Innovative Arts Academy Charter School

Parent/Student Handbook



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Revised 8/15/2023

WELCOME TO INNOVATIVE ARTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL	5
MISSION STATEMENT	5
VISION STATEMENT	5
CORE VALUES	5
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	5
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	5
BUILDING ADMINISTRATION	5
I. INTRODUCTION	7
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE	7
GENERAL INFORMATION	7
II. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING	8
BELL SCHEDULES	8
SCHOOL CALENDAR	8
CURRICULUM - GRADES 6 - 8	14
GRADING	14
HONOR ROLL	14
RETENTION POLICY	14
INCOMPLETES AND MAKE-UPS	15
CURRICULUM - GRADES 9 to 12	15
CLASS RANK	15
GRADING	16
HONOR ROLL	16
GRADUATION	16
PROMOTIONS	17
VALEDICTORIAN / SALUTATORIAN	17
INCOMPLETES AND MAKE-UPS	17
CURRICULUM GENERAL - GRADES 6 to 12	17
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES	17
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES:	17
PHYSICAL EDUCATION ATTIRE	17
GENERAL CLASS PROCEDURES:	17
DOCTOR'S MEDICAL EXCUSES	18
PARENTAL INFORMATION UPDATES	18

REPORT CARDS	18
SCHEDULING AND SCHEDULE CHANGES	19
SPECIAL EDUCATION	19
SUMMER SCHOOL	19
SCHOOL RECORD REQUESTS	19
WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE	19
IV. PUPIL SERVICES	20
HEALTH/NURSING SERVICES	20
STUDENT ILLNESSES	21
MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION IN SCHOOL	21
ELEVATOR USE FOR STUDENTS	21
STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)	21
ANONYMOUS REPORTING	21
V. SCHOOL PROCEDURES, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS	22
ABSENCES AND ATTENDANCE	22
CLASS ATTENDANCE	23
FAMILY TRIPS	23
REQUEST FOR EXCUSAL	23
LATE FOR SCHOOL/CLASS	24
APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE	24
REQUESTING HOMEWORK FOR STUDENTS WHEN STUDENTS ARE OUT	ILL 24
BUS AND TRANSPORTATION RULES & REGULATIONS	24
CAFETERIA RULES AND PROCEDURES	25
COMPUTER SYSTEM GUIDELINES	26
SCHOOL DANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS	26
USE OF PERSONALLY-OWNED VEHICLES TO ATTEND SCHOOL	26
ENTERING AND EXITING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY	27
USE OF PERSONALLY OWNED DEVICES	27
FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS	27
FIRE/SECURITY/SAFETY DRILLS	27
HALL CONDUCT	27
LAVATORY PRIVILEGES	28
LOCKERS	28
RESTRICTED MOVEMENT	28
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	29
ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE	29
VISITORS	29
WEAPONS/CONTRABAND SEARCH POLICY	20

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES	30
VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS	30
DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS	30
OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)	31
EXPULSION	31
PHYSICAL RESTRAINT/FORCE	31
PUNISHABLE BEHAVIORS	32
CHEATING & PLAGIARISM	32
 EATING OR DRINKING OUTSIDE OF THE CAFETERIA 	32
• EXTORTION	32
FALSE REPORTS	32
FIGHTING	33
• FORGERY	33
INSTIGATING/INCITING	33
INSUBORDINATION AND DISRESPECT	33
LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS	33
• LYING	34
 PROFANITY/RACIAL SLURS/VULGAR-ABUSIVE LANGUAGE 	34
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	34
• STEALING	34
VERBAL INTIMIDATION	35
• WEAPONS	35
ADDITIONAL OFFENSES	35
IIX. STUDENT DRESS CODE	36
IX. STAFF LIST	37

WELCOME TO INNOVATIVE ARTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

Educate. Motivate. Create. Innovate.

VISION STATEMENT

Innovative Arts Academy promotes diversity and instructional integrity so that all students achieve their maximum potential in an arts-centered, innovative, and challenging learning environment. To foster lifelong learning and ensure personal success for all students, IAA creates respect for community, excellence in education, and a commitment to service.

CORE VALUES

At Innovative Arts Academy, we...

- believe all students can learn and become productive citizens.
- believe the arts are central to learning, culture, and society.
- believe creative teaching fosters innovative thinkers and learners.
- encourage independence and growth by celebrating achievements and successes one student at a time.
- encourage teamwork by celebrating diversity, promoting equality, and demonstrating respect for all.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr. David Rank. President

Mr. Jason Nagle

Mr. Daniel Schmidt

Mr. Rob Sirmans

Mr. Robert Susko

Mr. Brian Taylor, Solicitor

Mr. Thomas Taylor, Accountant

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. Brad Schifko, Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Rocco Seiler, Chief Operations Officer

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Tony Pidgeon, Principal

Ms. Lynn Fischer, Assistant Principal

Mr. Ernest Batha, Dean of Students

Upon entering Innovative Arts Academy, students will be assigned to a counselor who will remain with them through the completion of their school program. Counselors are assigned according to students' last names.

Students are encouraged to seek the guidance of their counselor as a primary source of assistance in helping them to arrive at solutions to problems. Counselors are prepared to assist a student with course selection, career planning, meeting and coping with personal problems, planning for post-high school employment or education, etc. A counselor is willing to see a student at any time he/she is free and a student does not have a class.

Requests for appointments, aside from emergencies requiring immediate attention, will be honored during regularly scheduled study hall periods. Parents are encouraged to contact counselors any time they may have questions or concerns. Appointments may be arranged by contacting the Counseling Office.

Online therapy services are also available to students during school hours. These services can also be scheduled at no charge to the student at home and during the summer.

I. INTRODUCTION

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE

Dear Students and Parents,

Our goal each school year is to help prepare our students by providing them a solid educational foundation while teaching them the skills necessary to overcome future challenges. During their time at Innovative Arts Academy Charter School, students will experience significant growth and change. They will learn to accept increasing responsibility for their own decisions, actions, and words. By embracing a true student-centered philosophy, our curriculum is designed to enable students to succeed and flourish.

This handbook is intended to assist students and their families in learning about the mission, vision, core values, and expectations of students and parents / guardians of Innovative Arts Academy Charter School.

We take our responsibility to teach, support and model the elements of this handbook very seriously. Educational success can best be achieved when the student, school and home, work in collaboration. We expect students and their parents / guardians to embrace our mission, vision, and core values, as well as our high expectations for students. We value communication with the families of our students and urge parents to take an active role in the educational process including working with their children at home and reaching out to teachers if and when a challenge may arise. We all have a common goal, and that is to ensure our students are successful academically and socially. We need to work together, collectively, to ensure that occurs.

