



Parent & Student Handbook 2026-2027

5363 – 44th Street SE Grand Rapids, MI 49512

Phone: 616.446.8886 Fax: 616.957.0491

www.WestMichiganAviation.org

School Leadership

Board of Directors

Richard M. DeVos, Jr, President

Clifford Maine, Secretary/Treasurer

Dr. Tandy Champion, Director

Robin Koop, Director

Brian Lennon, Director

George Kiefer, Vice President

Eva Aguirre Cooper, Director

Tim Platz, Director

Leadership Team

Nicole Gasper, CEO

Meggan George, Director of Development & Marketing

Jaclyn Iacco, Dean of Academic & Student Services/Compliance Officer

George Pavey, Dean of Aviation & Engineering

Betsy Pott, Director of School Operations

Dr. Chris Williams, Dean of Teaching & Student Learning/Compliance Officer

Table of Contents

School Leadership.....	2
West Michigan Aviation Academy Vision and Mission	4
Admission and Enrollment	5
Graduating From West Michigan Aviation Academy	9
Aviation Program	14
Student Code of Conduct	15
Personal Property	29
Dress Code.....	30
Student Use of the School Building	32
Driving and Parking.....	33
Cheating and Plagiarism	35
Attendance	36
Emergency Closing Information.....	40
Health Information	42
Parent/Family Visits to WMAA	44
Student Services	46
Nondiscrimination Policy.....	48
Directory Information	49
Rights & Assurances	50
Technology Use Policy	53

West Michigan Aviation Academy Vision and Mission

Vision

Provide an aviation and STEM focused high school experience, where character and leadership development are integral to a comprehensive, well-rounded education that inspires personal growth and ignites a passion for learning.

Mission

Provide a unique opportunity to explore high school education through

- progressive and cutting-edge Aviation and Engineering programs
- an advanced and multi-faceted STEM curriculum
- a caring, inquisitive, and passionate faculty and staff

Grow and sustain a safe and professional school environment that encourages students to

- value relationships
- embrace diversity and respect differences
- engage in civil discourse
- participate within their communities

Maintain a rigorous education program by challenging students to become

- critical thinkers
- effective collaborators
- creative innovators
- engaged citizens

Prepare our students for success by

- upholding high expectations and fostering student accountability
- exploring a variety of postsecondary options

Core Values

- Empathy
- Professionalism
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Self-Motivation

Admission and Enrollment

Admission and enrollment at West Michigan Aviation Academy are governed by the Academy's admission and enrollment policy and the practices and procedures that accompany the policy. Copies of both the policy and the practices and procedures are available at the Academy office and on the Academy's website.

School Calendar 2026-2027

August 13, 2026	Registration & Picture Day for Returning 10 th -12 th Graders
August 17-20, 2026	Freshman & New Student Orientation
August 20, 2026	Picture Day for 9 th Graders & New Students during Orientation
August 24, 2026	KCTC Classes Start
August 24, 2026	First Day of Classes
August 26, 2026	Freshman Parent & New Parent Orientation: 6-6:30pm
August 26, 2026	Freshman Parent/Teacher Open House: 6:45-8:15pm
August 28, 2026	WMAA Closed – No School
September 4, 2026	LABOR DAY – No School
September 14, 2026	NHS Induction Ceremony
September 30, 2026	Picture Retake Day
October 9, 2026	Mid Term Reporting
October 12, 2026	Post-Secondary Planning Night
October 16, 2026	Staff Professional Learning – No School
October 19 & 21, 2026	Parent-Teacher Conferences: 5-8pm
October 22, 2026	College Board Suite of Assessments for Grades 9-11. Job Shadows & Virtual Instruction for Grade 12. Dismiss at 11am
October 22, 2026	Parent-Teacher Conferences: 12:30-3pm
October 23, 2026	WMAA Closed
November 25-27, 2026	Thanksgiving Break – WMAA Closed – No School
December 11-16, 2026	Semester Exams
December 17, 2026	Records Days – No Students/Make-Up Exam Day Pending Snow Day
Dec. 18, 2026-Jan. 1, 2027	Winter Break – No School
January 4, 2027	Classes Resume & Second Semester Begins
January 18, 2027	Martin Luther King Holiday – No School for Students – Staff Professional Learning
February 15-16, 2027	Mid-Winter Break – WMAA Closed
March 5, 2027	Mid Term Reporting
March 12, 2027	Staff Professional Learning – No School
April 2-9, 2027	Spring Break – WMAA Closed
April 12, 2027	Classes Resume
April 14, 2027	State Mandated Testing Day
May 15, 2027	Staff Professional Learning – No School
May 17-20, 2027	Senior Exams
May 21, 2027	Senior Breakfast
May 27, 2027	Graduation
May 31, 2027	Memorial Day – WMAA Closed - No School
June 3 - 8, 2027	Semester Exams
June 9, 2027	Teacher Records Day

Daily Class Schedule

Time	Period	Transition
8:00am – 9:30am	1 st /5 th	9:30am – 9:40am
9:40am – 11:10am	2 nd /6 th	11:10am – 11:20am
11:20am – 1:20pm	3 rd /7 th & Lunch	1:20pm – 1:30pm
1:30pm – 3:00pm	4 th /8 th	Dismissal

Graduation Requirements

WMAA will meet all high school curriculum requirements under Michigan state law. It will offer the Michigan Merit Curriculum. A total of 26 credits are required for graduation from WMAA, with the following specific requirements:

Subject Area	Credits	Fulfillment Options
Mathematics	4 credits	Through Algebra II. All students must take a math experience senior year.
English	4 credits	
Science	3 credits	1.0 credit in chemical science, 1.0 credit in physical science and 1.0 credit in life science
Social Studies	3 credits	1.0 credit World History, 1.0 credit US History, .5 credit Government, and .5 credit in Economics
Physical Education	.5 credit	
Health	.5 credit	
Visual, Performing or Applied Arts	1 credit	Met through Intro to Engineering & Robotics, Automation, and Manufacturing
World Language	2 credits	Two years of the same world language
Electives	8 credits	Aviation, engineering, or elective courses
TOTAL	26	Minimum Credits Required
Community Service		100 hours required (pro-rated for transfer students)
Michigan Merit Exam		Good faith effort in required State of Michigan assessments
Career Exploration		Completion of a job shadow
½ Credit in Financial Literacy		Met by MA410, testing out, or prior earned high school credit <i>*Beginning with the Class of 2028</i>

Grade Level Placement

Students at West Michigan Aviation Academy, enrolled in seven academic classes plus a LIFT hour per semester, have the possibility of earning over seven credits per year. To encourage students to make continuing progress toward graduation, credit requirements have been established for grade level placement. The number of credits earned will determine the grade level placement and the grade classification for each student. Guidelines for minimal progress toward graduation are as follows:

- For a student to be in 10th Grade - Student must have earned a minimum of **5 credits**.
- For a student to be in 11th Grade - Student must have earned a minimum of **11 credits**.
- For a student to be in 12th Grade - Student must have earned a minimum of **18 credits**.

Grade level placement will be determined prior to the start of each new school year. Students may not change grade levels during the school year. Students who fail to advance to the next grade level will be affected in terms of:

- Locker assignment
- Yearbook photo designation
- Grade level meetings or assemblies
- Class officer positions and Student Council

Any student who withdraws from school for any period of time will be enrolled at the appropriate grade level based on earned credits at the time of re-enrollment.

All students new to WMAA will be assigned to a grade level based on credits earned and accepted by WMAA.

Final grade placement will be determined by the school's CEO.

Testing Out Policy

West Michigan Aviation Academy, in compliance with the School Code of Michigan, will allow students to "test out" of any course or subject credit area. These tests will be a sound demonstration that a student meets or exceeds the content expectations associated with the subject credit area. Because some end-of-year tests do not serve as comprehensive measures of content and skill "mastery" as expressed in the Michigan School Code, students may be required to demonstrate a reasonable degree of mastery either through a written examination, written papers, projects, portfolios, or other comparable forms.

The following statements will apply to the testing out provision:

1. This policy will apply equally to all students at West Michigan Aviation Academy.
2. Course advancement, credit and/or waiver will only be granted for a final earned grade of C+ or higher. Credit may be earned by exhibiting mastery through the assessment used in the course, which may consist of a portfolio, performance paper, project, and/or presentation.
3. Testing out of high school courses will count toward graduation requirement credit. Successful completion of the testing out provision will also count toward fulfillment of a requirement for a subject area or a course sequence.

4. Once credit is earned by testing out, a student may not receive credit thereafter for a course lower in course sequence concerning the same subject area.
5. Credits earned through testing out will not be included in a computation of grade point average.
6. The Academy will establish reasonable times when testing out is available.
7. A student may only register to test out of a specific course one time.

Timeline for Testing Out Option

February 2027	Notification of process communicated.
April 30, 2027	Students must sign up for test out, indicating the course(s) a student wishes to test out of must be submitted to the school counselor.
June 3-8, 2027	Students may obtain a course syllabus and a description of what will serve as exhibition of mastery of the course outcomes. Texts and related materials will be made available from school counselor.
August 2027	Assessments for all courses will be administered.
August 2027	Notification of testing results will be provided to the student and parents.

Graduating From West Michigan Aviation Academy

General Information

1. Graduation from West Michigan Aviation Academy implies that students have satisfactorily completed an approved course of study and that have acceptably passed any examinations and/or other requirements established by the school.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the CEO and/or their designee to maintain a record system to provide the information necessary to assure that the above policy is enforced.
3. Only approved courses will be accepted for graduation. Coursework taken anywhere but at West Michigan Aviation Academy must be approved in advance to prevent loss of credit through misunderstanding.
4. Twenty-six credits are needed to receive a diploma from West Michigan Aviation Academy. Students lacking not more than one credit at graduation time will be permitted to participate in commencement, provided they are enrolled in summer school. The diploma will be withheld until all graduation requirements have been fulfilled.
5. Personal Curriculum options may be available for students who seek enrichment opportunities, need to modify the Algebra II requirement, have an IEP, or transfer from out of state. Please see a school counselor regarding this possibility.
6. The Academy's deans and counselors will provide information and assistance to all students to enable them to develop a schedule of courses that will meet requirements for colleges, vocational schools, or any post-high school program selected by the student and her/his parents.
7. Students enrolling in summer school for credit must have school counselor approval in advance of enrollment in the summer school program.
8. A student may repeat a course that s/he has taken and passed, but it will not be for credit. Both grades will be recorded, but only the higher grade will be used in computing the GPA.
9. Students, through approval of their parents, teacher, and counselor, may request to take a course on a credit/no credit basis rather than for a letter grade, but it is limited to one course per semester. It is wise to check with a counselor on the merits of doing so, especially if college admission is a factor.
10. Students who pass a higher class that is vertically aligned in its progression of standards are eligible to receive credit in the lower-level course.

Transfer Credit

1. Prior high school credit earned from accredited schools is transferable, with these exceptions: doctrinal religion courses; driver's education; service activities such as teacher, office, or library assistant.
2. Prior credit will be articulated with the credit and grade from the granting institution, with the exception of grades which fall out of the WMAA grading scale.
3. Credit for high school courses taken in middle school can articulate as credit to West Michigan Aviation only if credit is documented on an official high school transcript.
4. The following policies shall govern the graduation requirements of transfer students:
 - Any student who attends West Michigan Aviation Academy during the entire senior year will be allowed to graduate from West Michigan Aviation Academy if s/he fulfills the graduation requirements of WMAA.

