



**LA PALOMA ACADEMY**  
Student/Parent Handbook  
2025-2026

**Lakeside Campus**

8140 E. Golf Links Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85730  
(520) 733-7373

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**\*Indicates changes/updates for 2025-2026**

# La Paloma Academy Lakeside

## Student/Parent Handbook 2025-2026

### Mission Statement

La Paloma Academy is committed to providing the highest quality education where children can achieve their full academic potential. This is accomplished through individualized instruction in core curriculum and a qualified teaching staff. Our goal is to provide a safe, structured environment, which encourages the development of strong family values, where a child becomes not only a well-rounded scholastic student but also a lifelong responsible citizen.

### School Pledge

“At La Paloma Academy, we are respectful and trustworthy, we care about each other, and we take responsibility!”

#### **School Phone Numbers:**

Lakeside Campus: Phone: 520-733-7373  
Fax: 520-733-7392

#### **Website:**

<http://www.lpalakeside.org>

#### **Superintendent:**

Jackie Trujillo

#### **Site Administrators:**

Lakeside Campus: Megan Rodgers, Principal  
Delisa Alday, Assistant Principal  
Dylan Taylor, Assistant Principal  
Andrew Cleaver, Director of Student Achievement

### Disclaimer

This handbook is not intended to create a contractual relationship with the student and/or parent; rather, it is intended to describe the school, its current practices, procedures, rules, and regulations (or code of conduct). **Rules and regulations in this handbook are in effect until the student receives the handbook for the next school year.**

**\*Please note:** In addition to this La Paloma Academy Student/Parent Handbook, all students enrolled in the **Junior High Program** are required to familiarize themselves with the **Junior High Handbook**. This handbook contains specific policies, expectations, and procedures applicable to students in grades 7th and 8th. Both handbooks are available from the front office. To ensure a smooth transition and successful school year, we encourage both students and parents to carefully review both handbooks.

# **Campus Guidelines**

## **School Hours**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	8:30 am-3:15 pm Kindergarten-5 <sup>th</sup> grade 8:30 am-3:30 pm 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Wednesday	8:30 am-11:30 pm Kindergarten-5 <sup>th</sup> grade 8:30 am-11:30 pm 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade

Kindergarten through 5th grade students begin school at 8:30 am each day and the school day ends at 3:15 pm, except for the designated weekly half day. Junior High students (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) begin school each day at 8:30 am and end at 3:30 pm, except for the designated weekly half day.

**Wednesday is the designated weekly half-day. The school day begins at 8:30 am and ends at 11:30 am for all grades.**

All students need to be picked up within 15 minutes after the end of the school day or students will be sent to the afterschool program

- Students are **not to be dropped off before 7:30 am**, when the before school program begins.
- Kindergarten and 1st grade students that arrive before school must report to their designated class for the before school program. They will be served breakfast in the classroom.
- 2nd through 5th grade students will report to the MPR for before school and breakfast.
- Junior High students will report to their designated class for the before school program or the MPR for breakfast.

The school office is open each day from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

## **Procedure for Abandoned Students**

The campus does not open until 7:30 am. Due to lack of adult supervision, students must not be dropped off prior to 7:30 am.

All students remaining at school 15 minutes after the end of the school day will be sent to the afterschool program. If there is a half day with no after school (this happens usually on the last day of each quarter), **and the student is not picked up within 15 minutes, a fee will be assessed.**

If students are not picked up by the end of the After School Program (**5:30 pm**), or at the end of the school day for students not eligible for the After School program, the office will begin attempts to contact parents. If La Paloma Academy is unable to reach parents and/or parents are unable to pick up their child(ren), all contact numbers and emergency numbers will be called. If all numbers have been exhausted and the child has still not been picked up, the police and/or DCS (Department of Child Safety) will be contacted. **Children picked up by parents after 5:30 pm will receive a “strike” in the program\*.**

## **Leaving the Campus during School Hours**

Students are not to leave the campus from the moment they arrive until after school is dismissed for the day. If a student must leave before school is dismissed, the following procedure is to be followed:

- At departure time, a parent/guardian must come to the school office to request that their child be called out of class, and complete the sign-out log.
- If/when the child returns to school on the same day, the student must come to the front desk where the parent/guardian must sign the child into school, and receive a pass back to class.
- Only a parent/guardian may check his/her child out of school unless a parent specifically notifies the school office that another authorized person may remove the child from school premises.

### **School Visitors**

All visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school. Visitors must sign in, identifying their name, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting. Approved visitors will be given a tag identifying them as a visitor and must wear it at all times while on campus. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their destination. All visitors must return to the main office and sign out before leaving the school. Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their stay on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct him or herself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal prosecution for trespass and/or disruptive behavior. Students from other schools are not allowed as visitors during the school day.