To our students, we ask that you strive to do your very best, and urge you to seek support from your teachers and staff to assist you in that effort. When people work together toward the same goals, the potential for success is unlimited! Your feedback is always welcome and appreciated.

Together, let's create memories that will last a lifetime!

Sincerely,

Bradley S. Schifko, M.Ed. Chief Executive Officer

Bradley S. Schifko

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please take this opportunity to review and discuss the information provided within this handbook. We direct our efforts towards the establishment of open lines of communication between the home and the school. We are confident that a partnership with Innovative Arts Academy staff and families will provide a positive growth experience for your child. While it is our intent to answer the telephone with a "live" person, depending on the time of day, it is possible that you will be transferred to our automated telephone system. The morning hours between 7:30-9:00 am and the lunch hours are usually the most hectic.

II. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

BELL SCHEDULES

	Regular Day	Hour Delay	2 Hour Delay	In-Service Early Dismissal
Faculty Start	6:50 AM	7:50 AM	8:50 AM	6:50 AM
Student Start	7:05 AM	8:05 AM	9:05 AM	7:05 AM
Faculty End	2:50 PM	2:50 PM	2:50 PM	2:50 PM
Student End	2:21 PM	2:21 PM	2:21 PM	12:14 PM

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Innovative Arts Academy 2023-2024 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

08/21 New Teacher Professional Development 08/22 Staff Professional Development 08/23 Staff Professional Development 08/24 Staff Professional Development 08/28 First Student Day 4 Academic Days	AUGUST 2023 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY 2024 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29	02/07 Early Dismissal - Staff Professional Development (PLC) 02/16-02/19 School Closed
09/01 School Closed 09/04 School Closed-Labor Day* 09/20 Early Dismissal - Staff Professional Development (PLC) 09/22 Students Asynchronous - Staff Professional Development (PLN) 19 Academic Days	SEPTEMBER 2023 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4* 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W Th F S 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	03/01 No Students - Staff Professional Development (Data Analysis) 03/22 Students Asynchronous - Staff Professional Development (PLN) 03/25 Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences 03/26 Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences 03/27 Early Dismissal Staff/Students 03/28-03/29 School Closed
10/9 School Closed* 10/20 No Students- Staff Professional Development (Data Analysis) 10/25 Early Dismissal - Staff Professional Development (PLC) 10/27 Early Dismissal - Faculty Meeting 21 Academic Days	OCTOBER 2023 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	04/01 School Closed 04/05 Early Dismissal - PLC/Faculty Meeting 04/19 No Students - Staff Professional Development (Data Analysis/Curriculum Revision)
11/08 Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences 11/09 Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences 11/10 School Closed-Veterans Day* 11/22-11/27 School Closed	NOVEMBER 2023 S M T W Th F S 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10* 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23* 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27* 28 29 30 31	05/27 School Closed- Memorial Day* 05/28 - Early Dismissal for Students/PLC for Staff 05/30 - Early Dismissal for Students/PLC for Staff 05/30 - Tentative Graduation/Last Day for Seniors Early Dismissal for Students 05/31 Early Dismissal for Students 22 Academic Days
12/21 Early Dismissal Staff/Students 12/22-12/30 School Closed 15 Academic Days	S M T W Th F S 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W Th F S 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	06/03-06/04 Early Dismissal for Students 06/05 Tentative Last Day/Early Dismissal for Students 3 Academic Days
01/01 School Closed* 01/02 School Closed 01/15 School Closed* 01/19 Early Dismissal - PLC/Faculty Meeting 01/26 Students Asynchronous - Staff Professional Development (PLN)	S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		Snow Makeup Days 06/06 06/07
20 Academic Days			180 Academic Days
Professional Development for Teachers Early Dismissal @ 12:10pm School Closed for Staff and Students First/Last Days of School			

Any required additional days will be added to the end of the School Calendar.

CURRICULUM - GRADES 6 - 8

The curriculum offered at IAA is diversified and responsive to the needs of our adolescent learners. Designed to meet the academic needs of the students, the curriculum reflects the criteria established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Each student is required to complete the following minimum requirements:

Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
English Language Arts Reading World Geography Life Science Mathematics PSSA Math/ELA Foundations of Art Physical Education and Health Computer Science Social Emotional Learning	English Language Arts Reading World Civilization Earth Science Mathematics PSSA Math/ELA Computer Science Career Readiness Social Emotional Learning Arts Rotation (Dance, Culinary, Digital Arts, Mass Communication, Visual Arts, Fashion)	English Language Arts Reading US History I Physical Science Mathematics PSSA Math/ELA/Science Social Emotional Learning Career Readiness Arts Rotation (Dance, Culinary, Digital Arts, Mass Communication, Visual Arts, Fashion)

GRADING

The manner in which students are evaluated in each class depends upon a number of factors determined by the course, the curriculum, and teacher and departmental/team requirements. Course grading and requirements will be distributed by the teacher. Grades will be posted as follows:

A = 90% - 100%

B = 80% - 89%

C = 70% - 79%

D = 60% - 69%

F = 59% and below

HONOR ROLL

100-96 Overall Average -- High Honors

95-90 Overall Average -- Honors

89-80 Overall Average -- Commendation

RETENTION POLICY

A student will be automatically retained in his or her present grade if a student fails three (3) core courses. If a student fails two (2) or one (1) core course(s), summer school may be available to that student. Attendance and successful completion of the course(s) will lead to promotion. Failure to pass the course(s) or to attend the summer session will result in automatic retention. Please note that a FEE may be charged for each course taken as part of the Summer Program. A maximum of two (2) courses may be taken. There is also an attendance requirement as part of the Summer Program. Transportation to and from summer school courses is the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

Core courses are defined as follows:

Sixth Grade: Reading, English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies Seventh Grade: Reading, English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies Eighth Grade: Reading, English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies

Questions concerning retentions should be directed to the Guidance Department.

INCOMPLETES AND MAKE-UPS

Students are required to make up all work missed due to an excused absence. One day of make-up time will be given for each day of absence. An absence on the date of an announced test, project, or other assignments, will require that the work be completed or submitted on the date of return to school. Students must complete all make-up work within two (2) weeks after the conclusion of the marking period. In the event of extenuating circumstances, extensions may be granted by the administration.