- Any student who attends West Michigan Aviation Academy for only the last semester of the senior year will be allowed to graduate from West Michigan Aviation Academy if s/he fulfills the graduation requirements of this school, and the school s/he has transferred from refuses to grant a diploma.
- Any student who has attended West Michigan Aviation Academy through the first semester of the senior year and then transfers to another school will be allowed to receive a diploma from West Michigan Aviation Academy and participate in the graduation exercises, if s/he fulfills all of the Academy's graduation requirements. This does not apply to a student who is expelled from West Michigan Aviation Academy.

Kent ISD Programs

1. High school level coursework through KISD programs (KCTC, KTC, Launch U) will transfer into WMAA as elective credit only.
2. Kent ISD programs (KCTC, KTC, Launch U) must meet the same grade requirements (70% or higher) as WMAA courses in order to earn high school credit.

Credit Allocation

For traditional courses at West Michigan Aviation Academy, success in each semester-long course provides .5 credit. LIFT courses are granted .1 credit per semester. As such, students enrolled full time at West Michigan Aviation Academy have the possibility of earning 7.2 credits per year. A student is considered to have completed credit if the student demonstrates that he or she has successfully met the content expectations for the credit area; students may earn credit if they successfully demonstrate mastery of the subject area content standards.

In addition to earning credit through traditional courses, students can also earn credit through:

1. Dual enrollment
2. Testing Out

Selecting Classes

The West Michigan Aviation Academy Board of Directors has established the following guidelines regarding a student's course load:

1. All students, in all grades, are to be scheduled in seven classes plus a LIFT hour per semester.
2. Requests for an exception to #1 will be examined on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration what the student's parent, Dean of Academic & Student Services, and CEO believe is in the student's best educational interest.
3. A college preparatory curriculum consists of a MINIMUM OF FOUR ACADEMIC courses (English, mathematics, social studies, science, world language) each of the four high school years. The more selective the college one has in mind, the more rigorous the academic load should be, both in course difficulty and in number of classes taken.

Academic Progress Monitoring

Twenty-six credits, with specific departmental distribution, are required to graduate from West Michigan Aviation Academy. Students are continually reminded by their counselor that they need to be aware of the number of credits they have and what specific requirements they must complete prior to graduation.

The End of Year Credit Check Letter is mailed home each June with the student's report card showing the number of credits earned as of that date. It is always wise to be proactive and know how many credits the student earns each semester.

The school operates with the following policy regarding who can and cannot participate at commencement.

Students lacking **not more than one credit** at graduation time will be permitted to participate in commencement exercises, provided they are enrolled in summer school for the necessary credit. However, the diploma will be withheld until all graduation requirements have been fulfilled.

The school counselor will monitor all students up to the day of the commencement ceremony. Only students who are within one credit of all graduation requirements at the time of graduation will be permitted to participate in commencement exercises provided they have a completion plan approved by their counselor.

Again, **be proactive**. Know how many credits your student has and what course requirements remain for graduation to be realized.

Any exceptions to the above stated policies, although rare, can only be made by the CEO.

Graduation-Related Topics

1. Cap, Gown, Tassel, Etc.

Jostens, Inc. has been chosen by the school to sell graduation items. Their representative will visit the school in the fall to distribute and explain their catalog to seniors. Orders are then taken and delivered to the school in the spring. The cap and gown and accessories must be ordered through Jostens, Inc. Measurements will be taken when the order is placed. **Be sure to try on the cap and gown when it is received to check the fit. It must be sent back immediately if a replacement is needed for the ceremony.** Hang on to your tassel. They are easily lost or misplaced.

Announcements, mugs, open house invitations, thank you notes, etc. can be ordered from Jostens, Inc. as well.

2. College Scholarships Earned by Graduates

A listing of college scholarships and special awards earned by graduating seniors is included in the Commencement Program, provided a copy of the award notification **is presented to the senior counselor prior to April 30, 2027**. Awards, grants, or scholarships, which are part of a financial aid package, based on demonstrated financial need, are **not** included in this listing.

3. Commencement Ceremonies

Graduation is held at Calvin University, inside the Spoelhof Fieldhouse at the VanNoord Arena. Older guests and those in need of special seating or parking should call the WMAA office at least one week in advance. A letter will be sent in late April reviewing the dress and behavior codes.

4. Top Academic Recognition

A variety of recognitions are given each spring to the top academic students in the senior class.

- At the Awards program in May, the top *Summa Cum Laude* students are recognized based on cumulative weighted grade point averages of 4.00 or above through seven semesters.
- At commencement, the students with the highest cumulative weighted grade point averages through the eighth and final semester of school will be recognized as the Top Ten students in the class. The school will not name a Valedictorian or Salutatorian.
- Various media outlets often request a Top Ten from each high school in the area. WMAA will respond to these requests by providing a list of the Top Ten students in the class based on a cumulative weighted grade point average at the time of the request, i.e. through seven semesters prior to commencement and through eight semesters following commencement.

Homework

WMAA staff believes that homework is an important component of the educational process and seeks to accomplish the following objectives through regular and well-planned homework:

- Students will develop more self-direction and individual responsibility.
- Students will develop independent study skills.
- Students will become better organized.
- Students will learn to budget their time.

WMAA staff will develop homework guidelines, including make-up work, and provide them in the course syllabus.

Community Service

WMAA staff believes that community service is an important component of the educational and developmental process and seeks to accomplish the following objectives through regular community service:

- Students will develop civic-mindedness.
- Students will develop independent work skills.
- Students will develop a sense of teamwork.
- The learning process will be expanded through experience beyond the school setting.
- Hours should be served with a non-profit agency or for a community member in need.
- Hours should not be completed at a place of employment or for support of an employer.

Guidelines

1. Students are encouraged to complete an average of 25 hours of community service each academic year in order to complete the required 100 hours.
2. The Academy may communicate community service activities for students each semester.
3. Students will keep a log of dates, times, locations, and nature of service.
4. Students are encouraged to work in groups of 3 or more to foster teamwork.
5. Students may develop their own ideas for community service.
6. Hours may not be earned at a place of employment or from an immediate family member.

Senior Incentive

Senior incentive is the opportunity for seniors to qualify to be exempt from second semester exams. Senior incentive is a **privilege** and is not guaranteed. In order to qualify, students must meet the following requirements for a course in order to be exempt from the final exam for that course:

- earned a semester coursework grade of 85% or higher
- not more than 1 unexcused tardy second semester in that class
- no school discipline first or second semester in school or at a school sponsored event. School discipline is defined as a classroom in-house referral or suspension, including in-school and out-of-school suspensions.
- no incidents of cheating or plagiarism in any class first or second semester
- no more than one UNEXCUSED absence and no more than a total of 4 missed class periods second semester in that class

Students may appeal senior incentive decisions when extenuating circumstances occur by submitting a formal, written request and explanation to the Dean of Teaching & Student Learning. Appeals must be received by the communicated deadline each year. Appeal decisions are based on the discretion of the Dean and are final. Submission of an appeal letter does not guarantee that an appeal request will be granted.

Aviation Program

Student Flight Training

Student flight training will be conducted in a WMAA Cessna 172 aircraft and will be limited to only those seniors that have successfully completed the WMAA Private Pilot Ground School class. Upon completion of Ground School, students are eligible to conduct flight training in the fall of their senior year in an effort to solo (Completion of Stage I). Upon successful demonstration of aeronautical aptitude and obtaining a 70% or higher on the FAA Private Pilot Written Exam students will be extended the invitation to complete FAA Private Pilot training prior to graduation (Completion of Stage II & III). Additionally, students are expected to remain in good standing with the WMAA Student Code of Conduct, demonstrate sound maturity & decision making, adequate academic performance, and share the financial investment associated with flight training.

WMAA Flight Training Center (FTC)

Students attending classes at the WMAA Flight Training Center (FTC) are expected to exit the main campus building through the main office exit. Other exits during the normal school day are strictly prohibited. Additionally, students exiting main campus will proceed left to the east side of WMAA and utilize the appropriate sidewalks to ensure a safe and orderly arrival to the FTC (horseplay will NOT be tolerated). While crossing the main airport road, students will pay special attention to oncoming traffic ensuring to look both directions prior to crossing. Students are expected to utilize the designated crosswalk area as well as appropriate use of the cross-walk visual signaling options. Students returning from the FTC to main campus shall adhere to these same expectations utilizing the sidewalks to the north and east side of main campus entering the building at the main office entry only.

Student Code of Conduct

Introduction

WMAA will address the academic needs of students through a quality education program. To be effective and to fulfill this goal, WMAA believes that students need a positive, safe, and orderly school environment in which learning can take place without disruption. There is a direct correlation between appropriate school/classroom behavior and student achievement. Students who do not observe the rules of proper conduct in the classroom or hallway are interfering with the maximum learning and safety of others, as well as minimizing their own opportunities to learn. Therefore, WMAA staff takes a very proactive role in enforcing the school's Student Code of Conduct outlined below.

Students are expected to conduct themselves responsibly and respectfully at all times. The WMAA campus and the internship sites are adult atmospheres at which business and classes are being conducted on a daily basis. Students should not only respect this, but are expected to use this environment as an opportunity to observe and learn.

WMAA is dedicated to creating and maintaining a positive learning environment for all students. Teachers, administrators, parents, and students must assume a responsible role in promoting behavior that enhances academic and social success.

Courteous, respectful, and responsible behavior fosters a positive climate for the learning community. The Student Code of Conduct sets forth student rights and responsibilities while at school and school-related activities, and the consequences for violating school rules. When determining the appropriate action to be taken as a consequence of student misconduct, school officials may use intervention strategies and/or disciplinary actions, depending upon the severity or repetition of misconduct, age and grade level of the student, circumstances surrounding the misconduct, impact of the student's misconduct on others in the school community, and any other relevant factors. The Student Code of Conduct will be administered fairly and as uniformly as practicable, without partiality or discrimination.

When and Where the Student Code of Conduct Applies

The acts of misconduct and penalties listed below are applicable when a student:

- engages in a prohibited act on school property;
- engages in a prohibited act in a motor vehicle being used for a school-related purpose;
- engages in a prohibited act at a school-related activity, function or event;
- engages in a prohibited act off school premises, and, in the judgment of the administration, is of such seriousness that the student's continued attendance in school would present a danger to the health and safety of students or employees or would endanger the proper functioning of the educational process;
- engages in a prohibited act when the student was not enrolled in the school or was enrolled in another school, if the act of misconduct would constitute a sufficient basis for suspension or expulsion had it occurred while the student was attending the school; or
- uses school telecommunications networks, accounts, or other Academy services and devices.

Additionally, in partnership with Kent County Technical Center (KCTC), WMAA will support and honor all disciplinary sanctions given to WMAA students by KCTC staff and administration.