### **Parent Classroom Visits, Tours Or Observations**

**Parents of Enrolled Students.** In accordance with Arizona law, parents of students enrolled at the school may request to visit, tour, or observe their child's classroom (a "campus visit"), subject to the following parameters:

- All campus visit requests must be received by the school at least 24 hours in advance of the proposed visit, provided that the school, in its sole discretion, may waive the 24-hour advance notice requirement on a case-by-case basis.
- Campus visit requests will be promptly reviewed by school administration, with input from the classroom teacher.
- Campus visit requests will be approved unless they threaten to interfere with the physical, intellectual, social, or emotional health and/or safety of students and staff.

During any approved campus visit, parents will be subject to all policies applicable to campus visitors generally, including safety requirements for providing identification, signing in and out of the campus, and if applicable, being accompanied by school staff.

**Parents of Potential Students.** In accordance with Arizona law, parents who wish to enroll their child in the school may request a campus visit, subject to the same parameters set forth above for parents of enrolled students. In addition, parents of potential students will be required to be accompanied at all times during any campus visit by a current staff member.

**Scheduling.** Approved campus visits will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time for the school and the parents, and may be limited to a specific time frame, at the school's discretion.

**Health and Safety Parameters.** For purposes of this policy, the following requests threaten to interfere with the physical, intellectual, social, or emotional health and/or safety of students and staff, and are therefore not allowed:

- Requests for campus visits during state testing, other testing periods, or at other times that would clearly interfere with educational instruction or disrupt the educational environment.
- Requests for campus visits by parents who have demonstrated failure to abide by Parent Behavioral Expectations (set forth below), or who have otherwise failed to abide by campus visitation policies of the school.
- Requests that, for other reasons, threaten to interfere with the physical, intellectual, social, or emotional health and/or safety of students and staff.

**Parent Behavioral Expectations.** During any campus visit, parents are expected and required to comply with all campus visitor procedures and to comport themselves at all times with appropriate decorum and in a manner that is respectful and conducive to an environment in which the educational objectives of the

school can be effectively administered. Consistent with this expectation, any parental behavior that constitutes harassment, bullying, or verbal or physical abuse of staff or students, or that otherwise disrupts the educational environment is expressly prohibited.

In addition, parents may not interfere with instruction or distract from the instructional environment, nor may parents help their child with their schoolwork during a campus visit, unless specifically allowed by the classroom teacher.

Parents who disregard these behavioral expectations while on school grounds will be ejected from campus; may be prohibited from future campus visits or subject to other limitations on future campus visits; and may be subject to other consequences under applicable law or policy.

### **Phone Calls**

Students are permitted to briefly use the office or classroom telephone **only** with permission or a pass from a teacher. No student will be called from class to receive telephone calls. Teachers will not be available by phone during school hours.

### **Video Camera Surveillance**

Sections of the building and outside areas are under video and audio surveillance at all times.

### **Bathrooms**

La Paloma Academy values our students and their preference using the bathroom facilities. Any student averse to using a group-style bathroom facility may use a neutral bathroom facility located in the staff lounge, the front office, etc. La Paloma Academy will endeavor to accommodate the individual needs of our students using the facilities and staffing currently available to us. We encourage everyone to be understanding and work together as we strive to accommodate the needs of our students and families based on the availability of our facilities and staff.

### **Student Conduct and Expectations**

#### **La Paloma Academy Student expectations:**

- Follow the 6 Pillars of character while at school;
- Respect others with language and actions;
- Listen and follow directions;
- Work and play safely;
- Work quietly;
- Be prepared to learn.

### **Dress Code**

The dress code applies to all students at all times during the school day, including the After School Program, unless an administrator waives it for a specific activity.

- 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> transgression – School staff will notify parents of concerns. Students will be expected to change into appropriate clothing provided by the parent. Students will be welcomed back to class when they meet guidelines. The infraction will be entered into the discipline database, as well as the consequences (i.e., verbal warning, lunch detention, after school detention, essay, etc.)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> transgression – Guardian will pick up the child from school. The infraction will be entered into the discipline database, as well as the consequences (i.e., verbal warning, lunch detention, after school detention, essay, etc.)

