under the provision of the Privacy Act, U.S.C. Section 552 a et seq., and Section 503(e) of the Act, and may not be released in violation of either Act. The School may maintain only those records necessary for compliance with this order. Any

records of the School, including drug test results, may be released to any management official for purposes of auditing the activities the School, except that the disclosure of the results of any audit may not include personal identifying information on an employee.

The results of a drug test of a School employee may not be disclosed without the prior consent of such employee, unless the disclosure would be:

- a) To the Principal (or designee), who has authority to take adverse personnel action against such employee; To any supervisory or management official within the School having authority to take adverse personnel action against such employee.
- b) Pursuant to the order of a court of competent jurisdiction or where required by the School to defend against any challenge against any adverse personnel action.

Any covered employee who is the subject of a drug or alcohol test shall, upon written request, have access to any records relating to the employees drug test, the results of any relevant certification, review or revocation of certification proceedings as referred to in 49 CFR Part 40 of this Act. Except as authorized by law, an applicant who is the subject of pre-employment drug testing, however, shall not be entitled to this information.

All drug testing information specifically relating to individuals is confidential and should be treated as such by anyone authorized to review or compile program records. In order to efficiently implement this order and to make information readily retrievable, the Principal shall maintain all records relating to reasonable suspicion testing, suspicion of tampering with evidence, and any other authorized documentation necessary to implement this order. Such shall remain confidential and maintained in a secure location with limited access. Only authorized individuals who have a “need to know” shall have access to them.

(3.5.8) **Guidelines to Prevent Sexual Harassment:** The School prohibits sexual harassment (which is a form of sexual discrimination), in any form, involving employees, Directors, school volunteers or students within this system. To ensure all employees understand our policies regarding avoiding sexual harassment, all employees must sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand our policies regarding sexual harassment in the workplace.

(3.5.8.1) **Definition:** Any inappropriate sexual comment or any sexual behavior from an adult toward a student is unethical and is considered sexual harassment. The staff-member is fully responsible for the comment/behavior. For these purposes, staff members are defined as including, but not limited to, any employee, consultant or volunteer for the School. Sexual harassment within the School is unwanted sexual attention from anyone dealt with in the School or at school-related activities. Behaviors considered to be sexual harassment include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) Spreading sexual gossip

- b) Unwanted sexual comments (whether intended to be serious or humorous)
- c) Pressure for sexual activity
- d) Any unwanted physical contact of a sexual nature
- e) Making unwanted sexually suggestive telephone calls or writing unwanted suggestive letters
- f) Creating a hostile, offensive or intimidating environment based on or related to gender that has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's work performance
- g) Any offers of or requests for sexual favors or advances to secure favorable employment conditions or to avoid unfavorable conditions

(3.5.8.2) **Reporting:** Adult victims of sexual harassment should report the situation to the Principal (or designee). Students who are victims should report to the Principal (or designee). Any staff member who becomes aware of an allegation of the sexual harassment of a student shall immediately report that allegation to the Principal (or designee) whether or not the staff member feels the allegation is well-founded.

All complaints will be investigated promptly in a fair and adequate manner. No retaliation against individuals who file complaints in good faith will be tolerated. A substantiated charge against a staff member shall subject such staff member to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. A substantiated charge against a student shall subject that student disciplinary actions for serious misconduct, including expulsion.

(3.5.9) **Prohibition Of Harassment:** Harassment on the basis of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, nation or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, physical attributes, personal attributes or social and family background or that of his/her relatives, friends or associates, constitutes discrimination in the terms, conditions and privileges of education or employment. The school provides a working and education environment free from discrimination, intimidation, insult, and ridicule, and takes actions to eliminate such practices or remedy their effects.

(3.5.9.1) **Definition:** Harassment is verbal or physical conduct that denigrates or shows hostility toward an individual because of his/her race, color, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, physical attributes, personal attributes or social and family background or that of his/her relatives, friends or associates and that:

- a) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment
- b) Has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance
- c) Otherwise adversely affects an individual's education or employment.

Harassing conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Epithets, slurs, negative stereotyping or threatening, intimidating or hostile acts that relate to his/her race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic

origin, political beliefs, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, physical attributes personal attributes or social and family background or that of his/her relatives, friends or associates; and

- b) Written or graphic materials that denigrate or show hostility toward an individual or group because of his/her race, color, religion, sex, age, national or ethnic origin, political beliefs, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, physical attributes, personal attributes, or social and family background or that of his/her relatives, friends or associates and that is placed on walls, bulletin boards, or circulated in the School.

(3.5.9.2) **Reporting:** Adult victims of harassment should report the situation to the Principal (or designee). Students who are victims of harassment by other students should report the situation to the Principal (or designee). Students who are victims of harassment by employees or volunteers should immediately report the situation to the Principal. Any staff member who becomes aware of the harassment of a student shall immediately report it to the Principal.

Complaints will be investigated in a fair manner. Complaints about harassment by an officer, employee, or volunteer of the School shall be reported to the Principal. No retaliation against individuals who file complaints in good faith will be tolerated. A substantiated charge shall subject the individual to appropriate disciplinary action.

(3.5.9.3) **Training:** New employee orientation training shall include a component on the harassment policy. All administrators are responsible for assuring that their staff members are familiar with the policy on harassment and that new employees are orientated as necessary throughout each school year. As part of the review of the Code of Student conduct at the beginning of the school year, this policy will be discussed in student classes, school advisory councils, and parent and teacher associations. Students enrolled after the beginning of the school year will be provided a copy of the Code of Student conduct and advised of this policy.