Expectations

In order for WMAA to prepare each child for college and/or career success:

- The instruction and direction provided by staff members and volunteers must be followed at all times by our students.
- The school's property and materials must be kept clean, neat, and in excellent repair so all students and adults can benefit from their use. If a student damages school property or materials, the CEO will determine the cost and method of replacing what has been damaged.
- Students will use respectful language when writing or speaking.
- Students will be courteous and kind in their relationships with students, staff members, and other adults.
- Students will follow the required school dress code.
- Students will be punctual and in attendance at school each day.
- Students will be focused on learning. Students will pay attention and work diligently in class.
- Students will refrain from public displays of affection.

WMAA Honor Code

In addition to the expectations identified above, WMAA emphasizes the importance of honesty, integrity, and strong moral character. As a learning institution, we do recognize that students make mistakes that they will need to learn from, and, when confronted with those learning moments, WMAA expects that students will engage with WMAA staff with honesty and with an approach for reconciliation. WMAA Aviators *do not* lie.

Lying, intentional deceit, or intentional dishonesty can have significant consequences at WMAA. As a general rule, lying during the course of the investigation of a code of conduct violation will magnify any potential consequences for the student involved. Additionally, because of the high level of trust required for WMAA's capstone opportunities and the inherent risk involved in those activities, actions by a student that put his/her personal integrity in question may disqualify the student from participation in specific academy programs.

Acts of Misconduct

Student misconduct is classified into three levels. In addition to these three levels of discipline, a teacher may suspend a student for his or her conduct in a class, subject or activity. The definitions of misconduct at each level are not all inclusive, but only representative and illustrative. A student who commits an act of misconduct not listed herein is nonetheless subject to disciplinary action.

Level I Violations

Depending on severity or repetition, a Level I violation may be reclassified as a Level II or Level III violation.

- Cheating/Academic Misconduct: Plagiarizing (see Cheating and Plagiarism policy p. 35), cheating, gaining unauthorized access to, or tampering with educational materials.
- Defacement of Property: Willfully defacing or damaging property.
- Disorderly Conduct: Harassing others or misbehaving in a manner that disrupts the learning environment.
- Violation of Dress Code

- Insubordination: Ignoring or refusing to comply with directions or instructions given by Academy faculty member.
- Leaving School Without Permission: Students must have permission from a parent/guardian or Academy faculty member to leave campus.
- Skipping Class: Intentionally missing class while in school.
- Negligent or Improper Operation of Automobiles: Any violation of the Driving and Parking Policy (p. 33), including speeding, unsafe operation of a vehicle, or improper parking.
- Profanity, Offensive Language and/or Mistreatment of Students or Academy Staff: Students may not orally, electronically, in writing, or with physical gestures direct profanity, insulting, or obscene behaviors toward any other student or Academy staff.
- Sexual Harassment (Level I): Students may not use words, pictures, objects, gestures, or other actions relating to sexual activity or a person's gender that cause embarrassment, discomfort, or a reluctance to participate in Academy activities.
- Technology Abuse: Any violation of WMAA's Technology Use Guidelines (p. 55).

Level II Violations

Depending upon severity or repetition, a Level II violation may be reclassified as a Level III violation.

1. "Bullying, harassment, or intimidation" refers to any gesture or written, verbal, or physical act that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, should know will have the effect of harming a student, damaging a student's property, placing a student in reasonable fear of harm, or patterns of behavior that have the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the education or well-being of the student and/or the school's educational mission. These acts include, but are not limited to, written, verbal, or physical act that is reasonably perceived as being motivated by a student's religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, height, gender identity, weight, socioeconomic status, or by any other distinguishing characteristic.
2. Destruction of Property: Actions that impair the use or appearance of something or are destructive. Destruction of property includes but is not limited to defacing school books and classroom resources, personal or school property including automobiles.
3. Fighting: A student may not engage in a physical altercation with another student or commit physical acts of aggression towards other people.
4. Improper, Negligent, or Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle (level II): Intentionally or recklessly operating a motor vehicle, so as to endanger the safety, health or welfare of others on school property.
5. Profanity and/or Obscenity Toward Staff: Verbally, in writing, electronically, or with photographs or drawings, direct profanity or insulting, obscene gestures toward any Academy staff members or adult volunteers. Obsessive or repeated profanity and obscenity in the Academy building and classroom
6. Sexual Harassment (Level II): Unwelcome sexual advances, request sexual favors or engage in verbal communication or physical conduct of a sexual nature with or toward any other student, Academy district personnel or adult volunteers.
7. Theft or Possession of Stolen Property: A student may not, without permission of the owner or custodian of the property, take property or have in his or her possession property, which does not belong to the student.

8. Threat/Coercion: A student may not threaten another with bodily harm. A student will not coerce another to act or refrain from acting.
9. Nicotine, Tobacco, Smoking & Vaping: A student may not possess, use, offer to buy or sell, or purport to buy or sell cigarettes, tobacco, vapes, e-cigarettes, or any other nicotine product or related materials or paraphernalia. Possession of and/or use of any such product or related paraphernalia is strictly prohibited on school grounds, in a school related vehicle or at any school related event. This policy applies to all chewing tobacco (or similar nicotine product), smoking, and e-cigarette products, including those that use nicotine and those that do not. (See the Tobacco, Smoking, & Vaping section of this handbook on page 28)

Level III Violations

Depending on severity or repetition, a Level I or Level II violation may be reclassified as a Level III.

1. Alcohol: A student may not possess, use, offer to buy or sell, or purport to buy or sell alcohol while on school property, on a school-related vehicle, a school-sponsored event, or at an internship.
2. Drugs: A student may not possess, use, offer to buy or sell, or purport to buy or sell a controlled substance, dangerous drug, prescription drug, counterfeit drug, intoxicating substance, or drug paraphernalia (including containers, smoking devices, etc.) while on school property, on a school-related vehicle, at a school-sponsored event, or at an internship. A student legally in possession of prescribed medication will not be in violation of this section as long as his/her use and possession of the prescribed medication is authorized at the academy through a medication form on file in the front office.

NOTE: Drug-related behaviors pose an immediate threat to student safety. In all Level III drug-related cases, expulsion may be recommended for the first offense.

3. Arson (Starting a Fire): A student may not intentionally, by means of starting a fire, cause harm to any property or person, or participate in the burning of any property or person. If a student commits arson in an Academy building, on Academy grounds or other Academy property, the Academy board or its designee may expel the student from the Academy permanently, subject to possible reinstatement, or may impose other appropriate discipline. See "Academy Responses to Level III Violations," below. MCL 380.1311(5). (MCL 380.1311[2]). "Arson" means a felony violation defined in Chapter X of the Michigan Penal Code. (MCL 750.71 to MCL 750.80).
4. Extortion: A student may not make another person do any act against his or her will, by force or threat of force, expressed or implied.
5. False Fire Alarm or Bomb Report; Tampering with Fire Alarm System: Unless an emergency exists, a student may not intentionally sound a fire alarm or cause a fire alarm to be sounded, nor will a student falsely communicate or cause to be communicated that a bomb is located in a building or on Academy property, or at an Academy-related event. These acts are prohibited, irrespective of the whereabouts of the student. A student may not destroy, damage, or otherwise tamper with a fire alarm system in an Academy building. If a student enrolled makes a bomb threat or similar threat directed at an Academy building, other Academy property, or an Academy-related event, then the Academy board or its designee may suspend or expel the student from the Academy for a period of time as determined in the discretion of the Academy board, or its designee. See "Academy Responses to Level III Violations," below. (MCL 380.1311a[2]).
6. Fireworks: A student may not possess, handle, transmit, conceal, or use any fireworks/firecrackers or any fire making materials, including matches or lighters.

7. **Interference with School Authorities:** A student may not interfere with administrators, teachers or other Academy personnel by threat of force or violence. Physical contact with Academy personnel by a student will be considered a serious violation of the Student Code of Conduct.
8. **Physical Assault against Academy Personnel:** A student may not physically assault another person. If a student enrolled commits a physical assault at the Academy against a person employed by, or engaged as a volunteer or contractor by the Academy board, then the Academy board or its designee may expel the student from the Academy permanently, subject to possible reinstatement under MCL380.1311a(5), or may impose other appropriate discipline. See “Academy Responses to Level III Violations,” below. (MCL 380.1311a[1]). “Physical assault” means intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence. (MCL 380.1310[3][b], MCL 380.1311a[12][b]).
9. **Physical Assaults against Students:** Any student who commits a physical assault against another student while on school property, on a school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event may be suspended or expelled, depending on the circumstances, for up to one hundred eighty (180) school days. See “Academy Responses to Level III Violations,” below. “Physical assault” is defined as intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence. All students are subject to the Student Code of Conduct and its related disciplinary actions.
10. **Robbery:** A student may not take or attempt to take from another person any property, by force or threat of force, expressed or implied.
11. **Sexual Assault:** A student may not sexually assault another person. If a student commits criminal sexual conduct in an Academy building, on Academy grounds or any other Academy property, the Academy board or its designee may expel the student from the school district permanently, subject to possible reinstatement, pursuant to MCL 380.1311(5). (MCL 380.1311[2]). See “Academy Responses to Level III Violations,” below. “Criminal sexual conduct” means a violation as set forth in Chapter LXXVI of the Michigan Penal Code. (MCL 750.520b to MCL 750.520g).
12. **Verbal and Written Assaults:** Any student who commits a verbal assault against a school employee or a person engaged as a volunteer or contractor for the school while on school property, on a school-related vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event may be suspended or expelled, depending on the circumstances, for up to one hundred eighty (180) school days. See “Academy Responses to Level III Violations,” below. “Verbal assault” is defined as an intentional display of force or communication that gives the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. A bomb threat (or similar threat) directed at a school building, other school property, or a school-related event is also viewed as verbal assault. For the purpose of this policy, the areas of assault listed above, when placed in writing, recorded on tape, CD, or cell phone or transmitted by e-mail or a social networking site shall be viewed as written assault. All students are subject to the Student Code of Conduct and its related disciplinary actions.
13. **Weapons: Dangerous Instruments:** A student may not possess, handle, transmit, or use a dangerous instrument capable of harming another person. A “dangerous instrument” means any device intended to cause injury or bodily harm, any device used in a threatening manner that could cause injury or bodily harm, or any device that is primarily used for self-protection. Dangerous instruments include, but are not limited to, chemical mace, pepper gas or like substances, stun guns, BB guns, pellet guns, razors, box cutters, multi-tools, or knives with blades under three inches. (Knives with blades over three inches are considered weapons by the State of Michigan and are governed by the “Weapons: Dangerous Weapons” policy directly below).

14. **Weapons: Dangerous Weapons:** A student may not possess, handle, transmit, or use as a dangerous weapon, an instrument capable of harming another person. A “dangerous weapon” means a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over three inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles. (MCL 380.1313). (Knives with blades less than three inches are also not allowed and are governed by the “Weapons: Dangerous Instruments” policy directly above).

A “firearm,” as defined in section 921, title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. § 921) means:

- Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive
- The frame or receiver of any such weapon
- Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer
- Any destructive device

State law permits the Academy board or its designee to permanently expel from the Academy, subject to possible reinstatement, or to impose other appropriate discipline upon a student who possesses a “dangerous weapon” other than a “firearm” in a “weapon-free school zone.” (MCL 380.1311[2]). See “Academy Responses to Level III Violations,” below. Furthermore, the Academy will contact local law enforcement as required by law.