CURRICULUM - GRADES 9 to 12

Ninth Grade	Tenth Grade	Eleventh Grade	Twelfth Grade
Intro to Literature	World Literature	American Literature	British Literature
US History II	Earth Science and/or	Civics & Government	Personal Finance
Biology	Keystone Biology	Anatomy	Chemistry
Pre-Algebra/Algebra I	Remediation	Geometry and/or	Capstone
Spanish I	Algebra II	Keystone Algebra	Social Emotional
Social Emotional	Physical Education	Remediation	Learning
Learning	and Health	Business Math	Criminal Justice
Major (Dance,	Social Emotional	Physical Education	Major (Dance,
Culinary, Digital Arts,	Learning	and Health	Culinary, Digital Arts,
Mass	Career Explorations	Social Emotional	Mass
Communication,	Major (Dance,	Learning	Communication,
Visual Arts, Fashion)	Culinary, Digital Arts,	Employability	Visual Arts, Fashion,
	Mass	Major (Dance,	Sociology,

Visu Soc	nmunication, ial Arts, Fashion, iology, chology)	Culinary, Digital Arts, Mass Communication, Visual Arts, Fashion, Sociology, Psychology)	Psychology)
-------------	---	---	-------------

CLASS RANK

Class rank is determined by computing a general average derived from grades at the end of each marking period. It is cumulative beginning with the first quarter of 9th grade and ending with the final grades in grade 12. Class rank is calculated each marking period and at the end of the year. All courses are included in rank and GPA calculation.

GRADING

Students are evaluated in each class depending upon a number of factors. A student's grade is determined by the nature of the course, the curriculum, and course and department requirements. Grades will be posted as follows:

A = 90% - 100% B = 80% - 89% C = 70% - 79% D = 60% - 69% F = 59% and below

HONOR ROLL

100-96 Overall Average -- High Honors

95-90 Overall Average -- Honors

89-80 Overall Average -- Commendation

GRADUATION

The following are the minimum requirements for graduation for the class of 2024:

Credits	Subject
4	English
3	Math
3	Science
3	Social Studies
4	Arts/Humanities/Both

1	Health & PE
3	Electives
1	Career Explorations
22	Total

Each student must accumulate a minimum of 22 credits and a total of 60 approved community service hours in order to earn a diploma. Community service forms can be obtained through guidance. Any student who does not attend graduation practice will not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. Any student not receiving a diploma will not be permitted to participate in commencement exercises.

PROMOTIONS

The following credits are necessary to be promoted to the next grade. Grade level promotions will take place in June each year.

9th -- 10th Grade -- 6 credits 10th -- 11th Grade -- 12 credits 11th -- 12th Grade -- 18 credits 22 credits to graduate

VALEDICTORIAN / SALUTATORIAN

Four full years will be used to determine the valedictorian(s) / salutatorian(s). The student or students with the highest grade point average are awarded valedictorian status.

INCOMPLETES AND MAKE-UPS

Students are required to make up all work missed due to an excused absence. One day of make-up time will be given for each day of absence. An absence on the date of an announced test, project, or other assignment, will require that the work be completed or submitted on the date of return to school. Students must complete all make-up work within two (2) weeks after the conclusion of the marking period. In the event of extenuating circumstances, extensions may be granted by the administration.

CURRICULUM GENERAL - GRADES 6 to 12 HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES

All Health and Physical Education courses are mandatory for graduation.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES:

- Sixth Grade
- Tenth Grade

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ATTIRE

For safety reasons, sneakers and socks are required. (No boots, crocs, flip-flops,

sandals, dress shoes, or slip-on shoes allowed)

GENERAL CLASS PROCEDURES:

- All students are to report to physical education class for attendance, including those with medical excuses and others not participating in physical education for the period.
- Those not participating shall leave all belongings in their assigned lockers.
- Students must remain in the gym until the dismissal bell sounds.
- The school and the physical education teachers are not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

DOCTOR'S MEDICAL EXCUSES

- May not be retroactive: The student has one week to secure and present an
 excuse to the school nurse and teacher or lose credit for each class prior to this
 action.
- Extended Medical Form: must be obtained from the school nurse when a long-term medical is expected (two weeks or longer); the doctor will specify which modified and adapted activities students may participate in (i.e., walking, upper/lower body, stationary bicycle) to earn PE credit.
- No Participation Medical Notes releasing a student from all activities with no
 participation for more than one week will require the student to complete an
 alternate assignment as assigned by the teacher; this assignment will be graded
 and averaged into the marking period grade as part of the Cognitive domain.
 Students are still required to complete all other assignments/assessments for
 class and are responsible for any material taught in class. If the note excuses the
 student from participation for one week or less, the student will be required to
 make up the missed classes.
- Students held out of Physical Education due to a medical excuse are responsible for any information covered in class and must still complete in-class assessments, midterm, and final exams; while completing the designated Medical Alternative Assignments.

PARENTAL INFORMATION UPDATES

Parents must contact the office to make an appointment with the school for all changes of address, work numbers, emergency numbers, and adult contact updates.

REPORT CARDS

The IAA administration makes at least four (4) formal contacts per year concerning progress and grades. Report cards are issued in accordance with the school calendar approximately every forty-five (45) days via the parent portal in PowerSchool. The report cards are available approximately one week after the last day of each quarter. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to review the reports with their child and call the school guidance office if there are any questions concerning the report. Parental involvement is crucial in the improvement of student

academic performance. Report cards serve a significant function in school/home communication.

SCHEDULING AND SCHEDULE CHANGES

Counselors will be available throughout the school year to address any questions and/or concerns regarding a student's schedule.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education and related services are available at Innovative Arts Academy (IAA). Students who are receiving services at their current school will continue to receive comparable services at IAA. For those parents who believe that their child is experiencing academic difficulty, for which recent interventions (i.e. meetings with the teacher(s), tutoring, student requests for assistance with assignments, etc.,) have not worked, may make a request for an evaluation. The request **must** be in writing and should include the reason(s) for concern, in order for the process to begin. For additional information, please contact your child's school counselor.

TEXTBOOKS

Students will have access to textbooks, novels, electronic textbooks, and electronic novels from their coursework. There will be some courses where students have the capability to bring their textbooks or novels home, but they may also have access to their textbooks or novels online.

If a student has the capability to take home a textbook or novel, they are responsible for those items while on and off campus and could be subject to a textbook/novel replacement fee for the lost and/or damaged books. The cost is subject to the particular textbook or novel. A replacement cost must be covered by the student/students family before report cards are distributed.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Innovative Arts Academy attempts to offer an academic summer school program for those students who have failed subjects. The courses being offered, the dates of summer school, the fees charged, and other important details will be published and made available to students before the end of the current school year.

SCHOOL RECORD REQUESTS

Upon request, Innovative Arts Academy will forward an official copy of your high school transcript to the post-high school institution or prospective employer you designate. Parents may request to see their child's permanent school records. Such requests should be made to the child's school counselor.

WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

The Guidance Office must be notified if a pupil is transferring from the school district. A withdrawal form will be issued to the student for teachers and personnel to sign. A signature

indicates that all school obligations have been met and all school materials and equipment have been returned. This should be completed on or before the last day of attendance. A transfer paper for the new school district will be issued to the students on the last day of attendance at Innovative Arts Academy provided that all financial obligations have been satisfied.