### **School Uniforms**

**Tops:** Polo Shirts (must be a solid color) – Red (not maroon), White, and Navy Blue.

**Bottoms:** Slacks, Shorts, Capris, Skirts – **Navy** Blue and Khaki only. No blue denim allowed.

**Jumpers:** Solid red, white, navy, or khaki.

- Leggings are not to be worn as pants. If worn, they must be under uniform shorts or skirts and a solid color.
- Belts, if worn, cannot hang down from a student's waists.
- Jumpers, shorts, and skirts are to be no shorter than 4" above mid-knee.
- Shirts must be worn under jumpers.
- Pants, shorts, uniform tops, and jumpers must all be in good condition.
- **All shirts are to be tucked in at the waist.**
- All jackets, sweatshirts, and sweaters must be appropriately sized for the student.
- Sweaters, sweatshirts, and jackets:
  - Inside classroom/learning environment:
    - Only sweaters and sweatshirts.
    - Must be a solid color – red, white or navy – and over a uniform collared shirt.
    - LPA emblems only.
  - Outside classroom:
    - Any appropriate sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket
- Headwear: No hats or bandanas are allowed. Hoods on sweatshirts must be down at all times.
- Shoes: No open-toed or open backed shoes allowed. No slippers allowed. **"Crocs" must be worn with the strap rotated to the heel side of the ankle.** "Heelies" (roller-skate/shoe combos) are not allowed on campus and will be taken away from the student.
- Piercings and/or tattoos: if viewed as distracting, students will be asked to remove or cover them. No spiked jewelry.
- Jewelry/Accessories: any type of jewelry that is deemed distracting or inappropriate will be removed (including arm bands).
- If jewelry is deemed as possessing any safety issue, it will be confiscated.
- If suspenders or ties are worn they must be solid red, white, or blue.
- No "spaghetti straps" or sleeveless tops.

This dress code policy cannot cover every conceivable clothing/fashion option. Teachers and administration will make the final decision regarding situations that are not covered by the above guidelines.

### **Physical Education Dress Code (PE)**

7th and 8th grade students must purchase and wear the La Paloma Academy PE uniform while in PE.

### **Dress Down Days**

There are two options every **Friday** (or last day of the week) for students to dress down. Students can either:

- Have a "free" dress down and wear **jeans** (without holes/tears) and an LPA shirt or:
- Pay \$1 to their teacher and wear "regular" clothes (as long as appropriate). The monies collected via this fundraiser will be utilized by each specific classroom.

**\*Character Dress on Wednesdays:** Students are allowed to **wear a shirt** that is the "character color of the month" on Wednesdays **with jeans or uniform pants**.

Other "special dress down" days may occur throughout the school year and students will be instructed what they are allowed to wear on those days.

\*At no time are students allowed to wear pants with exposed skin above the knees, flip-flops, pajamas, or spaghetti strap tops. Pants must be in good condition. Any dress-down outfit may be rejected at the discretion of administration. If it seems questionable, don't wear it.

### Attendance Policies

La Paloma Academy is committed to:

- Working with students and their families to ensure that all students attend school regularly.
- Understanding there are a variety of factors that may influence school attendance.
- Providing strength-based and culturally appropriate interventions and services including parent education and referrals to school/community-based resources.
- Addressing excessive absenteeism, chronic tardiness, and early departures as quickly as possible.
- Communicate the issue to the parents/guardians.
- Partner with parents/guardians and students to develop strategies to address the absenteeism and produce a change in behavior.

La Paloma Academy takes a serious stance on consistent attendance, prompt arrival, and minimizing early departures.

Regular attendance for each child is necessary for maximum academic growth and it is the legal responsibility of parents/guardians to have their children in school on a regular basis and to comply with the Compulsory Attendance Law.

#### **Absences:**

- ARS 15-901-The State of Arizona defines an **excused absence** as being an absence due to illness, doctors appointment, bereavement, family emergencies, out-of-school suspensions, and religious purposes (as per ARS 15-806).
- ARS 15-803-A child is **"excessively absent"** when they have been absent over 10% of the number of required attendance days.
  - o Family vacations, hunting trips, babysitting, personal appointments, music/dance lessons, club meetings, or oversleeping are **NOT** legally valid reasons for an absence or tardy.
  - o Medical notes must be submitted to the registrar any time a student is absent for **3 or more** consecutive days.
  - o **Parents and/or students may face criminal prosecution when absences (excused or unexcused) surpass 10% of the instructional days required for the school year (18 days).**
- ARS 15-803-A student is **"truant"** when they have an unexcused absence for at least one class period during the day. A student is **"habitually truant"** when they have been truant for at least five school days within a school year.
  - o Truancy is a violation of state law and may result in legal action against the parents or guardians, as well as the student.
- Please notify the school's front desk staff prior to 9:00 am if your child is going to be absent and provide the reason for the absence. The State of Arizona requires that schools obtain the *specific* reason for any absence.
  - o In the interest of sound academic work, a student **shall not** be absent without an adequate reason.