The Academy board is not required to expel a student for possessing a weapon if the student establishes in a clear and convincing manner at least one of the following factors:

- The object or instrument possessed by the student was not possessed by the student for use as a weapon, or for direct or indirect delivery to another person for use as a weapon
- The weapon was not knowingly possessed by the student
- The student did not know or have reason to know that the object or instrument possessed by the student constituted a dangerous weapon
- The weapon was possessed by the student at the suggestion, request, or direction of, or with the express permission of, Academy or police authorities.

There is a rebuttable presumption under state law that permanent expulsion for possession of a firearm or another dangerous weapon is not justified if the student establishes at least one of the four factors described above in a clear and convincing manner, and the student has no history of suspension or expulsion.

“Weapon-free school zone” means Academy property and a vehicle used by the Academy to transport students to or from Academy property. (MCL 750.237a).

“Academy property” means a building or property used for Academy purposes to impart instruction to children or used for functions and events sponsored by the Academy, except a building used primarily for adult education or college extension courses. (MCL 750.237a). If a dangerous weapon is found in the possession of a student while the student attends the Academy or an Academy activity the CEO or designee, shall immediately report that finding to the student’s parent or legal guardian and the local law enforcement agency. (MCL 380.1313[1]).

15. Weapons: Use of Legitimate Tools as Weapons: A student may not use a legitimate tool, instrument, or equipment as a weapon including, but not limited to, pens, pencils, compasses, or combs, with the intent to harm another.

Violations of the Student Code of Conduct

Academy Responses to Level I Violations

The Academy will address student misconduct in a variety of ways, depending upon the severity of the offense. All teachers have the authority to suspend a student for his or her conduct in a class, subject or activity for up to one day. Academy administrators and staff may use appropriate intervention strategies including, but not limited to any of the following intervention strategies and disciplinary actions:

- Administrator/student conference or reprimand
- Administrator and teacher-parent/guardian conferences
- Referrals and conferences involving various support staff or agencies
- Daily/weekly progress reports
- Behavioral contracts
- Positive Behavior Support Plans (PBSPs)
- Restorative Practices
- Student programs for conflict resolution and peer mediation
- Change in student's class schedule
- Academy service assignment
- Confiscation of inappropriate item
- Programs for anger management and violence prevention
- Restitution/restoration
- Short-term suspension from one (1) Academy day up to and including ten (10) Academy days.

Academy Responses to Level II Violations

Depending upon severity or repetition, a Level I violation may be reclassified as a Level II violation. Intervention strategies are not limited to those listed herein. Other methods of addressing misconduct may be more appropriate, depending upon the circumstances.

- Any school responses to a Category I violation, listed above
- Short-term suspension for one (1) Academy day, up to and including ten (10) Academy days
- Recommendation to the Academy Board of Directors or its designee for long-term suspension or expulsion
- Law enforcement agency notification
- Denial of driving privileges

Academy Responses to Level III Violations

Level III Violations of the Student Code of Conduct constitute dangerous disruptions to school affairs, and the academy will respond to these behaviors with strict and significant school disciplinary consequences.

In addition to any or all of the intervention strategies or disciplinary actions already identified, short-term suspension, long-term suspension, and/or permanent expulsion are possible outcomes to Level III Violations. The Academy will also impose any and all discipline required by state law and will make law enforcement referrals in the event of a potentially criminal action.

NOTE: Drug-related behaviors pose an immediate threat to student safety. In all Level III drug-related cases, permanent expulsion may be imposed even for the first offense.

School Removal Assurances

In cases of short-term suspension, long-term suspension, and permanent expulsion, WMAA provides these assurances in accordance with state law (MCL 380.1310d):

- A. Before a student may be suspended, expelled, or permanently expelled, the Academy's CEO or designee, or the Board, shall consider each of the following factors:
 1. the student's age;
 2. the student's disciplinary history;
 3. whether the student is a student with a disability;
 4. the seriousness of the violation or behavior committed by the student;
 5. whether the violation or behavior committed by the student threatened the safety of any student or staff member;
 6. whether restorative practices will be used to address the violation or behavior committed by the student; and
 7. whether a lesser intervention would properly address the violation or behavior committed by the student.
- B. Except as provided in subsection (C), below, the Academy has discretion over whether to suspend or permanently expel a pupil. In exercising this discretion, there is a rebuttable presumption that a long-term suspension or permanent expulsion is not justified unless administration can demonstrate that it considered each of the factors listed in subsection (A), above. For a suspension of 10 or fewer days (short-term suspension), there is no rebuttal presumption, but the board or board of directors, or its designee, shall consider each of the factors listed under subsection (A).
- C. The obligation to consider the factors listed in subsection (A), above, and the presumption identified in subsection (B), above, shall not apply to a student being permanently expelled under state law for possessing a firearm in a weapon-free school zone.
- D. Except as provided in subsection (C), consideration of the factors listed in subsection (A) is mandatory before suspending or expelling a student under section 380.1310, 380.1311(1), 380.1311(2), and 380.1311a. The method used for consideration of the factors is at the sole discretion of the Academy.

In the event a student is permanently expelled for possession of a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free school zone, arson in an Academy building or on Academy grounds, or criminal sexual conduct in an Academy building or on Academy grounds, the Academy board shall ensure that, within three days after the expulsion, an official of the Academy refers the individual to the appropriate county department of the family independence agency or county community mental health agency, and notifies the individual's parent or legal guardian or, if the individual is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, notifies the individual of the referral. (MCL 380.1311[4]).

Due Process Procedures

Introduction to the Rules of Due Process

As a general rule, prior to any suspension or permanent expulsion of the student, the CEO or designee shall provide the student with the following due process:

1. The CEO or designee shall inform the student of the charges against him/her, and, if the student denies the charges, the CEO or designee shall provide the student with an explanation of the evidence the CEO or designee possesses.
2. The student shall be provided an opportunity to explain to the administrator his/her version of the facts.

If a student's presence in school poses an immediate danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption to the educational process, the CEO or designee may immediately remove the student, and as soon thereafter as reasonable, provide the student with his/her due process rights as set forth above. A student may also be removed from school pending investigation for no more than the time needed to complete the investigation, or as necessary to defuse a situation that could become worse without such a removal. A removal from school pending a hearing or investigation, or for other reasons, does not constitute discipline, although if the incident that prompts the removal results in discipline the time during which the student has been removed shall be credited to any disciplinary time imposed.

Teacher Suspension

All teachers have the authority to suspend a student for his or her conduct in a class, subject or activity for up to one day. The only due process for such a suspension shall include:

1. The teacher shall notify the student of the misconduct resulting in the suspension, and
2. The teacher shall give the student the opportunity to explain his/her conduct.

Suspension of Ten (10) School Days or Less

Except when emergency removal is warranted, a student must be given at least oral notice of the charges against him/her and the opportunity to respond prior to the implementation of a suspension. When emergency removal has been implemented, notice and opportunity to respond shall occur as soon as reasonably possible. The CEO or other designated administrator shall provide the opportunity to be heard and shall be responsible for making the suspension decision. An appeal may be addressed to the CEO whose decision will be final. Students, parents, or guardians have the right to appeal in writing the disciplinary decision regarding a school day suspension within two (2) school days to the CEO/designee. The CEO/designee's decision on the appeal is final for any suspension that is ten (10) days or less for a single incident.

Long Term Suspension and Permanent Expulsion

A long-term suspension is the exclusion of a student from the Academy for greater than ten (10) but not more than sixty (60) days.

A permanent expulsion shall be the permanent exclusion of a student from school for disciplinary reasons and the severance of all rights and responsibilities to that student. Students who are expelled permanently may petition for reinstatement under the "Reinstatement" provisions described below.

A student and his/her parent or guardian must be given written notice of the intention to suspend or expel and the reasons therefore, and they must also be given an opportunity to appear before the CEO with a representative to answer the charges. The student and/or his/her guardian must also be provided a brief description of the student's rights and the hearing procedure, a list of the witnesses who will provide testimony to the CEO, and a summary of the facts to which the witnesses will testify. The CEO will then recommend, if appropriate, a long-term suspension or expulsion to the Board. At the student's

or parents request, the Board hearing may be private, but the Board must act publicly. The Board shall act by providing a written decision on any appeal of an expulsion, a request for reinstatement, or a request for admission after permanent expulsion from another academy.

Discipline Hearing for Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

If a student is charged with a violation of the Student Code of Conduct carrying a consequence of long-term suspension or expulsion, WMAA shall notify the student and parent in writing by registered mail. The written notice shall state:

- a. the nature of the violation,
- b. the proposed consequence, and
- c. the student's and parent's right to a due process hearing at a specified time and place to determine
 - i. whether a violation occurred and
 - ii. whether the consequence of such violation merits the imposition of a long-term suspension or expulsion.
- d. the right of the student and parent (and an advocate of their choice and at their expense) to participate in the hearing,
- e. the right of the student to hear and/or see the evidence offered against him or her during the hearing,
- f. the right of the student to present oral or written evidence or testimony on the student's behalf,
- g. the right to a written record of the result of the hearing, and
- h. the right to request that the discipline hearing be closed to the public.

A hearing to consider whether to impose a long-term suspension will ordinarily be conducted by the CEO or designee, although such a hearing may be conducted by the Board or a committee of the Board.

A hearing to consider whether to permanently expel a student will be conducted by the Board. A disciplinary hearing conducted by the Board may take place in closed session, at the student or parent/guardian's written request; absent such a request, the hearing must take place in open session. The Board's decision must be made in open session. Any open session shall be conducted in accordance with the rights of confidentiality adhering to Education Records as that term is defined in 20 USC 1232g.

At the hearing, the student and parent shall be advised of the alleged violation and the facts leading toward the allegation. Minutes shall be kept of the hearing. Within a reasonable time following the hearing, the school will provide the parent with a written record of the decision. This document will inform the parent if there is any right to an appeal.

Appeal of Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

If a discipline decision is made by the CEO or designee(s), the decision may be appealed to the Board. All discipline decisions made by a quorum of the Board of Directors are final and not subject to appeal.

The appeal must:

- a. be requested in writing within five days of receipt of the imposition of the discipline,
- b. contain the reasons that the decision should be reviewed or reconsidered,
- c. be signed by the student or his parent/guardian, and

d. be delivered to the Board of Directors by way of certified first-class mail.

The Board of Directors shall review the decision of the designee(s) for an erroneous application of the handbook's provisions based upon the grounds presented by the student in his/her written request for appeal.

The request for appeal shall be presented at the next regular meeting of the Board of Directors following receipt of the notice of appeal, at which time the Board of Directors shall review the written request for appeal. The appeal may be considered in closed session, at the student or parent/guardian's request; absent such a request, the appeal must be considered in open session. The Board's decision with respect to the appeal must be made in open session. Any open session shall be conducted in accordance with the rights of confidentiality adhering to Education Records as that term is defined in 20 USC 1232g.