(3.5.10) **Teacher Certification Standards:** In the absence of Florida Statutes or State Board of Education Rules mandating teacher certification requirements, the Principal is directed to establish and keep in force procedures for appropriate certification guidelines. The provision of the Standards shall apply to all teaching certificates issued for grades K-12. When state-mandated certificates are available, all such certificates issued by the School shall become null and void.

(3.5.11) **Familiarity Of Instructional Personnel With Statutes, Rules And Policy:** All instructional personnel are expected to be familiar with Florida Statutes, State Board of Education Rules, and Policies of the School, which have particular reference to their responsibilities as educators. When in doubt about the existence or applicability of any such statute, rule or policy, personnel should check with the School Principal. Copies of Florida Statutes and State Board of Education Rules can be obtained from county law libraries, courthouses in St. Petersburg and Clearwater and the Internet.

(3.5.12) **Contracts With Administrators And Supervisors:** All administrative personnel who do not hold continuing contract status shall be issued annual notification of

reappointment in lieu of a contract. The Principal shall operate under contract signed by the Board of Directors and the Principal. Non-contract personnel are “at-will” employees and may resign or be terminated at any time.

- (3.5.13) **Resignations:** All employment with the School is at-will. Contracts and agreements with employees will clearly spell-out the at-will nature of the employment. Should an employee wish to resign, they are recommended to give the School two weeks notice to find a replacement.
- (3.5.14) **Tutoring:** No teacher shall receive compensation for tutoring a student who is enrolled in the teacher’s class during the regular school term. No tutoring by teachers for compensation is allowed on School property. Tutoring is defined as reviewing curriculum that is taught within the classroom.
- (3.5.15) **Membership In Organizations:** Membership in any organization shall not be a condition for employment in the School.
- (3.5.16) **Extra-Curricular Activities:** Every administrative and instructional staff member is expected to assume a reasonable share of the activities assigned by the Principal. Failure to assume these duties may be cause for disciplinary action.
- (3.5.17) **Appeals:** If an employee does not agree with a decision made by the principal, as allowed anywhere in these policies, the Employee may appeal the decision by submitting a written request to the Board of Directors. The Board will hear the appeal and decide within an Executive Session at the next meeting of the Board.
- (3.5.18) **Professional Development Trade Days:** In an attempt to encourage instructional and administrative staff members to participate in outside professional development activities, the school agrees to offer Professional Development Trade Days [PDTD] to employees. Periodically throughout the year professional development days are scheduled, staff members may utilize accumulated PDTD so that they may not report to work on some professional development days, or be allowed to leave early on early release days. If a staff member wants to participate in a professional development activity outside of their normal work hours, and count the training as a PDTD, the employee will ask the Principal for permission to attend the training as a PDTD. The Principal has the discretion to allow or disallow the training to be used as PDTD. The Principal also has the option to disallow specific professional development days to be missed by staff members if the offering on that day is important to the mission of the school.

Chapter 4: Student Manual

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Admissions and Attendance

(4.1.1) **Admission of Students:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy is a public charter school. As such, we must admit all students based on availability. Prior to enrollment, parents shall meet with the Principal to discuss the student and how they would fit within our school. The parent will receive a tour, information about the school, and share information regarding the student that would assist us in meeting the student's needs. Provided that we are able to meet the child's needs, and that we have seats available, the children will be admitted based on availability for the current year. If they are applying for the following year, they will follow the lottery procedure as described in section 4.1.2.

(4.1.2) **Lottery Procedures:** In the event that more students have enrolled to the school than there are spots available by the deadline established by the School, a lottery will be held to determine which students will be accepted. The following students will be allowed to bypass the lottery and will be automatically accepted:

- a) Students who were enrolled at Pinellas Preparatory Academy the year before.
- b) Students who have siblings enrolled at Pinellas Preparatory Academy.
- c) Students whose parents are on the Board of Directors of Pinellas Preparatory Academy.
- d) Students whose parents are staff members at Pinellas Preparatory Academy.

Once the deadline has past, all students will be assigned a number. Numbers will be randomly chosen to decide which students will be accepted into the school. All students will be ranked based on these random numbers. All students who are granted acceptance will be notified, and asked to respond whether they will be attending. If not, the next student on the list will be granted that position until the entire list has been accepted. If there are still openings, they will be awarded on a first come first serve basis.

(4.1.3) **Attendance:** Florida Statutes 1003.21 mandates that all students are required to attend school, and sets forth specific requirements for the school. Parents and students can be held legally accountable for truancy. In order to manage the attendance of our students Pinellas Preparatory Academy will follow the following procedures:

(4.1.3.1) **Parental Reporting:** Within 48 hours of a student's absence, the parent will send a note or call the school explaining the absence. If that contact does not occur, the absence will be recorded as unexcused. Under some circumstances, more than parental notification may be required.

(4.1.3.2) **Excused Absences:** The following absences will be considered excused:

- a) Student is ill. (If illness persists for three or more consecutive days, or requires numerous nonconsecutive absences, a doctor's note may be required, as requested by the Principal).
- b) Major illness in the family. (If illness persists for three or more consecutive days, or requires numerous nonconsecutive absences, a doctor's note may be required, as requested by the Principal).
- c) Death in the immediate family of the student.