#### **Tardies:**

La Paloma Academy expects that every student will be in their seat and ready to begin their day at 8:30 am.

- Arriving at school on time demonstrates a commitment to success.
- Late arrivals mean lost learning and are a disruption of class.
- Students arriving after 8:30 am must report to the front desk for a late pass. They will not be admitted to class without one.
- Students arriving **after** 9:00 am **must** have a parent/guardian sign them in.

#### **Early Departures:**

- Early departures prevent a student from receiving the final review of instruction and assignments for the day and are a disruption of class.
- Students are expected to be in school the entire school day, unless required to leave due to one of the **legally valid reasons (stated above)**.

### **Field Trips and Field Trip Eligibility**

Field trips to nearby points of interest are scheduled by various teachers throughout the school year. These trips are designed to supplement different aspects of the curriculum and to introduce students to the resources of the community. Parents will be notified in advance of any planned field trip. Notes will be sent home stating the destination, cost (no checks, please), time and purpose of the proposed trip.

Parents may accompany their child if they are designated as a chaperone (see *Volunteering* section). Any parent/chaperone must be approved with the school before attending any field trip.

Chaperones will not be permitted to bring any children other than the ones scheduled to attend the field trip. This includes children in another grade from the same school, children from another school, infants or toddlers. Guests of the chaperone are also not permitted.

A written permission slip signed by the parent **MUST** be obtained before a child is allowed to attend a field trip.

Many factors are considered when determining field trip eligibility. These factors include, but are not limited to: attendance, academic achievement, and student behavior/discipline (including behavior contract status).

### **General Rules**

General rules apply both on campus and during school-related, off-campus activities.

- **Food:**
  - o Consumption of any type of food/candy or drink is allowed only in the cafeteria unless granted permission.
  - o **Food deliveries from food delivery establishments (i.e. DoorDash) for students are NOT allowed.** Only parents and immediate family members can deliver food to students during the school day.
  - o Food and drinks are not allowed in the classrooms and recreational areas, unless approved by the teachers.
  - o The only drinks allowed in classrooms are spill-proof water bottles.
  - o Gum chewing is not allowed at school.
- **Campus Conduct:**
  - o No running in the building or on the cement walkways at any time.
  - o Excessive displays of affection are not permitted at school at any time.
  - o Students in the hallways without a pass may face disciplinary action.
  - o Fighting, tackle games, and rough play will not be tolerated.

- o Horseplay often results in injury or leads to serious fighting. Therefore, it is not permitted and may be treated as fighting when referred to administration.
- o Fighting at the bus stop, on buses, or anywhere on campus is prohibited. Students engaging in such activity face suspension or other disciplinary action.
- o Drawings or pictures which include but are not limited to drugs, drug paraphernalia, gang symbols or gang related activities, offensive or obscene material are prohibited.
- o Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property will not be tolerated.
- o Students are to be respectful and address teachers as Miss, Ms., Mrs., or Mr., with the teacher's last name.
- o Toys or trinkets that basically cause annoyance or frustration to other persons will be confiscated.
- o Profanity is absolutely unacceptable in school or at any school functions. School detentions may be issued for use of profanity. Frequent offenders will receive more severe consequences.
- o Throwing balls (football, tennis ball, basketball, etc.) is only allowed on the large soccer field and is not permitted in the courtyards or common areas.
- o No tobacco products, lighters, or matches are allowed at school.
- o Inappropriate behavior in the cafeteria may result in disciplinary action. Disrespect toward cafeteria or custodial personnel will not be tolerated and may result in out of school suspension.
- o Students instructed to leave the classroom for a disciplinary reason must report directly to the front office.
- o Repeated offenses will result in more severe disciplinary actions.
- **Electronics:**
  - o **No cell phones**, video games, smart watches, or other personal internet-connected devices are allowed to be used on campus.
  - o La Paloma Academy is not responsible for any electronic devices that are lost, broken, or stolen while on campus.
  - o Sending text or email messages or possessing text or email messages containing images, photos or messages which are reasonably interpreted as sexually suggestive while at school or at a school related function constitutes gross disobedience or misconduct.
  - o Any social media found to be negative towards any La Paloma Academy student or staff member, whether on or off campus, can be punishable. Consequences will be set by administration.

### **Technology Acceptable Use Policy**

La Paloma Academy is committed to fostering responsible and ethical use of technology by its students. To ensure a safe and educational environment, we have established the following guidelines:

- All technology use must comply with school policies and restrictions, and be for educational purposes only.
- Misuse of school resources can result in disciplinary action.
- All activity on school-owned devices or personal devices connected to the school's network is monitored and retained.
- Users are expected to report any concerns for safety or security to staff immediately.
- Unacceptable conduct includes but is not limited to illegal activities, accessing inappropriate content, vandalizing equipment, invading privacy, and transmitting material that violates laws.
- Students and parents must sign and adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook.