In reviewing the written request for appeal, the Board of Directors may, during the review, ask the administration to respond to the written request for appeal orally and may request information of the student or his/her parent/guardian. The Board of Directors or the committee of the Board of Directors shall notify the student and his parent/guardian of the result in writing within five business days of the board meeting at which the appeal was heard.

All determinations of the Board of Directors after appeal are final.

Reinstatement

A student who has been permanently expelled from the Academy under one of the state law provisions mandating or permitting permanent expulsion may apply for reinstatement in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A. If the student is in grade 6 or above at the time of the permanent expulsion, the parents, legal guardian, the adult student, or the emancipated minor may submit a request for reinstatement after 150 school days from the date of the expulsion, but the student may not be reinstated before 180 school days from the expulsion date.
- B. The parent, adult student, or emancipated minor shall submit the request for reinstatement to the CEO on a form specified by the CEO.
- C. The CEO or designee shall, within ten (10) school days after receiving the reinstatement form, submit the request, together with any other information s/he deems pertinent to the requested reinstatement, to a Board-appointed committee consisting of two (2) Board members, an Academy administrator, a teacher, and a parent of an Academy student.
- D. The committee shall, within ten (10) school days after being appointed, review all pertinent information, and submit its recommendation to the Board. The recommendation may be for unconditional reinstatement, conditional reinstatement, or non-reinstatement, based on the committee's consideration of:
 1. the extent to which reinstatement would create a risk of harm to students or school personnel;
 2. the extent to which reinstatement would create a risk of Academy or individual liability for the Board or Academy personnel;
 3. the age and maturity of the student;
 4. the student's school record before the expulsion incident;
 5. the student's attitude concerning the expulsion incident;
 6. the student's behavior since the expulsion and the prospects for remediation;

7. if the request was filed by a parent, the degree of cooperation and support the parent has provided and will provide if the student is reinstated, including, but not limited to the parent's receptiveness toward possible conditions placed on the reinstatement. Such conditions may, as an example, include a written agreement by the student and/or a parent who filed the reinstatement request to:

- a. abide by a behavior contract which may involve the student, his/her parents, and an outside agency;
- b. participate in an anger management program or other counseling activities;
- c. cooperate in processing and discussing periodic progress reviews;
- d. meet other conditions deemed appropriate by the committee;
- e. accept the consequences for not fulfilling the agreed-upon conditions.

The committee may also allow the parent, adult student, or emancipated minor to propose conditions as part of the request for reinstatement.

E. The Board shall make its decision no later than the next regular Board meeting following the committee's submission of its recommendations. The Board's decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

F. In the event a student who has been permanently expelled from a school district or another public school academy requests admission to this Academy, the Board shall, in making its decision, rely upon the recommendation of the CEO.

Students expelled for reasons other than dangerous weapons, arson, criminal sexual conduct or assault upon an employee, volunteer or contractor may also petition the Board for reinstatement. The Board may, at its discretion, consider the petition in accordance with the procedures set forth above or the standards and the procedures it determines to be appropriate under the circumstances.

In addition to all of the components of the reinstatement process, any student applying for reinstatement is also subject to the conditions of the lottery application process.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Voluntary Agreements of Discipline

At any time during the disciplinary proceedings, the CEO may enter into a written contract with the student and/or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) setting forth the parties' agreement in settlement of the disciplinary charges. In such cases, the written agreement shall be final and binding and may not be later challenged by the CEO or the student and/or his/her parent(s) or guardian(s).

Suspended/Expelled Students on School Property Or Attending School Activities

A suspended, expelled or permanently expelled student who enters onto school property or appears at a school activity, event, or function without the permission of the CEO shall be deemed to be trespassing.

Maintaining Class Progress

A suspended student has the right to maintain progress, when practical in the judgment of the CEO, during the period of suspension.

Application to Students with Disabilities

This policy shall be applied in a manner consistent with the rights secured under Federal and State law to students who are determined to be eligible for special education programs and services.

Interviews of Students by Police or Other Public Agencies

The Academy endeavors to cooperate with law enforcement agencies. Law enforcement officials may interview students in the Academy. Academy officials will grant law enforcement interviews with a student after considering the (1) type of incident; (2) seriousness of the incident; (3) age and maturity of the student; (4) relationship of the incident to the Academy and the educational process; and (5) whether time is of the essence.

When practical, Academy personnel will be present during the police interview, and an attempt will be made to contact the parent/guardian prior to the interview. If the student is a minor and the parent was not present during the interview, the parent/guardian will be notified by the CEO or designee that an interview has taken place.

Seclusion and Restraint

The safety and well-being of all the students at WMAA is our primary concern. WMAA staff will be trained in various discipline techniques using the MDE guidelines for seclusion and restraint. Seclusion and restraint are reserved for those emergency situations as a last resort. If restraint and/or seclusion become necessary, staff members are responsible for informing parents of any discipline techniques used to manage student behavior.

Illegal Drugs and Alcohol

WMAA will not tolerate the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol and will take a firm position towards students using drugs. Drug and alcohol-related incidences are Level III violations and clear consequences are outlined above. Because these behaviors pose an immediate threat to student safety, Level III drug-related cases may result in recommendation for expulsion for the first offense.

Performance-Enhancing Drugs/Compounds

Use of a performance-enhancing substance regardless of source by a student is a violation that will affect a pupil's athletic eligibility and extra-curricular participation and may result in disciplinary consequences. The Michigan Department of Health & Human Services has adopted the NCAA's list of banned substances for high school athletes.

The following drug classes are banned:

1. Stimulants
2. Anabolic agents
3. Beta blockers (banned for rifle only)
4. Diuretics and masking agents
5. Narcotics
6. Peptide hormones, growth factors, related substances and mimetics
7. Hormone and metabolic modulators
8. Beta-2 agonists

Note: This is not a complete or exhaustive list. Any substance chemically/pharmacologically related to these classes also is banned.

Nicotine, Tobacco, Smoking & Vaping

WMAA prohibits smoking, vaping, and the use of any tobacco or nicotine product in all Academy-related situations, by any person, at any time, in any location, and at any event. This includes vape products that do not contain nicotine. In addition, any smoking, vaping, or tobacco advertising or promotion is strictly prohibited. All smoking, vaping, and tobacco products will be confiscated from students and not returned. This includes lighters and matches.

- First offense for use, possession, or possession of paraphernalia: Two-day suspension
- Second offense for use, possession, or possession of paraphernalia: Five-day suspension, required participation in a smoking cessation program, and referral to student services for additional support
- Third offense for use, possession, or possession of paraphernalia: Recommendation for expulsion. In addition to these provisions regarding the use and/or possession of these products, the Academy views the sale of these products on campus as especially challenging. Engaging in the sale or distribution of tobacco or nicotine products will result in the highest levels of school discipline, and may lead to expulsion from the Academy.

In addition to these provisions regarding the use and/or possession of these products, the Academy views the sale of these products on campus as especially challenging. Engaging in the sale or distribution of tobacco or nicotine products will result in the highest levels of school discipline, and may lead to expulsion from the Academy.

Personal Property

Search and Seizure

Search of a student and his/her possessions, including locker contents, may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of law or the Academy's rules. A search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student's consent. A student's person will only be searched when there is a reasonable suspicion that the student has an illegal weapon, drug and/or alcohol on his/her person. Anything that is found in a search that may be evidence of a violation of the Academy's rules or the law may be either taken and held or turned over to the police.

All computers located in the Academy are considered Academy property and are used by students, where appropriate, solely for educational purposes. The Academy retains the right to access and review all electronic, computer files, databases, and any other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with the Academy's computer system and e-mail as well as personal flash drives or other electronic storage devices. Students should not expect any information contained on such systems to be confidential or private.

Lockers as School Property

All lockers assigned to students are the property of the school. At no time does the school relinquish its exclusive control of its lockers. The CEO or designee shall have custody of all combinations to all lockers or locks. Students are prohibited from placing locks on any locker without the advanced approval of the CEO or designee.

Damage of Property

Vandalism and disregard for school property will not be tolerated. Violations may result in suspension or expulsion.

Student Valuables

Students should not bring items of value to school. Items such as jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment, and the like are tempting targets for theft. WMAA cannot be responsible for their safekeeping and is not liable for loss or damage to personal valuables.

Search of Vehicles

Vehicles parked on school property are subject to searches for prohibited items when there is reasonable cause to suspect a student may be in possession of a prohibited item or substance. In the event of a search, the student will be called to the office and asked to open his/her vehicle so that administrators and/or law enforcement will be able to complete the search. If a prohibited item is found in a student vehicle, the student will be subject to disciplinary consequences, which may include long-term suspension and/or expulsion as outlined in the code of student conduct.

Dress Code

The WMAA Dress Code reflects a sense of purpose from our students and identifies that school is a place to study and learn. The standards support student safety and promote a focused, orderly school climate. The code is also designed to provide an aviation-industry business-like atmosphere to help students develop the lifelong character of dressing appropriately for the workplace. In general, any action interpreted to individualize the style of the uniform and depart from the intended professional appearance will be considered in violation of the uniform policy.

The WMAA dress code is applicable and enforceable from the moment students enter the school building in the morning until the conclusion of the school day at 3:00pm.

	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
Shirts	- WMAA uniform shirt - Long-sleeved shirts worn under a short-sleeved polo are solid black or white in color. - Polo shirts must be tucked into the waistband at all times	- Untucked polo shirts - Any modification of the uniform shirt, including markings, tears, stickers, or pins
Bottoms	Types: pants, shorts, skirts, or capris Color: solid khaki-colored Fabric: cotton, twill, or similar material Style: plain in style, and hemmed neatly Length: no longer than top of the shoe; shorts and skirts must be fingertip-length or longer Leggings/Tights: solid color of black or white and solid material (no rips, tears or “fishnet” style)	- Denim - Jogger/pants with elastic cuffs at the end of the pant leg - Pegged/rolled pant legs - Oversized/baggy pants
Sweatshirts/ Sweaters	WMAA uniform sweatshirt/sweater	- Non-uniform sweatshirts - Sweatshirts with hoods may not be worn underneath WMAA uniform clothing
Footwear	- Closed toed shoes including tennis/running shoes, loafers, or heels/platform/boots less than 2” high - Shoes with a back	Flip-flops, soccer sandals, Crocs, open-toed shoes, slides, slipper-like footwear, or bare feet
Socks	Solid black or white when visible (worn with skirts, shorts, or capri pants)	- Socks worn over pants - Colored/patterned socks visible when worn with shorts or skirts
Belts	- Required and worn in belt loops - Any color or style that meets standards - Skirts that do not have belt loops do not require a belt	Missing belt

	ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
Jewelry	Business professional jewelry	Jewelry and accessories that do not meet the standard of an aviation-business professional environment (including, but not limited to, collars, wallet chains, spikes, studded jewelry, etc.)
Outerwear	Outerwear, including hats, must be removed upon entering the building. Students store jackets, coats, gloves, hats, caps, and scarves in their lockers during the school day. Outerwear should not be visible in the classroom or when transitioning from one class to another. Outerwear should only be retrieved when leaving school or when commuting back-and-forth between the Flight Training Center and main campus.	