- d) Religious holiday of the student's faith. This requires a parent's note *three days prior* to the absence. This category of absence is not counted when deciding who receives perfect attendance.
- e) Religious institutes, conferences, or workshops (only two days allowed if the request is signed by a parent and given to the school before the absence. These absences are considered excused absences, and will prevent a student from receiving perfect attendance.
- f) Subpoena or forced absence by any law enforcement agency. A copy of the subpoena or summons will be given to the Principal (or designee). This includes detention at a juvenile center in which the student continues his/her education.
- g) A major disaster as decided by the administration.
- h) Any absence, including those for field trips or other parental requests as judged appropriate by the Principal, provided that the request is submitted to the Principal forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the absence. A principal may waive the requirement for advance notice if extenuating circumstances exist.

(4.1.3.3) **Tardiness:** As provided by Pinellas County School Board's policies, numerous tardies can be equated to absences. If a student is excessively tardy (defined as an hour or more late to school), three (3) or such events will equate a single absence. Six (6) occurrences of tardiness less than one hour will equate to a single absence. The Principal can excuse tardiness if a written explanation is provided to the school upon the return of the student.

(4.1.3.4) **Early Removal:** Students are expected to attend the entire day of school. Students who are removed early from school are missing valuable instruction time, and this will be treated as tardiness. A student who is removed an hour or more early from school three (3) times will be equated to one (1) absence. Six (6) occurrences of being removed from school less than an hour will equate to a single absence.

(4.1.3.5) **Make Up Work:** Students who miss school for any reason (excused or not) will be expected to make up all work missed during their absence, tardiness, or early removal from school. Parents may contact the school to request work, but should provide at least a 24-hour turn around to prepare such materials.

(4.1.3.6) **Consequences:** If a student has at least five (5) unexcused absences within a thirty (30) day period, or ten (10) days out of ninety (90), the student's homeroom teacher shall report to the Principal that there may be a pattern of nonattendance existing. After this referral the Principal will consider referring the student to the Student Success Team. The team will identify potential remedies to the nonattendance behavior. The Principal will also notify the Pinellas County School District's superintendent of the pattern of nonattendance, as well as legal authorities if appropriate. If the remedies do not resolve the problem, additional consequences, such as alternative placement, changes to the learning environment, etc. may be considered. Additionally, legal authorities will be notified if the problem is not corrected.

- (4.1.4) **Late Entries:** Students who enroll into Pinellas Preparatory Academy after the start of a term will need to work with the each teacher to determine what back work, if any, needs to be completed. Some assignments or testing which are essential to the completion of the Sunshine State Standards may be required. Teachers will give students until the end of the current term to complete assignments.
- (4.1.5) **Withdrawals:** Students who choose to leave Pinellas Preparatory Academy will be assisted in their transition to their new school by having the School create a report indicating the student's performance and current grade in each class. These reports can be provided twenty-four (24) hours after the parent provides notification of the withdrawal. Pinellas Preparatory Academy reserves the right to follow up with the student's future placement to ensure compliance with compulsory attendance laws.
- (4.1.6) **Removal of Students from Class:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy believes that children learn in a variety of ways, and that our teachers provide an environment that meets the multi-intelligences needs of our students. By using this unique approach to education, we believe we reduce the number of behavioral concerns within the classroom. However, it may become necessary for a teacher to remove a child from class for behavioral concerns. Due to the small nature of our school, Teachers do not have the option of requesting permanent removal from class. If a child is removed from a class due to behavioral concerns, they will meet with the Principal to discuss the concern and ways of remedying the situation. If necessary, the Principal will meet with both the student and the teacher to identify ways to rectify the situation before the student is allowed to return to class. Parents will receive notification by either a telephone call and/or writing if a child is removed from class for behavioral concerns.
- (4.1.7) **Releasing A Student From School:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy is concerned about the safety of our students. Students will only be released to people who are their parents or legal guardians, unless we have received written permission to release the student to another adult. In the case of divorce or separation of the parents, both parents shall have full rights until legal notification is provided to the school limiting the rights of either parent.

Behavior

- (4.2.1) **Code of Student Conduct:** Unless otherwise spelled out within these policies of Pinellas Preparatory Academy, the School will adhere to the Pinellas County Schools Code of Student Conduct. Copies of the Code of Conduct will be distributed to all students at the beginning of the year.
- (4.2.2) **Referral Matrix:** Students are expected to behave in a respectful manner while at school. Pinellas Preparatory Academy uses a matrix to assist in dealing with inappropriate behaviors of students. When a student misbehaves beyond the scope a teacher's classroom management program, they will report to the Principal (or designee) to discuss the behavior. The Principal (or designee) will decide at which level the behavior shall be considered (Levels 1-4, 1 being for minor offenses, such as wearing a hat in school, and level 4 being for serious violations such as assault or

possession of illegal materials). For each level the continuum of consequences is different. Each year, the school staff shall review the matrix and make appropriate revisions. The matrix along with an explanation will be sent home at the start of each school year to obtain parent and student signatures.

- (4.2.3) **Behavioral Consequences:** The following is a list of possible consequence that may be given to students for inappropriate behavior. In certain instances, other consequences that appropriately match the misbehavior may also be used.
- a) **Warning:** If the behavior was a minor infraction, and was the first occurrence, the student may receive a warning. Warnings just let the student know that if the behavior continues there will be more significant consequences in the future. Parents will receive a “referral” form to be signed and returned, but this will not be kept in the student’s permanent file.
 - b) **Referral To Permanent File:** A referral to a permanent file will be a paper that is completed by the Principal (or designee) and the student regarding the misbehavior, which must be taken home, signed by the parent, and returned to school. The referral will be kept within the student’s permanent cum folder. If the student does not return the referral with a parent signature, they may receive detentions and the parent will be called.
 - c) **Detention:** A detention is an extension of the school day where the students will be expected to stay after school. This time will be used to complete tasks to help the school, such as cleaning the grounds. The student must report immediately after school and stay until 4:30. If the student does not report immediately following the school day, the time may not be considered as having served the detention.
 - d) **Suspension:** A suspension will be time away from school to consider misbehavior. When suspended, a student is not allowed on school property, and if they are found on school property, will be considered trespassing. While suspended, students are not allowed to participate in any school related activities. Suspensions will be considered unexcused absences, and the student will be required to make up all work from time missed. When returning, students will not be allowed to participate in extra curricular activities or field trips for thirty (30) days following the suspension.
 - e) **Parent Shadowing:** If a student is suspended more than once, the school may require that the child’s parent(s) report to school with him/her to shadow them to ensure they are behaving appropriately in school.
 - f) **Expulsion:** Under rare, serious circumstances, the School may consider expelling the student from the school. Extensive interventions with the child and the family will be attempted before considering expulsion.