IV. PUPIL SERVICES

HEALTH/NURSING SERVICES

The health suite is staffed with a certified school nurse. The role of the school nurse is to ensure that our students enter the classroom in optimal health and ready to learn. Health services will be provided as required by the PA School Code and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. These services include:

First Aid
Hearing screening for grades 7 & 11
Medication Administration
Scoliosis screening for grades 6 and 7, physicals for grades 6 & 11
Immunization monitoring
Dental examination for grade 7
Yearly height and weight screening
Health counseling/support and referral
Yearly vision screening
Health teaching

Parents/Guardians will be notified if there is a problem that needs further attention.

Parents/Guardians need to notify the School Nurse and provide doctor documentation of any changes in their child's health status or any additional immunizations their child has received.

Per the Pennsylvania Department of Health:

Children in ALL grades need the following immunizations for attendance:

- 4 doses of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis* (1 dose on or after 4th birthday)
- 4 doses of polio (4th dose on or after 4th birthday and at least 6 months after the previous dose given)
- 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella**
- 3 doses of hepatitis B
- 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or evidence of immunity

Seventh through 12th grade additional immunization requirements for attendance:

- 2 doses meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV)
 - The first dose is given 11-15 years of age; a second dose is required at age 16 or entry into 12th grade
 - o If the dose was given at 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required.

- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap)
 - * Usually referred to as DTaP or DTP or DT or Td
 - ** Usually referred to as MMR

STUDENT ILLNESSES

Students who become ill during the school day must first inform their classroom teacher and ask for a pass to go to the nurse. If it is determined that they are too ill to attend class, they will be sent home. Emergency cards completed by parent/guardian will be used to make phone contact. Parent/guardian or designated adult will need to enter the school building with a picture ID and sign the child out. Students who, in the opinion of the School Nurse, are not too ill to attend class will be asked to return to class.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION IN SCHOOL

Medication is to be taken at home whenever possible per school policy. Students who need to take medication during the school day need to get written authorization by a physician, <u>AND</u> the parent/guardian for each separate medication. An adult needs to bring the medication to school in the original container along with the completed form. Medication sent to school in violation of this will NOT be administered to a student.

ELEVATOR USE FOR STUDENTS

Students requiring the use of the elevator need to provide a doctor's note to the School Nurse stating that the elevator is needed and for how long.

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SAP)

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a systemic process using techniques to mobilize resources to remove barriers to learning. It has been implemented in schools across the state to help school personnel with identifying issues and concerns in the educational setting. Examples of such issues and concerns include but are not limited to, alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues, which all pose a barrier to our students' success. The primary goal of the Student Assistance Program (SAP) is to help students overcome these barriers in order that they may achieve, remain in school, and advance.

SAP team members are trained to identify problems, determine whether or not the presenting problem falls within the responsibility of the school and to make recommendations to assist the student and the parent. When the problem lies beyond the scope of the school, the SAP team will assist the parent and student with accessing services within the community.

ANONYMOUS REPORTING

See it? Hear it? Say something!

Action changes things. If you would like to report a potential safety concern, complete our anonymous form in English or Spanish. You may also use the Safe2Say link on our IAA website.

V. SCHOOL PROCEDURES, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

ABSENCES AND ATTENDANCE

School attendance is important and is vital to student achievement. It is expected that every student will strive to be present each day. The responsibility for regular attendance rests with the student; however, the school and home share the responsibility to encourage students to attend school. The Commonwealth of PA (Ref: Pennsylvania School Code, Article XII, Section 1326) requires students to attend school regularly until they are eighteen. For those who are seventeen or older, regular attendance is also necessary to complete IAA requirements for graduation.

The Board requires that students attend school regularly, in accordance with state laws. The educational program offered by this school is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress. Notice shall be provided to those parents/guardians who fail to comply with the statutory requirements of compulsory attendance that such infractions will be prosecuted according to law.

The Department of Education shares that the following are the only legal excuses for absences and tardies:

- Personal illness or illness in the immediate family
- Death in the immediate family
- Quarantine in the home
- Impassable roads (determined by school)
- Especially urgent reasons; "urgent" to be strictly constructed and interpreted by the school
- Family/voluntary trips, in accordance with Board policy.

The school must receive a written notice regarding the reason for the absence signed by a parent/guardian no later than 72 hours following the student's return to school, or it will be recorded as an unexcused absence. The grade level secretary reserves the right to confirm any appointments and excuses. All absences will be validated through an automated message generated by the school on the day of the absence. This is a routine procedure to ensure maximum attendance. In the event of an absence of more than three (3) consecutive days, a doctor's note is required upon returning to school. Failure to comply with this procedure will result in the student receiving an unexcused absence. The school must make meaningful attempts to engage the parent/guardian and student in a Student Attendance Improvement Plan to address individual student needs and partner with the family for student success.

The Board will recognize other justifiable absences for part of the school day. These shall include medical or dental appointments, court appearances, and family emergencies. In some cases, there are justifiable absences that provide extraordinary opportunities that the school

cannot duplicate and may provide students with valuable exposure and experiences. In all such cases, a written request shall be made by the parent/guardian no less than 24 hours in advance. Requests must include the length and dates of the absence. These requests will be reviewed for approval by the building administration. An Attendance Request for Absence form can be completed and submitted, no less than 24 hours in advance for such requests. During an excused absence like this, the student is required to complete coursework for credit or grade.

A maximum of ten (10) days of cumulative lawful absences verified by parental notification may be permitted during a school year. Absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days will require an excuse from a physician. All doctors' excuses are subject to review and verification by the principal. When an absence is legal, the frequency of absences is still a concern. Therefore, when a student accumulates excessive absences, additional administrative contact may be made with the parent/guardian, and/or additional medical/professional verification may be required.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

All students are expected to be in their assigned areas on time. An unexcused absence from school or class may result in the student not being able to make up missed work. Continued absences from class and/or school could impact student achievement and overall connectedness to school. It should be understood that students who have an unexcused absence may receive a no-credit for that day's work, which includes a missed test.

FAMILY TRIPS

A student may miss no more than five (5) total "trip days" other than those in which the student is representing the high school in a competition. A request for a "family trip" approval must be submitted to the attendance office five school days in advance of the trip. If prior approval is not granted for a trip, all days missed will be marked absent. No work will be permitted to be made up.

The following criteria will be considered when approving a family trip:

- Recognized at the discretion of the grade level principal.
- Students must be in good standing, regarding attendance, discipline, and academics (must have at least a 60% in each course).
- Students must consult with teachers before leaving regarding assignments.
- Any make-up work requiring teacher assistance must be arranged by the student with the individual teacher(s) upon return from the trip.
- No trips will be authorized during midterm and final exams.
- No family trips will be approved during scheduled state testing.