- Users must follow network etiquette, be polite and respectful, use appropriate language, and refrain from revealing personal data or arranging meetings with strangers online.
- Email and online communication tools are subject to monitoring and the property of the school.
- Approved Web 2.0 and social media tools may be used for classroom instruction with safeguards in place to protect student safety.

Remember, responsible and ethical technology use is essential for creating a safe and productive learning environment.

### **Money at School Policy**

Bringing money to school, other than the amount needed for lunch, the “snack shack”, and/or dress down days is strongly discouraged. There may be additional appropriate occasions when your child may bring money for special projects, field-trips, and/or bake sales. In those cases, please take necessary precautions.

### **Book Replacement Policy**

School textbooks, library books, and all school materials and property are expected to be returned at the end of the school year in the condition they were given. If the textbook is grossly damaged, the student will be required to pay the cost to replace the textbook and/or extracurricular activities could be withheld (ARS 15-727). Books and materials not returned or not paid for will result in the student's report card and/or transcripts being held.

### **Student Conduct (Gang Activity or Association)**

It is not permitted for students to initiate, advocate, or promote activities that threaten people or property, or disrupt the school environment. Furthermore, students are prohibited from using gang-related hand signs or wearing any apparel, jewelry, accessories, or manner of dress or grooming that indicates or implies membership or affiliation with a gang.

### **Bullying Policy**

Bullying behavior is prohibited, and may lead to disciplinary action including, but not limited to, meetings between parents and school staff, detentions, suspensions, or expulsion from La Paloma Academy. Any suspected bullying behavior directed against a student should be reported to the child's teacher immediately.

Mutual conflicts, disagreements, or altercations between peers do not fall into the category of bullying behavior. In instances of bullying, there are clearly defined victims and bullies. A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending themselves. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, physical intimidation, physical abuse, threats, name calling, social isolation, gossiping, and the spreading of rumors insofar as they apply to the definition of bullying stated above.

This interpretation includes three important components:

- Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
- Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
- Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

Bullying via electronic means such as through the use of social media sites while at school or at a school-related function may constitute gross disobedience or misconduct and a violation of the district's bullying and harassment policies.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment of students by other students or adults associated with the school shall not be tolerated. A student who feels they are being sexually harassed is encouraged to bring the complaint to the attention of their teacher and the complaint will be investigated. If the student or family is dissatisfied with the findings of the investigation, the matter may be appealed in writing to the Superintendent. If the student or family is dissatisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, the matter may be appealed in writing to the La Paloma Academy School Board. If at any point in this process, the alleged offense is substantiated, any necessary and/or appropriate disciplinary action will be pursued.

### **Drug Free, Weapon Free School Zone**

The possession, use, misuse, sale, or distribution of drugs, prescription drugs, imitation drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco products are prohibited on campus, at any school-sponsored activities, and in school vehicles. Within the meaning of this provision, "drugs" do not include prescription medication for which the student has a current, valid prescription, provided that the medication has been taken in strict accordance with the prescription. The term "tobacco products" includes all vaping devices and e-cigarettes, including those used to deliver THC or any other prohibited drugs.

The possession, use, or threat to use any weapon, firearm, or instrument capable of inflicting serious bodily harm is prohibited on campus, at any school-sponsored activities, and in any school vehicles. This prohibition includes any types of explosives. The possession or use of ammunition for weapons is not required for the school to implement student disciplinary action.

In compliance with Arizona law and the federal Gun-Free School Act, possession of a firearm on campus or at a school-sponsored event shall result in a student expulsion hearing. \*The same actions will be taken in regards to the possession of weapons (knife, gun, BB/airsoft gun, etc.) on campus.

The administration may if warranted, and will if required by law, report any violations of these drug and weapon prohibitions to the appropriate law enforcement agency. However, the school may take disciplinary action against a student for violations of these policies regardless of any action taken by law enforcement or regardless of whether the violations are reported to law enforcement.