Academics

- (4.3.1) **Grading Policy:** Teachers will grade assignments within a reasonable time and provide feedback to students on their progress in class. The following grade scale

will be used by Pinellas Preparatory Academy teachers:

A	90% - 100%	Superior
B	80% - 89%	Above Average
C	70% - 79%	Average
D	60% - 69%	Below Average
F	0% - 59%	Unsatisfactory
I		Incomplete

In addition to the feedback teachers provide to the students, grades are posted online for parents, and progress will be sent home regularly.

(4.3.2) **Honor Roll:** Any student who receives all As & Bs on their report card will be considered to be on the Honor Roll for Pinellas Preparatory Academy. Any student who receives all As will be added to the “Principal’s List.”

(4.3.3) **Extra Curricular:**

(4.3.3.1) **Extracurricular Activities:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy offers clubs to students as extracurricular activities. These clubs cover a variety of areas and provide extra benefits to students who attend our school. Clubs will begin about a month after the start of school. A catalog of clubs that are available will be sent out prior to when they start so children can decide which clubs they wish to be in. Students with academic or behavioral concerns can be disallowed from participating in clubs.

(4.3.3.2) **Off Campus Activities (Field Trips, Etc.):** Field trips are school-related events for which school staff arranges transportation and ensures an appropriate number of chaperones. All trips shall be subject to prudent safety precautions and conducted according to the rules established by the School. Every effort should be made to schedule field trips without interrupting other school functions.

All trips off campus must be approved by the Principal at least two weeks prior to the even occurring. Field trips should have an educational purpose to be approved. All trips must be conducted under the supervision of a certified School employee, and additional chaperones may be necessary to maintain an adult to student ratio of 10:1. If the circumstances of the field trip require more supervision, the principal may require additional chaperones.

Students cannot be excluded from a field trip based on the inability to pay the accompanying fee.

(4.3.4) **Chaperones:** Chaperones and volunteers for school events must register with the school as a volunteer. This can be done by coming to the office with photo identification and completing the required form. This must occur prior to being with students.

(4.3.5) **Homework Policy:** Homework is given to help students practice materials and learn important skills related to responsibility. Students are expected to complete their homework and hand it to the teacher on time. When assignments are handed in late

the following scale will be used:

- 1 Day Late – Graded no higher than a B
- 2 Days Late – Graded no higher than a C
- 3 Days Late – Graded no higher than a D
- 4 Days Late – Graded no higher than a 59%

Students who have an excused absence will have the number of days equal to the number of days absent to make up class and homework without penalty. Any assignment not turned into a teacher will receive a 0.

- (4.3.6) **Specialty Classes:** Any student participating in a specialty class, such as Gifted or Chorus, must maintain a grade average of at least a B in all classes. All work missed while attending specialty classes must be made up within one school day.

Miscellaneous

- (4.4.1) **Dress Code:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy adheres to the Pinellas County School District dress code, although we have amended it slightly for clarity and specification:

- a) Clothing will be neat and clean.
- b) Appropriate footwear must be worn. No roller skates of any kind are allowed at school unless permission to store skates at school is granted by the Principal. No bedroom slippers are allowed. Sandles and flip flops are allowed if the student has alternatives for PE classes.
- c) Clothing must be appropriate size, with the waist of the garment worn at the student's hip or above.
- d) Clothing not properly buttoned, zippered, fastened, or with inappropriate holes or tears shall not be worn.
- e) No midriff shirts or blouses are allowed. Shirts must cover waist when hands are extended above head.
- f) Boys' shirts will have sleeves.
- g) No spaghetti straps, halters, strapless, or backless clothing is allowed. All shirts must have sleeves, which are defined as fabric beyond the hem. See through or mesh garments must have proper undergarments (not suggestive or revealing in any way).
- h) Form fitting leotard/spandex type clothing (including sports bra) is not allowed unless proper outer garments cover it.
- i) Shorts, skirts, divided skirts, dresses and culottes are allowed but they must be hemmed and not disruptive or distracting as determined by the Principal. Shorts, skirts, etc. must be long enough to reach the student's finger tips when held straight at the sides of the body.
- j) No clothes or tattoos that show profanity, violence, sexually suggestive phrases or pictures, gang related symbols, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, or advertisements for such products or other phrases or symbols deemed inappropriate by the Principal are allowed.

- k) No sunglasses may be worn inside unless the parent provides a doctor's note.
- l) Hats and bandanas are not allowed on school grounds unless approved in advance by the Principal.
- m) No underwear, including bras and boxer shorts, may show.
- n) Students are encouraged to wear school T-shirts on Fridays, and whenever else they see fit.
- o) Special dress requirements may be imposed by the Principal for special events such as field trips.
- p) No more than two earrings per ear are permitted. No jewelry shall utilize body piercing other than ear piercing. The Principal will have the final say in whether any piece of jewelry is permitted.
- q) No chains of any type are allowed on or off clothing.