Administration reserves the right to restrict any clothing items, or accessories that do not meet the standard for an aviation-business professional environment, that disrupt teaching and learning, or that promote or encourage violence or hate.

Student Use of the School Building

WMAA is committed to providing a safe and secure school environment, and we hold students accountable to these policies for appropriate use of the school building.

Entrance/Exit

All students must enter through the front office doors. Students may not enter the building from any other location, nor should students provide building access to any other person through alternate entries. At the conclusion of the school day, students may exit out of any hallway exterior door after 3 PM.

Closed Campus

WMAA is a closed campus. Once students arrive on school grounds, they are not permitted to leave campus. Any student who leaves campus without parent permission is in violation of the student code of conduct. Students enrolled in dual enrollment or online classes must sign out in the main office if they leave school grounds before the end of the school day. Students taking dual enrollment or online courses during hours 2, 3, 6, or 7 may NOT leave and return to school.

Lunch

WMAA students must conduct themselves as a responsible person while on their lunch break. Students are responsible for cleaning up after themselves and for maintaining the good condition of the appliances and furniture they use. Students may only eat in the designated lunch area, but students are welcome to use other parts of the building for independent study during their scheduled lunch period. At the conclusion of the lunch period, students are responsible for returning to their classrooms on time and prepared to work.

Students may not eat or spend time in their vehicles during the lunch period. All students are required to stay on campus for their entire lunch period. Failure to do so will result in a Level 1 disciplinary measure equivalent to leaving campus without permission.

No vendor food deliveries are allowed on campus. Food deliveries that arrive at the front office will be confiscated and discarded.

Students Not Assigned to a Classroom

There may be students who are not assigned to a specific classroom during the academic school day, such as online learners, dual enrollment students, or students in KISD programs. Students who are not assigned to a specific classroom are expected to report to either the Main Commons or the Quiet Zone for the duration of the assigned hour.

Driving and Parking

Students may drive to WMAA and park in the WMAA parking lots in designated student parking spaces if they agree to follow WMAA's rules for student vehicle operation. Safe driving practices are expected and required when driving to school, leaving the school, and when driving on campus. In order to create a safe atmosphere in WMAA's parking lots, students are expected to follow these rules:

- Students must follow the one-way traffic pattern on main campus, including before and after school. Students may only exit the main campus from the single exit to 44th St.
- Students must drive in a safe manner at all times, obeying signals, providing right-of-way to pedestrians, and operating at safe speeds.
- Students must adhere to the closed campus policy.
- Students may not provide transportation or ride with other students during the school day without written permission on file at WMAA.
- Students must follow the professional decorum expected of WMAA students while operating their vehicle and may not use their vehicle to distract from the learning environment (ex. playing music too loudly, honking horns, etc.)
- Students must follow all other applicable laws and regulations for safe vehicle operation at all times.

Parking

In order to promote safe operating conditions in the parking lots, WMAA has implemented specific procedures for regulating student drivers. Before a student is allowed to park on campus, a Student Parking Permit Form must be filled out, signed by a parent/guardian and be on file in the office. Students must purchase a parking tag each year and display it on their rear-view mirror. Parking tags are issued on a first come, first serve basis. There are three types of student parking tags: (1) Main Campus Parking Tags, (2) Flight Training Center Parking Tags, and (3) Airport Parking Tags. Students must follow these rules to park their vehicle at school:

- Students must purchase a valid parking tag and display it from the rearview mirror of their vehicle.
- Students must park in a designated parking spot at the correct campus indicated by their parking tag. All valid parking spots are marked by painted lines and valid parallel parking spots have lines both in front and behind the parking space.
- **WMAA students are required to adhere to the "park and stay" rule and may not drive back and forth between campuses or relocate their vehicle.**
- Students must use designated crosswalks when walking back and forth between campuses and WMAA parking lots.
- Students are not allowed to go to their cars during the school day without permission of an administrator.

Driving and Parking Violations

Students who violate any of the above rules, operate their vehicle recklessly, or park their vehicle improperly or without appropriate registration will be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Violations will be subject to progressive discipline, and students may have their driving privileges revoked or face other disciplinary consequences, including possible suspension. WMAA will actively enforce parking rules in its parking lots, including using parking stickers on vehicles for notification of a parking violation, and WMAA reserves the right to tow vehicles that are improperly parked at the owner's expense.

The Rapid Bus Policy

Students who choose to ride *The Rapid* to and/or from school are subject to all West Michigan Aviation Academy Code of Student Conduct policies. All students being transported to and/or from school and those students at the Rapid bus stop on their way to and/or from school will be held to the same behavioral standards and expectations as if they are on school property. Appropriate levels of discipline will be applied to any student found in violation of the Code of Student Conduct policies.

While students may be provided with free passes to ride *The Rapid*, access to bus cards are not guaranteed. Misuse of *The Rapid* bus card or failure to follow the student code of conduct while riding *The Rapid* may result in the student's bus card being revoked.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is a core WMAA principle that is expected to be upheld across all domains of each student's academic career. The authenticity of student learning can only be guaranteed when the work that students submit is uniquely representative of each student's thinking, effort, and ability. Acts of cheating and plagiarism willfully disrupt the academy's academic goals by intentionally undermining the criteria of learning demonstrations.

Cheating refers to any action that intentionally violates the restrictions imposed on an assignment by the classroom teacher. This may include copying answers from another student, sharing work between students, accessing restricted materials during a testing environment, etc.

Plagiarism refers to any action that presents another person's work or ideas as one's own. This may include copying text from source material, falsely claiming that work or an idea is original, or using the work or ideas of another without proper citation of their contribution.

These acts are subject to progressive disciplinary action that may include failure of assignments, failure of an entire course, unenrollment from a course, exclusion from academic opportunities, and/or additional consequences as outlined by the student code of conduct.

Those who assist in activities contributing to cheating or plagiarism will be held equally accountable as those who submit false work.

Attendance

Attendance Philosophy

Regular attendance is the single most important factor affecting student achievement. Research demonstrates that students who attend school regularly do better than those who are frequently absent. Consistent attendance increases student achievement; irregular attendance diminishes learning and lowers student achievement.

Classroom learning is a communal endeavor: teachers and students learn by being able to share ideas in an open forum. Absent students miss the learning that comes from participation in the group process. WMAA's goals for student learning emphasize the importance of communication skills, social responsibility, and respect for the ideas of others. Students cannot achieve these goals if they are not in class. Class time missed is learning lost. There is no substitute for attending class.

Attendance Policy

Parents are urged to stress the importance of regular attendance and punctuality. Both the family and the school should foster these characteristics.

- Students are expected to arrive on time and attend all assigned classes.
- If students must leave school during the day, the parent must have contact with the school to grant permission prior to the student leaving.
- Students leaving campus must sign out at the office and sign in when they return. Failure to sign out or get permission first will result in an unexcused absence.
- If a student arrives at school after 8:00 a.m., the student must sign in at the office and the parent must call or email the school with a reason.
- Parents are urged to consider school hours and the school calendar when scheduling appointments and vacations.
- No student will be allowed to leave the Academy prior to dismissal time without the explicit permission of a parent/guardian. In addition, no student will be released to any person not listed on the student's emergency card.
- Students attending KISD programs are expected to follow the KISD academic calendar for attendance purposes. WMAA does NOT excuse students attending KISD programs from days they are to attend when WMAA does not have school.

Absences

In order to support regular school attendance, WMAA tracks student attendance with multiple attendance codes. Counted absences are used to determine when attendance interventions are necessary (including truancy and chronic absenteeism interventions), and are also considered as an eligibility factor for certain school programs. Uncounted absences are only used for pupil accounting purposes and are not used when considering attendance interventions.

Counted Absences include:

1. Home Contact Absence – absences are considered Home Contact Absence when a parent/guardian notifies the school. The following is not an exhaustive list of examples that are considered Home Contact, but will be used as a reference and guide.
 - Absences for personal or family illnesses

- Absences for medical or dental care without documentation
- Arriving late or leaving school for employment
- Missing your ride or lack of transportation
- Stopping for food or drink when driving to campus
- Planned family vacations

2. Unexcused Absence

- Absences not reported by a parent

Uncounted Absences include:

1. School Issued Absences

- Suspension out of school
- In school suspension

2. Excused Absences – excused absences are approved absences reported to the school office

- Absences for religious observances
- Absences for death of friends and family members
- Absences for medical or dental care with documentation
- Absences for participation in legal or court proceedings
- Reportable vehicle accidents
- Absences for documented military activities
- Natural disasters or family emergency – depending on situation (documentation)

3. School related activities – while students may miss class periods for school related activities these experiences do not count as absences (i.e. flights, field trips, lunch and learns)

Long-Term Absences

- Five or more consecutive days that are medically related (with documentation from a physician) or due to a death in the family (immediate family member) may receive more supports if documentation is provided.

Tardiness

Students are considered tardy if they arrive to class in any period of the day after class has begun. Tardies are tracked and recorded similarly to absences and are either counted or uncounted.

Counted Tardies include:

1. Home Contact Tardy - tardies are considered “Home Contact Tardy” when a parent/guardian notifies the school. The following is not an exhaustive list of examples that are considered Home Contact Tardy, but will be used as a reference and a guide.
 - Arriving late for missing an alarm
 - Arriving late for dropping off siblings at another school
 - Arriving late because of employment

- Stopping for food or drink when driving to campus
2. Unexcused Tardy
- Tardies not reported by a parent
 - Tardies that occur during the school day in transition from one class to another or when returning from lunch.

*Students who are repeatedly tardy to class will be subject to progressive discipline, including lunch detention and/or community service, alongside other academy responses to level 1 infractions of the student code of conduct.

Uncounted Tardies include:

1. School Related Tardy – the following could be examples:
 - meeting with a teacher/counselor/administrator
 - participating in a Lunch & Learn or a field trip
2. Excused Tardy (requires parent/guardian contact and documentation)
 - Tardy for religious observances
 - Tardy for attendance of a funeral
 - Tardy for medical or dental care (with documentation)

Early Dismissal

No student will be allowed to leave the Academy prior to dismissal time without the explicit permission of a parent/guardian. In addition, no student will be released to any person not listed on the student's emergency card.

Truancy

A student is truant/chronically absent if a student misses 10% or more of scheduled school days. This includes counted absences only. If this applies, the student will be referred to the Kent ISD Office of Truancy, which may lead to a referral to the Kent County Prosecutor's Office.

The Dean of Teaching and Student Learning may act as the school's attendance officer to investigate possible school attendance violations and take such other actions as may be necessary to enforce the compulsory education laws.

The Kent ISD, along with WMAA, recommends attendance interventions to begin starting on the sixth unexcused absence in a semester. Interventions include, but are not limited to:

- A truancy notice sent home to parents
- A call home from a teacher
- A scheduled teacher meeting
- A call from a school counselor
- A call from the Dean of Teaching and Student Learning
- A review of curriculum, accommodations, 504 Plan, and/or IEP by appropriate staff when and if such structure contribute to solve attendance issues
- A request for a meeting including parent(s) or guardian, student, and school official(s)
- A home visit by school officials

- Attendance Improvement Plan written and agreed upon by parent(s) or guardian, and school officials
- A referral to the Kent County Truancy Office.