### **Search and Seizure**

School premises are public property. Students who use any school facilities including classrooms, hallways, parking areas and adjacent school grounds are subject to the school district's right to ensure cleanliness, safety, lawful use and absence of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, and other prohibited materials in such areas. The school administration, authorized by the Superintendent, will be charged with the responsibility to search a student's person, backpack, and belongings in the event such personnel reasonably suspects the presence of any illegal drug, alcohol, weapon, or property. In all cases, there must be a reasonable suspicion to conduct any search. The building principal or vice-principal shall determine what is to be considered reasonable suspicion. In all cases, a search will be conducted with the interest of the student's privacy respected, and in the presence of other school personnel. Searches may be conducted in any manner deemed appropriate by school officials including dogs trained to smell contraband and controlled substances. Any evidence considered dangerous, harmful, or illegal will be confiscated and may be used as evidence in the event of any hearing or conference. Any drug or controlled substance that is considered illegal will be confiscated and turned over to the proper law enforcement agency along with the student's name. In the event of a search, parents/guardians will be contacted as soon as possible.

## **School Safety Policy**

La Paloma Academy/Heritage Elementary School Liberty Traditional Charter School/Arizona Online Charter School The purpose of this school safety policy is to generally set forth the principles by which the School responds to threats against the School and its students, employees, and volunteers. Given the sensitivity of the subject matter contemplated by this policy, this is intentionally a nonexhaustive consideration of the School's safety protocols; therefore, this policy supplements but does not replace any other safety protocols or applicable state or federal laws governing the School's obligations to maintain a safe learning environment. In order to comply with A.R.S. § 15-153, the School's Principal, or their designee, will report to local law enforcement any suspected crime against a person or property that (i) is a Serious Offense or involves a Deadly Weapon or Dangerous Instrument or Serious Physical Injury; or (ii) any conduct that poses a threat of death or Serious Physical Injury to a School employee, student, or other person on the School's property (collectively, "Suspected Criminal Conduct"). All capitalized terms in this paragraph have the meaning set forth in Arizona law. In accordance with applicable state and federal law, including FERPA, the School's Principal or their designee, will notify the parent or guardian of each student who is involved in Suspected Criminal Conduct. School employees are expected to report and document any Suspected Criminal Conduct by immediately notifying any member of the School administration of the incident and promptly preparing a written report of the incident and providing the report to a member of the School Administration. The School may, in its discretion, discipline any School employee who the School believes failed to properly report and document Suspected Criminal Conduct, and the School will maintain a record of such disciplinary action. In accordance with applicable law, the School will, upon reasonable request, make such a disciplinary record available to a public school considering hiring that employee. In accordance with A.R.S. § 15-186.01, if the School determines a student has been harassed, threatened, or intimidated on School grounds or in a manner that substantially disrupts the School's learning environment, the School's Principal or their designee, will notify the parent or guardian of that affected student. Threatening or intimidating behavior and harassment have the meanings set forth in A.R.S. § 15-186.01.

**Reporting Line:** [lakesidereporting@lpatucson.org](mailto:lakesidereporting@lpatucson.org)

## **Personal Property/Lost And Found**

The "Lost and Found" is located in the school office and/or in the open area in front of the school office. If students find something that does not belong to them, they are to bring it to the Lost and Found. If the students lose something, they may look in Lost and Found on their own time, i.e., break, lunch, before or after school. The security of personal items and the care of textbooks and other school property assigned to the student is the responsibility of the student. La Paloma Academy and its staff are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Therefore, we highly recommend that students do not wear or bring valuable items to school. All unclaimed lost and found items are donated after a reasonable amount of time has passed.

## **Non-School Sponsored Events and Activities Disclaimer**

La Paloma Academy will not assume any responsibility in regard to injury, damage, negligence, etc. for any activity between students, faculty or parents that is not directly sponsored by the school. This includes, but not limited to carpooling, sleepovers, birthday parties, child care, etc.

## **Statement of Non-Discrimination**

Arizona Community Development Corporation and La Paloma Academy are committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, or disability. This policy encompasses all matters concerning staff, students, the public, instructional programs, and services. La Paloma Academy will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws relating to educational programs and personnel management. (ARS 15-184)

# **Parent Information**

## **Parental Involvement**

Parents are invited and encouraged to play an active role in their child's education. This includes:

- attending parent/teacher meetings;
- communicating with teachers
- monitoring grades and homework;
- reading school newsletters/blogs/other means of digital communication;
- encouraging academic and behavioral responsibility.

## **Volunteering**

Volunteers can make many valuable contributions to the students and educational programs at La Paloma Academy. Since student safety is our number one concern, the following guidelines will be followed:

**Non-parent/custodial guardian volunteers** must submit to and pass a background check and be approved through the site administrator (ARS 15-183). They must also complete and submit a Volunteer Application Form.

- A non-parent/custodial guardian volunteer may not begin their service until or unless the statewide criminal check has been received by La Paloma Academy and approved by the site administrator;
  - Fingerprinting for this background check can be completed at the front desk.
- If the potential volunteer already has a Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card, a copy will be made by La Paloma front desk staff, who will then confirm its validity with the Department of Public Safety.