(4.4.2) **Cell Phone Policy:** Students of Pinellas Preparatory Academy are allowed to have cellular phones at school only if parental permission is given to have the telephone at school, and with the Principal's approval. Once approved, students may keep their phones out of sight and turned off. If a phone is seen or heard during class times, they will be taken away. When a student needs to use the telephone, they should obtain permission from a staff member prior to use.

(4.4.3) **Child Abuse, Molestation, Neglect:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy considers the welfare of students to be of paramount concern in its responsibilities. Therefore, all district employees and volunteers are directed to take whatever action may be necessary as required by Chapter 39, and 827 F.S. and all statutes and laws of the State of Florida as regards to all instances of suspected child abuse, molestation and child neglect.

Any district employee or volunteer who has reasonable cause to suspect child abuse shall immediately make an oral report to the Department of Children and Families Abuse and Neglect Hotline. A person who is required to report known or suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect and who knowingly and willfully fails to do so, or who knowingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. Further, a person who does make a report of suspected abuse in good faith has immunity from civil and criminal liability pursuant to § 39.203, F.S. The person making the call (if other than the building administrator) shall notify the building administrator immediately. Any person who reports should keep a record of the date and time they made the report, whom they spoke to and the general information they provided to the Abuse Hotline. The building administrator should maintain records of the report but these should not be placed in a student cum folder.

The report shall be made under the following circumstances: When there is reasonable cause to suspect that child abuse or maltreatment has been inflicted through willful or negligent acts which result in neglect, malnutrition, sexual abuse, physical injury, or mental injury. Neglect is a failure to provide sustenance, clothing, shelter or medical condition. Abuse of maltreatment may also include aiding, abetting, counseling, hiring or procuring a child to perform or participate in any

photographic motion picture, exhibition show, representation or other presentation which, in whole or in part, depicts sexual conduct, sexual excitement or masochistic abuse involving a child as defined by law.

- (4.4.4) **School Calendar:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy follows the Pinellas County School District annual school calendar. The School will, however, set its own start and stop times.
- (4.4.5) **Text Book Policy:** Students will be issued books in each of their classes, which remain the property of the school. Any lost, stolen, or damaged books are the sole responsibility of the student whom the book has been checked out to. If something occurs to this property, the incident must be reported immediately. Students not returning books or returning severely damaged books will be required to make payment for the replacement or repair costs to the school.
- (4.4.6) **Car Circle:** Most students who attend Pinellas Preparatory Academy are transported by private vehicles, which makes drop off and pick up difficult. Students are allowed to be dropped off 15 minutes prior to the start of school, and should be picked up within 15 minutes of the ending of the school day. The school's administrator will develop procedures for the safe and orderly drop off and pick up of students, and disseminate this information to parents periodically throughout the year.
- (4.4.7) **Computers and Internet Acceptable Use Policy:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy requires that every child, in order to gain access to computers and the Internet, must obtain parental permission as verified by the signatures on the Acceptable Use Policy form being sent home at the beginning of the school year. Students will not be permitted to use computers until that form is completed and returned.
- (4.4.8) **Dances:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy periodically sponsors dances for students. Attendance is limited to those students who are achieving academically and following the rules of conduct set forth by the School and Pinellas County School District. Dances may be held separately for different age levels. Students are required to follow the rules and regulations of Pinellas Preparatory Academy while attending any dance. Parents are encouraged to attend as chaperones.
- (4.4.9) **Games and Electronic Devices:** Toys, games, playing cards, electronic devices and other non-academic items or games are not allowed on school property without specific permission from a staff member (for example, clubs or special events). Any items found without permission will be confiscated and returned to parents.

Records

- (4.6.1) **Security of Student Records:** All student information is considered confidential. Such information shall be available to the parent or guardian or to the student himself who has attained the age of eighteen (18) years. Professionally competent personnel shall be available for interpreting any data with the student's cumulative folder. Copies of such contents shall also be made available to parents/students at cost, within the limitations of copying facilities.

The school may, without the consent of the student or his parents, release student records contained within the cumulative folder or any supplementary classifications to school officials who have a proper educational purpose in examining such information.

No other person may have access to or copies of a student's records, except under the following circumstances:

- a) The consent must be given by the student's parent or guardian except when a student reaches the age of eighteen (18) or is married, at which time his consent and not that of his parents shall be obtained in order to release the information; and a student who meets the foregoing requirements shall consent to parental access to his records.
- b) The consent shall be written and shall specify the records to be released and to whom they are to be released. Each request for consent shall be handled separately; blanket permission for the release of information shall not be acceptable.
- c) Under compulsion of law: courts, law enforcement agencies, agencies subpoenaing such records.
- d) When data for outside purposes is released in such form that no individual student is identifiable.
- e) When the principal determines the release of specific information as described by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 is in the best interests of the student, provided such information has not been disallowed by the parents.

The parent or guardian, or an eighteen (18) year old or older student, shall have the right to challenge the accuracy and authenticity of data recorded within the student's cumulative folder. Any such data that is determined by the principal to be inaccurate shall be expunged from the record; and an appeal from the decision of the Principal shall be made to the Board of Directors.

In each instance in which a student's record is transferred out of the school, the school shall retain a complete copy of the student's academic record, together with all other confidential information and reports. After three (3) years this material will be sent to Central Files with Pinellas County Schools.