Emergency Closing Information

Closings Due to Weather

Information regarding a WMAA closing due to inclement weather will be advertised on WOOD-TV 8, FOX-17, WZZM-13 as well as through BrightArrow, Facebook and WMAA's website.

Tornado Procedure

If there is a severe weather WATCH or WARNING during school hours, students will remain in school until regular dismissal. They may be detained beyond the school's regular dismissal if the weather conditions warrant. Parents may pick up their students at any time, or the student may be released to any adult designated by the parent or guardian.

If a WATCH or WARNING occurs outside of school hours, the school will not begin any school activity (co-curricular events, etc.) during a tornado WATCH or WARNING. After school activities may be held if such activities are scheduled to begin one hour after a tornado watch or warning has been lifted.

Tornado Watch	Conditions conducive for tornado formation exist in the area. Students and staff may be detained if weather warrants.
Tornado Warning	One or more tornadoes have been sighted in the area. Take cover immediately.
Severe Thunderstorm Watch	The possibility of severe storms, including dangerous lightning, damaging winds, and possible hail exists in the watch area. Students and staff may be detained if weather warrants.
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	Storms as described above are in the area and are imminent. Students may be detained. In the event of any of the above conditions, keep tuned to the radio or television for details.

Parents must assume the responsibility for making certain that their students understand and follow these procedures, as well as instructing their students to stay off the streets once they reach home.

Parents are encouraged to provide alternate transportation and home arrangements if there is a need to release students for other types of emergencies (power outage, loss of heat, etc.) Please attempt to locate an alternate home of a friend or relative where your student could go until such time as you return home. Please review your family's plan with your student on a regular basis during the school year.

Fire Procedure

Unannounced fire drills will occur throughout the school year. The drill practice is necessary to assure the safety of everyone in the event that a real emergency ever occurs. Each school area will be posted, showing the proper exit route. Students are to follow all staff directions and leave the building quickly and quietly.

Emergency Information

Student safety is a responsibility of the staff. All WMAA staff members are familiar with emergency procedures such as fire and tornado drills, lock-down procedures, and accident reporting procedures. Should a student be aware of any dangerous situation or accident, s/he must notify any staff person immediately.

State law requires that all students must have an emergency medical card completed, signed by a parent/legal guardian, and filed in the school office. Emergency cards are distributed at the beginning of the school year and should be completed immediately. A student may be excluded from school until this requirement has been fulfilled. If any of that information changes during the school year, please promptly notify the school office.

Health Information

Injury and Illness

All injuries must be reported to a WMAA staff member. If a minor injury occurs, the student will be cared for and allowed to return to class, if deemed appropriate. If medical attention is required, WMAA staff will follow emergency procedures and seek immediate professional care.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission to go to the office. An administrator in the office will determine whether or not the student should remain in school or go home. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

When to keep your child home

We want to work together to assure that your children and their health are protected. Please keep your child home when they are sick. A student should not return to school until they have been fever-free for 24 hours, not vomited in 24 hours and/or the family's physician has addressed rashes.

In the interest of your child's health and for the protection of other students, we will expect you to come for your child if s/he has a fever, cough, rash, head lice, pink eye, or similar symptoms. Please let the office know if your child is absent with a communicable disease. If your child has been ill, be sure that s/he is fully recovered before returning to school.

It is important to fill out your child's enrollment form very carefully with home and work phone numbers. Please notify us of changes during the year. Also, be sure that the people listed as your emergency names are aware and willing to accept responsibility for your child if necessary. If your child becomes ill or is injured during school hours, we will make every effort to contact you first.

Medication Administration – updated policy June 2025

The following definition of "medication" is adopted for use at WMAA: medication includes prescription, non-prescription and herbal medications, and includes those taken by mouth, by inhaler, those that are injectable, and those applied as drops to eyes, nose, or medication applied to the skin.

Only necessary medications that must be given during regular school hours will be administered. The student's parent/guardian will give WMAA written permission and request to administer medication(s) to their student.

Written instructions from a physician, which include the name of the student, name of the medication, dosage of the medication, route of administration, and time the medication is to be administered to the student shall accompany the request and be kept on record by WMAA.

Parental or guardian request/permission and a physician's instructions for administration shall be renewed every school year.

The medication supplied to the school must be in the exact dosage prescribed, so the individual administering medications is not responsible for dividing or splitting pills. All medication must be picked up by the parent at the end of the school year or upon a student's withdrawal. Any medication not picked up will be discarded.

If a parent is accompanying his/her child on a field trip, the parent will be required to administer the child's medication.

One adult in the presence of a second adult must administer medications, except where the individual administering the medication is a licensed registered professional nurse (as described in the Michigan Revised School Code, Section 380.1178), or when an emergency threatens the life or health of the student.

Unsupervised use of an inhaler is allowed when authorized by a physician and permission granted by the parent/guardian. These students should be instructed by their parents to notify their teacher each and every time they use their inhaler so that frequent use can be communicated to the parents/guardians.

WMAA has a plan for handling medical emergencies in the front office.

Parents/guardians of students who need an Epi-Pen must contact the office at the beginning of each school year to institute a medical plan.

Students with disabilities who have an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan are included under the policy and procedures that govern the administration of medications. Note: the policy and procedures do not violate either the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

Contagious Infections/Diseases

Because a school has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health or safety of the group is at risk. The school's professional staff has the authority to remove or isolate a student who has been ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease or a highly transient pest, such as lice. Specific communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, the following: conjunctivitis (pink eye), diphtheria, scarlet fever, strep infections, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, and other conditions indicated by the Local and State Health Departments.

Any removal will be for only the contagious period as specified in the school's administrative guidelines. Parents/guardians are asked to please notify the school office if your child has contracted a communicable disease. The school is obligated to communicate to other families and students the possibility that they may have been exposed to a communicable disease. Any student who contracts a contagious illness or infection must have written notification from the doctor indicating the student is safe to return to the classroom. This written notification must be submitted to the school office before the student can be readmitted to class.

Immunizations

Students must be current with all immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver from State immunization requirements. If a student does not have the necessary shots or waiver, the school administrator may remove the student or require compliance with a set deadline. This is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State law. Any questions about immunizations or waivers should be directed to the school office.

Parent/Family Visits to WMAA

Visitor and Volunteer Guidelines

WMAA thanks its students' parents/guardians for their willingness to help provide their children with the best possible educational experience. The school places the utmost importance on parental involvement in both the formal and informal education of children.

The following guidelines have been established to provide a safe, secure environment for parents, students, and staff. Parents are expected to review and honor these guidelines while on school grounds or volunteering for activities.

General

1. All parents, visitors, and volunteers must sign in at the school office immediately upon entering the building. Prior to leaving the building, they must sign out at the office. Parents may not walk directly to a student's classroom unless given permission by the office staff.
2. All parents, visitors, and volunteers must conduct themselves in a manner conducive to a school environment. Respect and patience must be demonstrated at all times.
3. Parents are expected to acknowledge and reinforce model character behavior for our students.
4. All parents, visitors, and volunteers must wear a visitor badge provided by the school.
5. The distribution of literature, without prior approval from the classroom teacher or CEO, is not permitted.
6. Volunteers may be required to submit to a criminal background check prior to beginning volunteer duties.
7. Volunteers are representatives of the school. They must always put the health and safety of students first. They must abide by all staff instructions and directions and ask for clarification of responsibilities if necessary.
8. Under no circumstances is corporal punishment allowed. If a situation requires more than verbal intervention, the offending student should be brought to the office or to the teacher in charge. The Student Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures included in this handbook are to be followed as an alternative to corporal punishment.
9. Because WMAA is a public school, it has a board policy of neutrality with respect to matters of religion. When acting as school volunteer representatives, it is important to show no preference for any one religion over any other religion. In addition, volunteers should not show a preference for religion over non-religion, or vice-versa. They must respect the students' right to express themselves on matters of religion, but volunteers must also respect the other students' right not to be harassed by such expression. Volunteers also must be aware that, when they are volunteering, it is inappropriate for them to share their personal religious views with students.
10. Appropriate dress is required at all times.

Classrooms

1. Classroom visitors and volunteers must remember that the teacher is ultimately responsible for the students and activities in his/her classroom. Visitors/volunteers shall be prohibited from the classroom if it is deemed by the teacher that their presence has created a disruption in the learning environment.
2. When volunteers arrive to begin their shift, they should be sensitive to the learning that is taking place in the classroom. They should enter the room quietly and wait until there is a break in the activity before communicating with the teacher and students.
3. The classroom teacher must address student infractions.
4. Visitors/volunteers must understand that classroom issues related to students are confidential matters. Students who need extra help are often sensitive as to how they are doing in school. Volunteers may not talk with other parents about the specific learning or disciplinary needs of any child other than their own. Test scores and other grades should be kept in strict confidence.
5. Drop-in conferences are not permitted during instructional time. Conferences must be prescheduled with the classroom teacher.
6. Classroom visitors are allowed in the classroom for a limited time. Permission to visit and observe a classroom must be approved by the CEO.

Field Trips

- Volunteer drivers must complete the appropriate forms demonstrating a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, and a sufficient number of seat belts to transport their assigned students. Volunteer drivers may be required to submit to a criminal background check. Forms are available at the office.
- If driving to a school-sponsored event, volunteers should follow all instructions provided by the teacher or the school.
- Smoking is prohibited in the presence of students.
- Volunteer drivers must drive directly to the event and return directly to school (or pre-approved location) immediately following the activity. They must not take students on "side trips."
- The Academy expects all volunteers to behave in an appropriate manner while participating on field trips.

Whenever students travel away from school, they are subject to the same rules, regulations, and appropriate politeness and civility observed at the Academy. As in the classroom, the teacher judge's behavior as acceptable or unacceptable. Signed permission slips must be on file with the teacher for each child for each field trip.

These Visitor/Volunteer Guidelines are designed to provide parents, visitors, and volunteers with the behavior expectations held by WMAA and the Academy Board. Violation of the guidelines endangers the safety and security of our students and their right to an education. Any person who does not abide by this policy may be barred from entering the building.

Student Services

Every child has the right to an education, regardless of age, culture, disabilities, gender, or race. It is the goal of the school to provide educational opportunities for all students. It is the school's policy to provide special education services. All students with special needs have the right to a quality education appropriate to their needs, abilities, and interests. The special education staff acts as a resource to the classroom teacher in the development and implementation of appropriate instructional and socialization strategies. Implementation of these strategies occurs within the general education setting and through one-on-one and small group remediation.

The Student Assistance Team

The Student Assistance Team (SAT) is a committee of school personnel set up by the Dean of Academic and Student Services to ensure ongoing and effective support for classroom students and teachers. The special education staff may serve on the SAT along with their general education colleagues and administration. The team provides a forum to discuss students' academic and behavioral needs and to generate, initiate, and monitor solutions that marshal the resources of the school, the family, and the community. This process creates awareness and understanding of the issues affecting students. The documentation and review of student intervention strategies by the SAT fulfills the Child Find requirement under federal law and may serve as a pre-referral intervention-planning group for those "unidentified" students whose difficulties may suggest the presence of a disability. As appropriate, the team may refer a student to the Special Education staff for formal assessment. Parents are informed if their child is being considered by the SAT, and parental permission must be obtained prior to any initial formal assessment of that student.