### **Parent/Custodial Guardian volunteers:**

- Parents are exempt from fingerprint requirements under the following condition (ARS 15-183):
  - They are accompanying **only** their own child during the entirety of a field trip.
- When parents volunteer in the classroom setting and/or during other situations where they have interaction with students other than their own child, teacher permission must be granted ahead of time.
  - If the potential volunteer already has a Level One Fingerprint Clearance Card, a copy will be made by La Paloma front desk staff, who will then confirm its validity with the Department of Public Safety.
- In all instances volunteers (other than parents accompanying only their own child during a field trip) **must** be under the direct supervision of an employee with a valid fingerprint clearance card.
  - "Direct supervision" means under the direction of and within the sight of.

### **General guidelines:**

- Volunteers serve with the approval of the principal of La Paloma Academy. A volunteer's service may be terminated at any time by the principal with or without cause, with or without a statement of reasons, and/or with or without advanced notice.
- La Paloma Academy will not use volunteers to replace paid school staff members. Volunteer service will be used to supplement the services provided by district employees.
- School staff will not request or allow volunteers to supervise students in the absence of a teacher, provide the curriculum or the teaching plan, diagnose student needs or evaluate achievement, counsel or discipline students, or contact the parent/guardian regarding students' academic performance or conduct

- Volunteers will not have access to student cumulative records.
- No parent or volunteer is allowed to transport students in a private vehicle.
- Parents and volunteers are expected to adhere to rules and instructions in the “Volunteer Guidelines” handout.

### **Family Portal**

Attendance, grades, and assignments are accessible via a secure, real-time Web-based link called Powerschool Family Portal. At the beginning of the school year, all parents will be supplied with detailed information on how to access Family Portal for their student(s).

### **La Paloma Patriot Press**

The La Paloma Patriot Press is our monthly newsletter. It provides students and parents with information about upcoming events and important dates. It is sent home at the beginning of the month. Parents can also subscribe to the newsletter via the school website.

### **Safe Campus Policy**

(Parent Conduct)

No person may interfere with or disrupt the school or its operation in any form, as determined by the governing board or school administration.

- Disruption or interference includes but is not strictly limited to:
  - o Intimidation;
  - o Aggressively confronting, touching (with exception to a child pertaining to a parent or guardian), swearing at, or threatening any other person affiliated with the school.

All persons shall conduct themselves in a civilized and cordial manner when communicating or interacting with school staff, students, faculty, administration, parents, or any other person affiliated with the school. This Safe Campus Policy pertains to face-to-face communications, telephonic communications, email, or any other type of communication, contact, or correspondence of any kind with any stakeholder of the school or the school's affiliates.

A violation of this policy may result in one or more of the following actions against the person engaged in the disruptive activity:

- order by the school to immediately vacate or leave the property, either temporarily or permanently;
- report the actions to local police, sheriffs, or other local law enforcement jurisdiction;
- call the police or otherwise request assistance from local law enforcement to enforce the school's order to leave the property;
- file a criminal complaint and further pursue legal action;
- file for civil injunctive relief.

Enforcement of the foregoing is within the absolute discretion of the governing board or school administration.

Interference with or disruption of an educational institution may be considered a class six felony under the Arizona Criminal Code (13-2911).

### **Enrollment**

La Paloma Academy, as public charter schools in Arizona, is subject to open enrollment laws. We shall enroll all eligible students and will not limit admission based on ethnicity, national origin, gender, income level, disabling condition, proficiency in the English language, or athletic ability. Our intent is for our enrollment policies and/or implementation of our enrollment policies to have no disproportionate or unjustified effect on a particular group or class of students.

La Paloma Academy will take all students on a first come, first enrolled basis except for siblings and staff children, who receive priority consideration. Should any grade level become full we will immediately create a wait list. If this is the case for any grade level at our schools, students will be called as a seat becomes available in those classrooms.

**Enrollment:** To complete the enrollment process:

- New students:
  - Complete the online registration process .
  - Provide proof the child meets the minimum age requirement of 5 years old by September 1st. (Exceptions may be made for those students that turn 5 before September 30th. Please see the registrar for more information)
  - Provide proof of residency.
- Returning students:
  - Complete the online registration process.

Required immunization records must be submitted before a student can attend school.

Parents are asked to provide and update:

- Current contact information, including email.
- At least two emergency contacts.

**Expulsions:** La Paloma Academy honors all other schools' disciplinary procedures as well as the Arizona Revised Statutes option of not enrolling a student who was expelled or who was in the process of being expelled. (ARS 15-841) Students who transfer in during the school year will have all prior behavioral records requested to ensure that we honor both the other schools and the current statute.