Chapter 5: Teaching And Learning

- 5 Teaching and Learning
 - 5.1 Teaching and Learning
 - 5.2 Curriculum
 - 5.3 Teacher’s Lesson Plans
 - 5.4 Reporting Student Progress
 - 5.5 Exceptional Student Education
 - 5.5.3 Acceptance of Students
 - 5.5.4 Limitation of Services
 - 5.5.5 Dual Enrollment
 - 5.6 Section 504 Policy
 - 5.6.3 When a 504 Plan will be considered
 - 5.6.4 Meeting to consider 504 Plan
 - 5.6.5 Eligibility

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- (5.1) **Teaching and Learning:** At Pinellas Preparatory Academy we believe that high quality teaching results in a positive learning environment for our students. We believe that an interdisciplinary approach to education is more productive for students. An approach the intertwines subject areas in a cohesive way for students allows them to build connections which helps them learn content more effectively and prepares them for their future lives. We also believe non-academic values such as creativity, leadership, and emotional growth are essential to the development of our students.

We believe teaching is only effective if students are learning. Teachers much not only teach in an integrated, multi-disciplinary way, but also regularly assess the achievement of students to ensure understanding and that effective learning is occurring. Without learning, teaching cannot be considered effective.

Pinellas Preparatory Academy encourages teachers to use authentic assessment regularly in their lesson plans. Additionally, teachers are expected to include the use of portfolios in their instruction. Formal assessments are also conducted three times a year. The Stanford-9 is administered at the start and end of the academic year to provide a baseline and a clear demonstration of the growth of each individual student. Additionally, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) is administered to assess student achievement and demonstrate the success of the school.

- (5.2) **Curriculum:** The curriculum of Pinellas Preparatory Academy will prepare students for a successful high school curriculum and a successful life. The curriculum will follow the Sunshine State Standards and will strive to exceed the standards of the Pinellas County School Board. All teachers will be expected to follow the schools curriculum guide so as to ensure all standards are met and to reduce repetition among grade levels.
- (5.3) **Teacher’s Lesson Plans:** Teachers will be expected to hand in lesson plans that correlate with both the Pinellas Preparatory Academy Curriculum Guide and the

Florida Sunshine State Standards to the Principal. Lesson plans will be reviewed to ensure compliance with school and state requirements. Plans will be kept on file for five years before being destroyed.

- (5.4) **Reporting Student Progress:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy believes parents are an integral part in their child's education. To keep parents informed, students' progress will be formally reported eight times per year. Midway through each marking period a progress report will be sent home with students. At the end of each quarter report cards will be distributed documenting student progress.

Additionally, Pinellas Preparatory Academy will utilize an online grading system. Using this system, teachers will upload their grades weekly onto the internet so that parents can stay up-to-date about the progress of their children.

Exceptional Student Education

- (5.5.1) **Acceptance of Students:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy is a public school that is required to admit all students, based on openings. The school does not however serve the broad array of all exceptional educational needs. We provide SLD services, and contract with providers for SL and OT. If additional services are required that we are unable to provide, we will consider the option of dual enrollment at another Pinellas County Public School.
- (5.5.2) **Limitation of Services:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy strives to meet the needs of all of our students. We attempt to provide individualized instruction to all of our students. The school hires an ESE teacher to assist with working with children who have special needs. Pinellas Preparatory Academy does not, however, provide the full-range of ESE services that are available from other counties school. When a child with special needs is considering enrolling at PPA, the family will be informed of the services provided by the school and our current staffing levels.
- (5.5.3) **Dual Enrollment:** If a child has special needs that are not able to be met by the staff at Pinellas Preparatory Academy, prior to enrollment, or during the staffing process for new referrals, PPA staff will work with the Pinellas County School District's area ESE staffing specialist to find a nearby school which provides the required services. Should the parents choose to do so, the child could be dual enrolled between PPA and the PCS school providing ESE services. The student would receive regular education services from PPA and would be transported by PPA to the PCS school.
- (5.6) **Section 504 Policy:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy provides a free and public education to each student who is disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regardless of the nature of severity of the disability.
- (5.6.1) **When a 504 Plan will be considered:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy will consider a 504 plan for accommodations if a Student Success Team feels that the child may have a disability which would meet the criteria for such a plan. This can occur when a teacher identifies a student who is having difficulties, a parent requests a team to consider the

needs of a student, or if a medical report has been submitted identifying a student as having a disability.

- (5.6.2) **Meeting to consider 504 Plan:** If a Student Success Team recommends a student be considered for a 504 plan, the student's homeroom teacher will coordinate a meeting among the student's teachers and school specialist. The teacher will also ensure the parents have been notified and invited to the meeting. While at the meeting, the team members will consider whether the student's disabilities qualify them for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If so, the team will identify the accommodations necessary to allow the student to be successful within the school environment. Pinellas County School Board forms will be used for both determination and the actual 504 Plan.
- (5.6.3) **Eligibility:** To determine if a child has a disability that qualifies them for a 504 Plan, the team will utilize the policies of Pinellas County School Board in regards to eligibility. (PCS Policies: 5.504(5)-(7)).