Parent Participation

Parents have the express right to participate in all meetings dealing with the evaluation, identification, and educational placement of their child. Information concerning a child will be requested of his/her parents during the SAT process, and the parents will be requested to be present at subsequent meetings.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) – 2004

The school is in step with the major changes in special education under the revisions made in the 2004 legislation. As the Department of Education clarifies specific state implementation of this act, the school will be in full compliance. Parents have the right to review their child's records and to refuse permission to release information (except as required or permitted by law).

Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Section 504

Under Section 504, the school has the responsibility to identify, evaluate, and, if the student is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to appropriate educational services. Contact the Dean of Academic & Student Services at (616) 446-8886 to inquire about evaluation procedures and programs. The Dean of Academic & Student Services is the Section 504 Coordinator. If the parent disagrees with the determination made by the school staff, he/she must file a written complaint, stating the specific facts of the grievance with the Section 504 Compliance Officer within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date of the alleged violation.

The Individual Education Plan

The school will comply with all federal and state legal requirements that every student identified as having a disability be provided an Individual Educational Program (IEP) specifying goals, level of service, ancillary services, and the least restrictive placement. Prior to the opening of school, registration forms are reviewed to identify current IEPs from previous schools attended. The parents are fully informed of their rights, procedures, and responsibilities under special education law.

Educational Placement of Students with Disabilities

The school is committed to placing students in the least restrictive environments possible in order to meet their educational needs as determined by our professional team of general and special educators, administrators, and related service providers.

Evaluations and Program Planning

The program and services for students receiving special education support are reviewed on an annual basis, and further evaluation of the students' needs is conducted every three years. At their annual reviews and three-year reevaluations, parents, teachers, administration, and the school review current testing progress in general and special education programs and consider parental input that impacts the students' academic growth and proficiency. Based on the discussion of these factors, the IEP team develops goals and objectives for the continuing programs and services of the students. Parents are informed of student progress at least four times per year at quarterly marking periods. Progress is also shared through personal contacts, telephone calls, and written information/feedback.

Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of WMAA to provide an equal education opportunity for all students. WMAA admits students of any race, color, and national ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the Academy. It does not discriminate based on race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies or other Academy administered programs. The administration, however, reserves the right to dismiss or refuse admission to anyone unwilling to comply with the school's regulations and academic or behavioral standards. Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against on the basis of his/her race, color, disability, religion, gender, gender identity, or national origin, while at the Academy, or an Academy activity, should immediately contact the CEO. Any student making a complaint or participating in an Academy investigation will be protected from any threat or retaliation.

Directory Information

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”) requires that the Academy, with certain exceptions, obtain the written consent of the parent or guardian of a student prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from their child’s education records. However, the Academy may disclose appropriately designated “directory information” without written consent, unless a parent/guardian has advised the Academy to the contrary in accordance with Academy procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Academy to include this type of information from your student’s education records in certain school publications.

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

If you do not want the Academy to disclose directory information from your child’s education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the Academy in writing by the end of the first week of the school year. The Academy has designated the following information as directory information:

- Student’s name
- Address
- Electronic mail address
- Telephone listing
- Parent/Guardian name and phone number

Rights & Assurances

Rights under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents certain rights with respect to their child's education records. These rights are:

- Inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school receives a request for access. Parents should submit to the CEO a written request identifying the record(s) they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parents of the time and place the records may be inspected.
- Request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent believes are inaccurate. Parents may ask the school to amend a record they believe is inaccurate. They should write the CEO, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify its inaccuracy. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parents, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parents when notified of the right to a hearing.
- Consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. The school does not need written consent to disclose a student's education records to those with a legitimate educational interest in those records, including the following (see 20 U.S.C. §1232g; 34 CFR Part 99):
 1. School administrators, teachers, support staff, and other school officials
 2. Persons or organizations with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task or study (e.g., attorneys, auditors, medical consultants, and therapists)
 3. A school district to which the student is transferring if a proper records release request is received
 4. Appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency
 5. Accrediting organizations
 6. Certain federal and state officials (for audit and evaluation purposes)
 7. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student
 8. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena; however, the school must first make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent of the order or subpoena state and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific state law
 9. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school to comply with the requirements of FERPA:
Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Rights under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) affords parents certain rights concerning student privacy, parental access to information, and administration of physical examinations to minors. These include the right to:

1. Consent before students are required to submit to a survey, which is funded in part or in whole by a program of the U.S. Department of Education, that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”):
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s family
 3. Sexual behavior or attitudes
 4. Anti-social, demeaning, illegal, or self-incriminating behavior
 5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close familial relationships
 6. Legally-recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers
 7. Religious affiliations, beliefs, or practices of the student or parent
 8. Income, other than as required by law, to determine program eligibility
2. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of the following:
 1. Any other protected information survey, regardless of funding
 2. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student (except for hearing, vision, scoliosis, or any other physical exam or screening permitted or required under state law)
 3. Any activity involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information or the marketing, selling, or distributing of such information to others
3. Inspect the following, upon request and before administration or use:
 1. Surveys created by a third party before their distribution by a school to its students
 2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes
 3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum

The school has developed and adopted policies regarding these rights, as well as arrangements to protect student privacy in the administration of protected surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes. The school will directly notify parents of these policies at the beginning of each school year and after any substantive changes. The school will also both directly notify parents through U.S. Mail, e-mail, parent meetings, or the Parent and Student Handbook at the start of each school year of the specific or approximate dates (if such events are planned and/or scheduled) of the above activities and provide an opportunity to opt a student out of participating in them. *Parents who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with:*

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20202-5920

Gender Equity Policy (Title IX)

The school certifies compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, 20 U.S.C 1681 et seq. (Title IX), and its implementing regulation, at 34 C.F.R. Part 106, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. The school, as a recipient of federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Education, is subject to Title IX and does not discriminate based on gender in employment or any educational program or activity it operates.

Complaints or grievances regarding discrimination based on gender should be delivered in writing to the Title IX coordinators(s) of the school and should provide specific details regarding the event, the date of the event, and the parties involved. The complaint will be considered confidential and will be expeditiously investigated by the Title IX coordinator(s) with the assistance of legal counsel as necessary and appropriate.

Sexual Harassment

The Academy is committed to providing for its students an educational environment that is respectful of human dignity and free from sexual harassment. Abuse of the dignity of any student by means of sexist slurs, sexually oriented obscene, lewd, vulgar, unwanted, offensive, or indecent language will not be tolerated. Sexually derogatory or objectionable conduct, including, but not limited to, unwanted or offensive touching and physical contact will also not be tolerated.

Any student who feels he or she is being sexually harassed by any other student or by a staff member or volunteer shall report such incidents to a teacher, counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, or the CEO. Such reports shall be reported to and investigated by the academy's Title IX coordinator(s). Any student who is determined to have committed sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, based upon the severity and frequency of the offense(s).

For more information about the sexual harassment complaint procedure, please reference WMAA Board Policy 5517.

Unsafe School Choice Option

Title IX, Section 9532 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provides that a student attending a "persistently dangerous school" or a student who is a "victim of a violent criminal offense" on school property, as defined by law, has the right to transfer to another safe school in the district, if his/her parent requests a transfer. If there is not another safe school in the district providing instruction at the student's grade level, the school shall contact neighboring districts to request that the student be permitted to transfer to a school in one of those districts.

Asbestos Management Plan

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires us to annually notify parents, students, staff members, and others who regularly occupy the school building of compliance with AHERA. An Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) is on file in the school office.

Pesticide Notification

The school aims to control pest populations and to reduce the use of active pesticides throughout the school by implementing an Integrated Pest Management program. The health and safety of all persons within the school's facilities are of primary concern. The school will notify parents in advance of pesticide applications. Notice will be posted on the front door of the school and on the school website. A parent can also request to be notified by letter 48 hours before the application is to take place. Please contact the school office if you wish to be notified by letter.

Technology Use Policy

Students (and parents of minors) must sign and agree to the conditions set forth in the Technology Use Policy in order to use computers and other electronic devices and equipment at the Academy. A copy of the signed form must be returned to the WMAA office. Students violating the Technology Use Policy will lose the privilege to use school computers and other electronic devices and must complete their assignments requiring computer use at a location other than WMAA.

Responsibilities and Expectations

All use of computers, furnished or created data, software, IT infrastructure, and other technology resources as granted to the employee and student body are the property of WMAA and are intended for business and educational use. Network users shall not access or willingly allow another person to access any network resource without proper authorization.

Students are responsible for appropriate behavior on the school's computer network just as they are in a classroom and on airport grounds. General school rules for behavior and communications apply. It is expected that users will comply with this policy and the rules set forth on the Technology Acceptable Use Agreement.

The use of the network is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked if abused. The user is personally responsible for his/her actions in accessing and utilizing the WMAA computer network and/or the computer resources of the school. All policies of the student code of conduct also apply when using WMAA technology or when using personal technology at WMAA or to interact with WMAA personnel. No personal or school-issued electronic device may be used to harass or bully another individual, to access inappropriate content, or to send inappropriate messages or materials to others. Students who violate technology policies or the student code of conduct when using technology may lose access to technology and/or be subject to other disciplinary measures.

There should be no presumption of privacy on any school-issued device or school network. WMAA technology is regularly monitored by the school as well as the Kent Intermediate School District (KISD). Actions on devices and on the internet are individually identifiable and are monitored 24/7, including if students are using school-issued devices on home networks. Any attempt to circumvent the device management controls or network safety infrastructure will be considered a violation of this policy.

Personal Computers

Students may use a personal computer to access coursework and participate in classroom activities in lieu of using a school issued Chromebook. In order to access WMAA's encrypted IT infrastructure, all students who elect to use a personal computer on campus must have a security certificate installed on their device by WMAA's IT staff.

Students who violate technology policies will not be allowed to bring their personal technology to school and may be subject to other disciplinary measures.

WMAA is unable to provide technical assistance for personal devices. It is the student's individual responsibility to navigate successful connections to WMAA's Wi-Fi and to provide for the technical service of their personal device. Students may switch to using a WMAA-issued Chromebook at any time during the school year as long as they complete the appropriate paperwork which can be retrieved from the front office.

Personal hotspots are not allowed.

Cell Phones, Digital/Electronic Devices, and Other Personal Items

The Academy will not accept responsibility for the personal items of students. We expect students to leave belongings that are not necessary for their education at home.

Students are not permitted to have personal cell phones or other personal digital/electronic devices out and/or in use in the classroom. Any personal items that staff members judge to be unsafe, inappropriate for school, or interfering with students' educational focus will be confiscated and held in the office or remain in the possession of the staff member, and may be subject to search. WMAA shall not be responsible for any lost or damaged item that was brought onto campus or to an Academy event, which was in the possession of WMAA staff due to a violation of this policy.

Parents **MUST** contact the school office rather than phoning a student during class hours.

Any exceptions to this general rule sought by parents for specific health or safety concerns should be brought to the attention of the CEO or designee. The CEO or designee's determination is final.