REQUEST FOR EXCUSAL

If a parent or guardian wishes to request excusal for their children for reasons not provided for in the school code (special emergencies, etc.) a written request should be addressed to the main office or grade level principal prior to the child leaving school. A decision will be made based on the student's academic and behavioral records before approval is granted.

LATE FOR SCHOOL/CLASS

In order to ensure student success, students need to arrive to school and class on time. If a student is not present at the scheduled time, they may be marked tardy. If a student is late to school, they must bring in a note indicating the reason for tardiness. Upon administrative discretion, attendance will be reflected accordingly.

APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE

The administration realizes that there are occasions when parents will find it necessary to request permission for their child to leave the building to keep an urgent medical appointment during the school day. Most medical appointments can and should be made for after-school hours. However, if it is not possible to schedule an appointment for after school hours, then the following procedure should be adhered to:

- Students must report to school in the morning, and present a note from a parent or guardian stating the time, date, and place of the appointment.
- If permission is granted to leave the building, a pass will be given to the student. This
 pass will state the reason for leaving and the departure time. At the stated time, the
 student should show the pass to the classroom teacher and report to the main office.
 When the parent/guardian arrives to pick up the student, the parent/guardian will sign
 the child out of the building in the main office.
- Upon the student's return to school, a note from the physician's office verifying the appointment must be submitted to the office.
- If returning to school the same day after attending an appointment, the student must first report to the office where he/she will receive a pass for admission to class.

REQUESTING HOMEWORK FOR STUDENTS WHEN STUDENTS ARE OUT ILL Students/Guardians should contact their respective teachers via Schoology to request assignments when students are not in school.

BUS AND TRANSPORTATION RULES & REGULATIONS

Riding on a school vehicle is a privilege, not a right. The school requires that proper conduct be maintained for the health, safety, and welfare of all students. The responsibility for proper conduct on the bus rests with the parents and students. Students who risk the safety of others by their misbehavior may lose the privilege of riding the bus. Pupils are notified in advance as to which bus to ride and where and when it will be available.

Due to potential overcrowding and insurance concerns, students will not be permitted to ride any bus other than those assigned unless there are extenuating circumstances.

The following rules for bus conduct must be observed:

• Arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes prior to pick-up and wait for the bus to come

- to a complete stop before boarding.
- Ride only on the assigned bus--boarding and departing at the designated stop. Parents may not give permission for bus changes.
- Pushing, horseplay, or fighting is prohibited at all times.
- Vulgar language and/or profanity shall not be used.
- No eating, drinking, or smoking on the bus.
- Musical instruments are not permitted unless carried in a case secured in a safe place.
- Display proper respect toward the driver and passengers at all times. In case of emergency, remain on the bus unless directed to do otherwise by the driver or individual in authority
- If a student is responsible for damage on the bus, s/he will be required to pay for its replacement.
- Students are to remain in their seats upon entering the bus until they are designated to depart the bus by the driver.
- The school reserves the right to establish other rules/regulations that protect the health, safety, and welfare of students.
- Students riding on school vehicles are subject to random searches or screenings for weapons or other contraband.

Any violation of the above rules may result in the suspension of bus riding privileges up to and including citations for disorderly conduct, harassment, criminal mischief, and/or criminal trespass. If this occurs, the student or his/her parents/guardians will be responsible for transportation to and from school. Even though the bus privileges are lost, the law still requires attendance at school. For further information, consult the School Board Policy Book.

Buses are equipped with audio & video recording devices. All students riding a bus to school are subject to audio/video recording of their activities. Said recordings may be used in criminal proceedings and/or disciplinary actions.

CAFETERIA RULES AND PROCEDURES

The Innovative Arts Academy has 4 lunch periods. All students will receive a free lunch. The following are the procedures and guidelines for the lunch periods:

- Upon entering the cafeteria, students are to be seated. Designated tables will then be permitted to obtain lunches, snacks, and beverages in an orderly manner.
- Saving seats is not permitted. Once seated, students must remain seated.
- Students are responsible for disposing of all trash in their lunch area. This will be completed with the lunch proctor's supervision. Dismissal will also be completed with the lunch proctor's supervision.
- Students will spend the entire period in the cafeteria unless otherwise directed.
- Absolutely no food should be removed at the conclusion of any lunch period.
- Book bags are not allowed in the cafeteria. Students are also given permission to go to the lavatory, if necessary, on their way to or from lunch.
- Please be considerate of others. Quiet conversation will be permitted; however, loud

- boisterous behavior will not be tolerated.
- Inappropriate behavior during any lunch may result in removal from the cafeteria.

 Offenders will eat lunch in lunch detention away from their peers.
- Students are subject to guidance from all adults assigned to supervise the cafeteria. This
 includes Lunch Para-Professionals, Security staff, Custodians, Cafeteria Workers and
 Teachers.
- Students who do not observe the cafeteria rules will be issued lunch detentions or assigned to an alternative location for lunch

COMPUTER SYSTEM GUIDELINES

Each student is issued a Chromebook for academic use. Students are required to read and sign the IAA Chromebook Handbook before any use of the computer takes place. The Acceptable Use Policy is also found in the IAA Chromebook Handbook and is part of the agreement. This handbook can be found at IAA Chromebook Handbook.

SCHOOL DANCE RULES AND REGULATIONS

All school rules are in effect during any dance at the Innovative Arts Academy. In addition, the following guidelines will be followed for all dances. If students do not adhere to these rules, they will be denied admittance to and/or removed from the dance:

- No loitering outside the building.
- Students must arrive within the first half of the dance.
- Once students have entered the building for the dance, they are not allowed to leave and return later. Parents will be notified of students leaving early.
- If a student is absent from school on the day of the dance, the student will not be admitted to the dance.
- Dance privileges may be revoked by the administration. Any student serving an in- or out-of-school suspension will not be allowed to attend.
- Any student who has paid for a ticket in advance and is subsequently not allowed to attend or removed from the dance will receive no refund.
- Arrangements must be made for transportation home from the dance in advance of arrival. For security purposes, parents must pick up students immediately at the conclusion of the dance.
- With exception to the Prom, no guests are permitted.

USE OF PERSONALLY-OWNED VEHICLES TO ATTEND SCHOOL

IAA is allowing students to drive to school and park in our school parking lot. This is a privilege and can be lost if students do not meet the expectations detailed in this Handbook or do not comply with parking expectations. Parking Permits will be free to eligible students.

To Acquire a Parking Permit:

- Students must provide/possess a valid current driver's license.
- Students must provide/possess a valid current registration.
- Students must provide/possess a valid current insurance policy.
- Students must be at least 17 years of age.
- Students will park in assigned spots only.
- Students will arrive at school on time.
- Students must be in good academic standing and meet expectations as outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook.
- A Parent/guardian must sign the permission form as well as the student before submitting it for approval.
- IAA assumes no responsibility for the vehicle.
- IAA assumes no responsibility for damage and or lost and stolen items from your vehicle.