Chapter 6: Management

- 6 Management
 - 6.1 Emergency Procedures
 - 6.1.3 Fire Drill Procedures
 - 6.1.4 Tornado Drill Procedures
 - 6.1.5 Hurricane Closures
 - 6.1.6 Intruder / Lock Down Procedures
 - 6.2 Fund Raising
 - 6.3 Religious Holiday Exemptions
 - 6.4 Photographs of Students
 - 6.4.3 Portraits
 - 6.4.4 Snapshots
 - 6.5 Gifts
 - 6.6 Supervision of Students
 - 6.7 Monetary
 - 6.8 Capitalization Policy

Emergency Procedures

- (6.1.1) **Fire Drill Procedures:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy will maintain an evacuation plan to be used in the case of fire or other emergency situations. This plan will be reviewed annually by the school administration for effectiveness. All students and staff members will be made aware of the plan, and maps highlight the escape routes will be posted in all school rooms. Fire drills will be conducted at least once per month. Drills will be held at various times throughout the day and will test various types of fire emergencies. Documentation of the drills will be maintained in the school office.
- (6.1.2) **Tornado Drill Procedures:** The school will maintain an emergency plan for use during tornado and inclement weather. This plan will be reviewed annually. All staff and students will be made aware of this plan. The plan will be practiced at least twice per year as is required by Florida law. Documentation of the drills will be maintained in the school office.
- (6.1.3) **Hurricane Closures:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy will follow the same emergency closures as the Pinellas County School District. Parents should monitor local news outlets during inclement weather. If the public Pinellas County Schools are closed, Pinellas Preparatory Academy will also be closed. In the event that too many closures occur, and time must be made up, the Pinellas County School District's schedule will continue to be followed by Pinellas Preparatory Academy.
- (6.1.4) **Intruder / Lock Down Procedures:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy will maintain an emergency Intruder / Lock Down Procedure. This plan will be reviewed annually for effectiveness and to ensure compliance by school personnel. All staff and students will be made aware of the procedures. The procedures will be practiced at least twice per year, and documentation of such will be maintained in the school office.

- (6.2) **Fund Raising:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy is a nonprofit organization which relies on governmental funds and contributions to effectively educate our students. As a result, fundraising is necessary to help support the educational programs offered. The principal shall approve all fund raising activities and ensure that families are not being asked to contribute excessively at any given time. Efforts will be made to ensure only fund raiser occurs at one time. All fundraisers will identify the purpose for the money raised.
- (6.3) **Religious Holiday Exemptions:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy follows the same annual school calendar as the Pinellas County School District. PPA is proud of the diversity our students bring to the school, and realizes that some religious holidays are not represented by the school calendar. As such, absences for the observance of religious holidays will be considered excused if the students' parents send letters three days prior to the absence identifying the holiday and informing the school of the absence. School staff will provide ways for the students to make up the work and ensure that the students are not penalized for their absence.
- (6.4) **Photographs of Students:**
- (6.4.1) **Portraits:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy will sponsor one or two formal portrait days for students. PPA will utilize a company which best meets the needs of the families for a reasonable cost. These photos will be utilized for the creation of the yearbook in addition to being sold to the families.
- (6.4.2) **Snapshots:** Frequently throughout the school year school staff take pictures of events that happen during the school day. Should a parent not want their child photographed in such a way, they must submit written notification of their request to the Principal. This request will then be passed along to school staff. Snapshots may periodically be used for promotional materials for the school. Every attempt will be made to receive parental permission prior to the publishing of promotional materials which include the photograph of students. This includes printed and electronic promotional materials.
- (6.5) **Gifts:** Collections of funds from students by students for the purpose of giving gifts to a staff member of Pinellas Preparatory Academy will be discourage.
- (6.6) **Supervision of Students:** Students are to be supervised at all times while under the control of Pinellas Preparatory Academy. This includes the time students are attending school, while away from the school on school-sponsored events, or while participating in extracurricular activities, such as clubs. Supervision will be provided for 15-minutes prior and 15-minutes after the start and end of school. Parents will be notified of supervision times at least twice per year in writing through the school's newsletter. Students may not be left alone without supervision.
- (6.7) **MONETARY:** In order to ensure the responsible handling of school resources, the following points will be considered policies of Pinellas Preparatory Academy:
- Purchases exceeding \$500 require two signatures on any checks applied towards that purchase.

- Purchases above and beyond what has been approved in the budget by the Board of Directors must be taken to the Board before they can be made.
- The following individuals (by position) will have authority to sign financial documents: School Principal, Chairman of the Board, Treasurer of the Board, and Secretary of the Board.
- In order to maintain a consistent accounting system the Principal must see all expenditures prior to be made.
- The Principal and/or the Treasurer shall make reports on the fiscal status of the school to the Board of Directors at each regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- The Principal and any other individual authorize by the Board of Directors will have access to the school's credit card.
- Any individual wishing to utilize the School's credit card must sign an agreement that they will do the following:
 - Not utilize the credit card for personal purchases. If an error is made, and the card is used for personal purchases, the individuals must reimburse the school for the purchase within three (3) business days.
 - The individual must submit all receipts for purchases within three (3) business days of the purchase being made. If the individual does not submit this receipt, the individual will be required to pay for the entire purchase.
- E-payments are allowed to be made with the parameters identified within the budget.

(6.8) **CAPITALIZATION POLICY:** The general capitalization policy is that all equipment and other fixed assets costing in excess of \$500 will be recorded as an asset. All capital assets will be depreciated over their estimated useful lives, based on the table below. The straight line basis will be used with depreciation charged beginning in the month that the asset is placed in service. All capital assets over will be cataloged.

Computers	3-5 Years
Equipment	7 Years
Furniture	7 Years
Leasehold Improvements	39 Years
Phone System	7 Years
Software	3 Years

Chapter 7: Facilities

- 7 Facilities
 - 7.1 Animals In School
 - 7.1.1 Special Events
 - 7.1.2 Classroom Pets
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(7.1) **Animals In School:**

- (7.1.1) **Special Events:** Special events involving animals must be approved by the Principal at least two weeks prior to the event. If such an event is approved, a list of all animals to be present must be sent home to parents so as to ensure that no students will have allergies to the animals. If a student has allergies to an animal, the teacher is responsible for finding another environment for that student and providing opportunities to gain from the learning experience as other students who do not have allergies.
- (7.1.2) **Classroom Pets:** Teachers will be allowed to have classroom pets if such pets pertain to the curriculum the teacher is offering. The teacher will be responsible for the care, clean up and well being of classroom pets. Prior to bringing the pet into the classroom, the principal must approve of the proposed animal, then signed consent forms must be obtained from the parent/guardian of each student who would access the classroom. These forms must be submitted to the Principal prior to bringing the animal into the school. The Principal has the right to ask the animal to be removed at any time.

Chapter 8: Before / After Care

- 8 Before / After Care
 - 8.1 General Operation
 - 8.1.3 Hours of Operation
 - 8.1.4 Emergency closings / delays
 - 8.2 Registration
 - 8.3 Fees
 - 8.3.3 Before Care
 - 8.3.4 After Care
 - 8.3.5 Both Before and After Care
 - 8.3.6 Drop In
 - 8.3.7 Late Pick Up
 - 8.3.8 Due Date
 - 8.3.9 Discounts
 - 8.3.10 Returned / NSF Checks
 - 8.4 Student Expectations
 - 8.5 Staffing

- (8.1) **General Operation:** Pinellas Preparatory Academy provides before- and after-care service for families to assist with transportation and timing issues to make the School more accessible to families.
- (8.1.1) **Hours of Operation:** Before-care begins accepting students at 7:00am, and will release students for school when it begins. After-care accepts students at the end of the school day and will supervise students until 6:00pm. Students will be accepted 15 minutes after school is let out. Before- and after-care will only be provided on days when school is in session.
- (8.1.2) **Emergency closings / delays:** If school is delayed due to emergency or severe weather conditions, before-care will be delayed for the same amount of time as the school opening. If school is released or canceled due to severe weather or emergencies, after-care will also be canceled. If severe weather develops after after-care has begun, parents will be expected to make arrangements to pick up children as soon as possible.
- (8.2) **Registration:** Students wishing to enroll in before- or after-care must complete a registration form which documents important information which may be needed by before- and after-care staff. These forms should be completed prior to the student started the program.
- (8.3) **Fees:** The following fees are in affect for before- and after-care program.
- (8.3.1) **Before Care:** Before-care is provided for \$10 per week. Weeks with days where there is no school, and therefore no before-care, parents will receive a \$2 per day off discount for the week. (\$8 for four day weeks, \$6 for three day weeks, etc.)

- (8.3.2) **After Care:** After-care is provided for \$40 per week. Weeks with days where there is no school, and therefore no before-care, parents will receive a \$8 per day off discount for the week. (\$32 for four day weeks, \$24 for three day weeks, etc.). Students who regularly use after-care will not be charged extra for weeks with early release days.
- (8.3.3) **Both Before and After Care:** Children choosing to utilize both before- and after-care will be charged \$50 per week for service. Weeks with days where there is no school, and therefore no before- and after-care will receive a \$10 per day off discount for the week (\$40 for four day weeks, \$30 for three day weeks, etc.).
- (8.3.4) **Drop In:** Students who wish to utilize before- or after-care services on a drop-in basis will be charged \$10/day for this service. This service is subject to availability and the completion of paperwork. If a child is using after-care on an early release day, and does not regularly use the service, but is utilizing the drop-in service, they will be charged \$20 for the day.
- (8.3.5) **Late Pick Up:** Students who are picked up from after-care after 6:00pm will receive additional charges.
- 6:00pm – 6:14pm – Additional \$10
 6:15pm – 6:29pm – Additional \$20
 After 6:30pm An additional \$1 per minute past 6:00pm
- (8.3.6) **Due Date:** Fees should be paid weekly using either cash or check made out to Pinellas Preparatory Academy. All fees are due the Friday preceding the week of service. Payments not received by 6:00pm on Monday may be subject to a \$10 late fee.
- (8.3.7) **Discounts:** Families enrolling more than one student in before- and after-care will receive a 20% discount for the second and third child. If a family wishes to enroll more than three (3) students in before- and after-care, the additional children will be enrolled at no charge. Discounts are not available for students utilizing the drop-in service.
- (8.3.8) **Returned / NSF Checks:** Returned checks will be subject to an additional \$25 fee due immediately upon the return of the check. Multiple returned checks may require cash payments as decided by the Principal.
- (8.3.9) **Consistent Use:** When a family signs up for Before- and After-care, they are expected to have consistent use of the service. Each child will have fifteen (15) days throughout the year, taken in one-week increments, where they are able to not use the service and not be charged. However, should they utilize more days than this they will either lose their spot or must pay for the service even if not used.
- (8.4) **Student Expectations:** Students are required to follow the rules and regulations of Pinellas Preparatory Academy while attending before- and after-care. If a child exhibits inappropriate behavior, the Principal may decide to not allow the student to utilize the before- and after-care service.
- (8.5) **Staffing:** Before- and after-care shall always have two (2) staff persons on duty while children are present. The staff will ensure that all children are supervised at all times.

Procedures in effect during the normal school day regarding the supervision, safety, and accountability of staff and students remain in effect for before- and after-care.

- (8.3.6) **Free and Reduced Services:** Students who are eligible for the free and reduced lunch program will be provided a discount on the before / after care services. Students who are eligible for reduced lunch will receive a 50% discount on before and after care services. Students who receive a free lunch will receive a 75% discount on before and after care services.