ENTERING AND EXITING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

All visitors are required to enter and exit the school building using the main entrance. A state issued photo ID is required.

USE OF PERSONALLY OWNED DEVICES

Each IAA student is issued a Chromebook for learning purposes. Therefore, the use of personally owned devices is not permitted unless prior approval from the administration has been given. Cell phones and earbuds are not permitted while students are in class or during class time.

Consequences for Personal Device Violations

- 1st Offense: warning from the teacher or school personnel and device must be put away. **Compliance requires no further discipline.**
- 2nd Offense: device will be confiscated by the teacher or school personnel for the duration of the class. The cell phone or device will be kept on the teachers desk and will be returned to the student at the end of class. Compliance requires no further discipline.
- 3rd Offense: device will be confiscated by the teacher and turned over to the Dean of Students, member of the Administration, or SST member. The device will be taken to the Assistant Principal's office to be labeled and secured for the remainder of the school day. The student's device will be returned at the end of the school day. Compliance requires no further discipline with the exception of calling home to notify parents or guardians of the incident.
- **Subsequent offenses:** If a student consistently is not adhering to the personal device policy, a parent meeting may be scheduled to resolve the issue, which may result in subsequent consequences.

This policy does not apply to the authorized use of devices listed in a student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 Plans. Where deviation from this policy is necessary for a student with a disability, the approved/appropriate use of electronic communication devices shall be set forth within the student's IEP or Section 504 Plan.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Any obligations students owe for library fines, textbooks, other school equipment, etc., need to be paid without delay. Students who fail to pay these fines jeopardize their release of academic information.

FIRE/SECURITY/SAFETY DRILLS

At least one fire/safety drill will be held at a minimum of once a month. Directions for leaving the building are posted in each room, and teachers will inform the students of all procedures. Any deliberate, false activation of a fire alarm will result in school discipline as well as possible legal action. When the fire bell is sounded, students are to do the following:

- REMAIN SILENT to hear instructions.
- Follow directions for leaving the building.
- Stay in line and WALK quickly.
- Be alert and cooperative.
- Stay with the class with whom you have left the building.

HALL CONDUCT

All movement between classes shall be orderly and quick. The following are the guidelines for the changing of classes:

- Students have four (4) minutes to change classes.
- Students are to WALK on the RIGHT side of the hallways and stairwells.
- No loitering is permitted in the hallways or outside classrooms and other areas of the building at any time—before school, during change of classes, lunch, etc.
- Students are to enter their classroom immediately and be seated.
- Students need to be in the classroom on time. Lateness will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to be in the appropriate location in accordance with their schedules.

LAVATORY PRIVILEGES

Students will be expected to sign out in the classroom to use the lavatory. The student is required to have permission when leaving class and be in the location he/she requested permission. Lavatories will not be open to students during the first five minutes or last five minutes of each class. Students may have to sign in and out at the bathroom as well as sign back into the classroom upon return. Teachers will utilize judgment in all classes. Students may not have cell phones while in the bathrooms.

LOCKERS

Each student is assigned a locker for which they are responsible; however, these lockers are the property of Innovative Arts Academy.

- Students should not loiter in the locker areas.
- Lockers are to be used for the storage of personal clothes, bookbags, and those items that aren't necessary for school activities.
- DO NOT GIVE THE COMBINATION TO OTHERS and KEEP THE LOCKER LOCKED AT ALL TIMES. Students are NOT to share their locker with any other students. The school is not responsible for missing items from unlocked lockers. Once the locker door is shut, the tumbler must be turned to properly ensure the locker is secure.
- Students are responsible for the condition of their lockers at all times. The school
 reserves the legal right to inspect them if necessary. Damage and/or vandalism will
 result in fines. Students are responsible for keeping their lockers clean and orderly at all
 times
- Any insignias, signs, pictures, etc., should not be attached inside or outside the locker except when decorated for school activities. No writing will be permitted anywhere on or inside the locker.
- When school authorities have a reasonable suspicion that the locker contains anything
 that may pose a threat to the health, safety, and welfare of students and/or staff
 members in the school, a student locker may be searched without prior warning.
- At the end of the school year, students must remove all items from their lockers.
- Padlocks may not be used on the hall locker without permission from the administration.
- In order to maintain a safe and secure school environment, lockers may be periodically screened and/or searched for weapons or contraband.
- Authorized times that students can go to lockers are in the morning, prior to homeroom, before and after lunch, and finally at the end of 6th period to get personal items to go home. These items may be taken to their 7th period class since they will be dismissed from there.

RESTRICTED MOVEMENT

During the course of the year, situations may occur that the administration regards as inappropriate for student observation and/or involvement. Since there is a large student population, large numbers of students and their movement in the hallways may complicate some situations, such as medical emergencies, and prevent the staff from taking appropriate action to respond to said emergencies. In addition, every effort is exerted to protect the privacy of the impacted student. Therefore, occasionally throughout the school year, the administration may hold Restricted Movement in which all students will remain in their classrooms or in the office they may be visiting. Students and/or visitors in the restrooms or hallways will move to the nearest classroom and await direction from the Main Office. When appropriate, via the public address system, all students will be released to continue their daily schedules.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

A student using any substance that alters one's mental or physical state shall be considered to be in violation of the drug and alcohol policy.

ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

Innovative Arts Academy is equipped with electronic recording devices and HALO safety sensors. All students and visitors are subject to electronic recording of their activities. Said recordings may be used in disciplinary actions and investigatory or criminal proceedings.

VISITORS

Prior arrangements for visitors are required, and the principal has the prerogative to deny visitation privileges. All visitors must enter the building through the main door, register with building security, and are subject to video recording of their activities. Said recordings may be used in investigatory or criminal proceedings. Visitors are not at liberty to visit classes without authorization. Teachers are not available for conferences during class time. Parents are reminded that inappropriate behavior may result in their removal from school property and possible criminal prosecution.

WEAPONS/CONTRABAND SEARCH POLICY

Innovative Arts Academy reserves the right to periodically conduct weapon/contraband searches of the entire school population or lockers of a building. In the interest of providing a safe learning environment, all students may be subject to search upon entering a school, on any given day, as a precondition to attending school. Since student lockers remain the exclusive property of Innovative Arts Academy, they may also be searched without prior notice, and a student will be given the opportunity to be present if possible or appropriate. School personnel and/or security officials will conduct the searches. Students may be required to stand in a line before a table and empty their pockets while their backpacks, coats, purses, etc., are searched. Hand-held metal scanners may be utilized in the searches. In the event the search area becomes too crowded, students will be chosen at random or be checked before disembarking from school buses. In addition, this policy extends to students entering the building for activities such as dances and other extracurricular activities.

VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

Students and parents/guardians must acknowledge that they have read this handbook. Ignorance of school rules is not an excuse for misbehavior. It is the student's responsibility to know what s/he can or cannot do. When in doubt, students should ask an adult or check this handbook.

VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Any disciplinary action taken by the administration is intended to ensure the safety and welfare of everyone at Innovative Arts Academy and benefit the student through improving attitude and subsequent behavior. The disciplinary options available to the administration are regulated by

law and school district policy. All actions will be subject to administrative review in order to determine the most appropriate response to decrease the behavior.

DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS

Denial of Privileges

Privileges to participate in school activities must be earned. They may be withdrawn at any time for improper behavior. The length of denial depends on (1) the nature of the offense and (2) the previous behavior of the student. Privileges can be denied from one day to the entire year depending on the circumstances.

Privileges include but are not limited to:

- Transportation
- Eating in the Cafeteria
- Use of Hall Passes
- Attendance at dances and other school-related activities
- ❖ Any other activities/events deemed non-academic

HALLWAY & PASS RESTRICTION

Misuse will result in their use being restricted. Students on Hallway or pass Restriction may be escorted when leaving class during the instructional period.

REFOCUS

Refocus is a temporary exclusion from classroom attendance. Students are assigned to the refocus room for a specific length of time during the school day. Those who are suspended in school will stay in the refocus room. The student is expected to complete the assigned behavior modification reflection packet and his/her/their schoolwork during this time. This disciplinary alternative will be used at the discretion of the administration. Students should report to the first period for attendance, then to the refocus room. Students absent from school during any of the days assigned will report for a make-up day immediately upon their return to school. Students in refocus are not eligible to participate in any school function or activity during their time in refocus. Students suspended on the day of activities (such as but not limited to; dances, sporting events/practice, concerts, performances,) will not be eligible to participate. It is the student's responsibility to bring their Chromebook, textbooks, and materials to the refocus room. Students will be given the appropriate credit for work completed in the refocus room. Failure to complete work or unsatisfactory work will receive a grade of "0" for all assignments.

SUSPENSION PENDING PARENT CONFERENCE

This is used for infractions of rules that call for suspension. The student may be readmitted immediately following the parent conference. Parents will be notified by an administrator by phone.

• OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

Suspension is the temporary exclusion from school, or specific classes, and all school related activities for serious and/or repeated infractions of the rules. The length of suspension can run from one to ten school days, excluding holidays and emergency days depending on the nature of the infraction and previous behavior. Parents will be notified by mail and by telephone, if possible, and in most cases must confer with the administration before the student is readmitted to school. If the suspension exceeds three days, the parent/guardian has the right to request a suspension hearing. The parent/guardian must contact the office to request a hearing. Students suspended on the day of activities (such as but not limited to; dances, sporting events/practice, concerts, performances,) will not be eligible to participate.

NOTE: Students failing to provide required medical documentation as required by the district or state may be excluded until proof of compliance is provided.

EXPULSION

Expulsion is the exclusion of a student from school for more than ten (10) consecutive school days. A recommendation for expulsion is made by the school principal to the Chief Executive Officer. The Board of Trustees makes the final decision.

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT/FORCE

In accordance with state law, physical restraint or reasonable force may be used for the following reasons:

- For the purpose of self-defense.
- For the protection of persons.
- To obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects.

The administration reserves the right to skip the sequence of disciplinary options as outlined in this section if the offense so warrants.

PUNISHABLE BEHAVIORS

CELL PHONE RECORDING

Filming of any kind on a video camera, cell phone, or any other device, is strictly prohibited, without the permission of IAA administration. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, "it is unlawful to record either an in-person conversation or electronic communication without the consent of all parties. 18 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. & 5704 (West 2012)." Consequences may include but are not limited to: after school detention, in-school suspension, and out of school suspension.

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM

Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in 0 on the test and/or assignment. This includes the student who has cheated/plagiarized as well as any other student involved. Failure of the course is possible depending on the previous behavior of the student(s) involved. Other disciplinary action may be taken in extreme cases.

CONFISCATED ITEMS

Items not claimed within thirty (30) calendar days will be considered abandoned and discarded.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

Any student, parent, or visitor who causes or risks public inconvenience, alarm, or annoyance by their use of threatening words (via telephone or in-person) or actions, are subject to school sanctions or criminal prosecution for disorderly conduct, terroristic threats, or harassment by communication.

Any parent or visitor who causes or risks public inconvenience may also be barred from the premises as well as criminal prosecution for disorderly conduct, terroristic threats, or harassment.

DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

Public displays of affection by students are not permitted. No students have the right to impose the embarrassing effects of their behavior on others. Kissing, handholding, touching, hugging, etc., are not permitted. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary action. Courtesy must be observed at all times and in all situations.

• EATING OR DRINKING OUTSIDE OF THE CAFETERIA

No food or beverages will be permitted outside the cafeteria. Violations may result in disciplinary action.

ENDANGERING THE SAFETY & WELFARE OF STUDENTS AND/OR STAFF MEMBERS
Any behavior, on or off school property, that disrupts the operation of the school or the
educational process, or endangers the safety and welfare of IAA students and staff
members, whether unintended or not, will be dealt with immediately and may result in
suspension, expulsion and police involvement.

EXTORTION

Any students accepting services or personal property through actual or perceived intimidation will be subject to school and or legal guidelines.

FALSE REPORTS

False reports via personal, electronic, or mechanical means will subject students to disciplinary action and even criminal charges.

FIGHTING

All students, no matter what the circumstances, should make every effort to avoid fighting, including seeking help from the professional staff of the school. All parties involved in fighting on Innovative Arts Academy property during school hours or during school activities may be suspended/expelled and/or arrested. Instigators may be subject to disciplinary action.

FIRES/FIREWORKS/FIRECRACKERS/SMOKE BOMBS ETC.

Detonation or discharge of fireworks/firecrackers/smoke bombs etc. will result in suspension/expulsion, criminal charges, and restitution for damage and/or clean-up costs. Possession of fireworks, matches, lighters, or any product that may cause a flame will also result in disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension/expulsion from school.

FORGERY

Forging excuse notes, late passes, hall passes, etc., will result in disciplinary action based upon administrative discretion.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION & BULLYING

Harassing, Intimidation or bullying another student or school personnel, sexually, verbally, digitally, or otherwise, is unacceptable behavior and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. Persistent and/or extreme behavior may result in suspension or expulsion of the offending student and police involvement.

INSTIGATING/INCITING

Students are prohibited from acting in such a fashion as to create a disturbance between other students. Disciplinary action may be taken at the discretion of the principal.

INSUBORDINATION AND DISRESPECT

A student who is insubordinate or disrespectful to any Innovative Arts Academy employee may be suspended. Students are expected to comply with reasonable adult supervision directions. Persistent offenders will be recommended for expulsion.

LITTERING

Littering in and/or outside the building will result in disciplinary action. The building and campus must be kept clean and free of litter. This includes all classrooms, hallways, and the cafeteria.

LEAVING SCHOOL GROUNDS

Students are not to leave the school building or grounds without specific permission from the principal or assistant principal. Any student violating this policy may be subject to

disciplinary action. Parents should notify the office of their intent to remove a child from the building for any reason.

LYING

Lying to protect oneself or others will not be tolerated. Lying for any reason will result in disciplinary action. Any student violating this policy may be suspended from school.

• PROFANITY/RACIAL SLURS/VULGAR-ABUSIVE LANGUAGE

The use of profanity, racial slurs, or vulgar/abusive language will NOT be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, immediate removal from class, suspension, and the issuance of a citation. Persistent offenders may be recommended for expulsion.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Harassing another student or school personnel, sexually, verbally or otherwise, is unacceptable behavior and will result in appropriate disciplinary action. Persistent and/or extreme behavior may result in suspension or expulsion of the offending student and police involvement.

• SMOKING OR POSSESSION OR USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Smoking or possessing tobacco is forbidden on all Innovative Arts Academy property, transportation vehicles, and field trips. Anyone caught smoking or in possession of any paraphernalia or substances will face disciplinary action and may be cited.

STALKING

Any student following another student or staff member for the purpose of intimidation, harassment, or annoyance is prohibited. Violation may result in suspension, expulsion, or criminal charges.

STEALING

Theft of any property belonging to the school, faculty, or other students may be punishable by suspension and/or arrest based on administrative discretion.

THREATS

Threats of any kind directed toward employees of this school district (in or out of school), fellow students, or their possessions will result in immediate suspension, possible expulsion, and legal action (fine and/or imprisonment).

UNAUTHORIZED SALE OF PERSONAL ITEMS

Students are not permitted to sell personal items such as jewelry, clothing, etc., or food to other students. Approved fundraisers are excluded.

VANDALISM

Students apprehended defacing or proven to have caused damage to the building, grounds, or equipment, such as writing on desks or walls, stuffing up lavatories, harming shrubbery, or willfully destroying school property in any way may be suspended from school and school-related activities. At the end of the suspension period, the student, and the parent/guardian will receive a bill for the damages. The principal may recommend extreme cases or repetitive offenders for expulsion and/or make a referral to the Juvenile Court for delinquency proceedings.

WEAPONS

Possession of a weapon on school property is a crime. "Weapon" is defined in the Pennsylvania Crimes Code 18 PA C.S. Section 912 as follows: "Any knife, cutting instrument, cutting tool, num-chuck stick, firearm, shotgun, rifle, any other tool, instrument or implement capable of inflicting serious injury." Anyone possessing a weapon on school grounds or on a school bus will be subject to an automatic suspension and possible recommendation for expulsion from the Innovative Arts Academy.

ADDITIONAL OFFENSES

As it is impossible to anticipate or list every problem situation that may arise, any offense committed by a student not listed in this handbook, which is determined to pose a threat or hazard to students, staff, or property, or creates an impediment to the learning process, will be dealt with at the discretion of the administration using past precedent, professional judgment, and common sense. ANY behavior, on or off school property, that disrupts the operation of the school or the educational process, or endangers the safety and welfare of IAA students and staff members, whether unintended or not, will be dealt with immediately and may have serious consequences.

IIX. STUDENT DRESS CODE

IAA has a dress code for all students. All students must wear the official school uniform. Refusal to adhere to the school dress code could result in the student being sent home. The student's parent/guardian will be notified of the student's refusal to comply with the dress code. Failure to comply will result in the following:

- Students will remain in the Refocus Room until a parent or guardian has provided their child with appropriate clothes identified in IAA's dress code policy or the child agrees to wear school provided clothing.
- If the school has items the student is missing, the student may sign out the items needed and return them at the end of the day so they can be washed.
- If not returned, the parent or guardian may receive an invoice for the amount to replace the item or items loaned to the student.

High School

- Shirts/Tops: must be a solid, heather gray colored collared shirt with a school logo or free of all logos
- Pants/Bottoms: must be khaki, navy blue, or black colored chino pants, shorts, or skirts;
 NO DENIM/JEANS/YOGA PANTS. Skirts and shorts should fall two inches above the knee or longer.
- Sweaters/Pullover: solid heather gray sweater or cardigan, or fleece with school logo.
 This year the school will allow heather gray quarter zip or crewneck pullovers with the school logo or free of all logos.
- Shoes: Any color sturdy sneakers or dress shoes. No open toe shoes, steel tip boots, sandals, slides, flip flops, or slippers.
- Dress Down Days: The shoe requirement remains in effect each day. No leggings, yoga pants, or stretch pants.

Middle School

- Shirt/Tops: Must be a solid, navy blue colored collared shirt with a school logo or free of all logos.
- Pants/Bottoms: Must be khaki, navy blue or black colored chino fabric pants, shorts, or skirts; NO DENIM/JEANS/YOGA PANTS. Skirts and shorts should fall two inches above the knee or longer.
- Sweaters/Pullovers: Solid, navy blue sweater, cardigan, or fleece with school logo, or free of all logos. This year the school will allow solid navy colored quarter zip or crew neck pullovers with the school logo or free of all logos.
- Shoes: Any color sturdy sneakers or dress shoes. No open toes, steel toed shoes, sandals, flip flops, slides, or slippers.
- Dress Down Days: The shoe requirement remains in effect each day. No leggings, yoga pants, or stretch pants.

Consequences for Dress Code Violations

- **1st Offense:** If a student refuses to comply with the dress code policy, the parent or guardian will be notified. Students will remain in the Refocus Room until a parent or guardian has provided their child with appropriate clothes identified in IAA's dress code policy or the child agrees to wear school provided clothing.
- **Subsequent offenses:** If a student consistently is not adhering to the dress code policy, a parent meeting may be scheduled to resolve the issue, which may result in subsequent consequences.

Students will be prohibited from wearing hoodies and or jackets with/or without hoods in school hallways and or in class. These clothing items must be kept in school lockers.

Prohibited Items: head coverings (with the exception of religious garments), blankets, sunglasses inside the building, clothes with holes / rips / tears, and crop shirts (overly exposed clothing).

Backpacks: Are allowed to be brought to school but must remain in the student's locker after they arrive at school. No backpacks are allowed in class unless it is your last class, you are going to the gym, and/or you have Dance class. Once Gym and Dance classes are over, backpacks must be returned to the student's locker.

IX. STAFF LIST

Refer to our website at https://www.iaacslv.net for the staff directory.