**Behavioral and/or Academic Contracts:** La Paloma Academy strives to help every student be successful. A behavioral and/or academic contract between the school and the student may be required at any time for any student to ensure that the student is on the track towards academic success. These contracts are created at the discretion of the administration and are not optional.

**Withdrawal:** A parent/guardian wishing to withdraw their child/children must obtain a withdrawal form from the School Registrar.

Falsification of information on enrollment forms could result in the student's disenrollment.

### **Homeless Policy (McKinney-Vento)**

La Paloma Academy enrolls homeless children and youth without barriers such as transportation, immunizations, birth certificates, school records, or other documentation. Staff and faculty are trained regarding removal of barriers to enrollment and appropriate treatment of homeless children and youth (HY&C). Homeless students are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their homeless status.

La Paloma Academy has a dispute resolution process that contains all the required components. HC&Y are enrolled in their school of choice until the dispute is settled. Our school delivers a decision in writing and parents are notified of their right to appeal.

La Paloma Academy provides Title One services to homeless students, transportation if necessary, and referrals to medical, dental, and mental health providers, as well as ensuring that students have the supplies necessary to perform daily academic tasks.

Each La Paloma Academy campus has a homeless liaison. This liaison ensures that HC&Y are identified, enrolled, and receive educational services. The liaison also informs parents of educational and related opportunities for their children and trains other staff regarding homelessness.

## **Food Service**

La Paloma Academy offers healthy meals every school day and follows the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program.

Lunch: No cost to families

Breakfast: No cost to families

Lunch and breakfast menus are available in the school office and are online.

### **Substitutions/Modifications:**

- The food service staff will ONLY make food or milk substitutions or modifications for students with disabilities. The food service department is only allowed to make reasonable accommodations regarding food or milk substitutions for students who have completed a dietary request form for special dietary needs. Special dietary needs may include the following: disability, allergy or certain intolerances to specific food items.
- Substitutions or modifications for students with disabilities MUST be based on a prescription written by a licensed physician. Meal substitutions or modifications for students will only be made based on the information indicated on the required dietary request form that MUST be completed by the student's pediatrician, nurse practitioner and/or allergist. All other dietary requests without the required documentation will not be honored.
- Please contact the Food Service office for more information on obtaining a dietary request form.

### **Foods Sold or Served on Campus:**

- Foods sold or served on campus during the "school day" will be subject to both USDA National Nutrition Standards and Arizona Nutrition Standards.
- The "school day" will be defined by the USDA as from 12:00 AM (midnight) until one half hour AFTER the last bell.
- National and State standards do have a few areas of inconsistency and we must adhere to the more stringent of the policies. Please refer to the following weblink regarding smart snacks and competitive foods for more information regarding the guideline at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/guide-smart-snacks-school>
- There are significant nutritional standards and portion sizes that must be adhered to and ALL foods sold or served on campus MUST be pre-approved through the Director of Nutrition Services.
- Classroom Parties involving food and beverages provided will need to meet or exceed state and federal regulations that pertain to Nutrition Services when supplied by any and all staff members. Prepackaged foods brought on campus by parents for classroom parties do not need to meet the smart snack guidelines.
- Classroom parties are defined as parties in the confines of a single classroom, not to exceed the number of participants of the normal, single classroom size. Fields, multiple classrooms, libraries, cafeterias and common areas are examples of areas that are NOT considered areas of a classroom party.
- Homemade foods, brought to the classroom for treats, celebrations, etc. will not be allowed for students during the school day. This is to ensure a high level of student safety.
  - This does not apply to students' lunches and snacks brought from home for the student's individual consumption.
  - If a student is unable to consume a specific food brought in by another parent for a classroom celebration (due to an allergy), it is the responsibility of the parent of the student with the allergy to provide an alternative food item.

**All students are offered breakfast free of charge each morning from 7:30am to 8:15am.**

- **Kinder through 1<sup>st</sup> grades will obtain their breakfast in the classroom during the before school program.**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will obtain their breakfast in the MPR.**

### **Annual Notification to Parents Regarding Confidentiality of Student Education Records**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of a request made to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:
  - School officials with legitimate educational interest
    - o A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles); a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
    - o A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
  - Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll;
  - Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
  - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
  - Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
  - Accrediting organizations;
  - To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
  - Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies;
  - State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes) and dates of attendance unless notified by the parents or eligible student that the school is not to disclose the information without consent.

### **Custody and Equal Access to Information**

Both parents (and/or legal guardians) have equal access rights to their child unless the police or court system has severed or limited their parental rights. It is the parent's responsibility to provide the school with any court documents/findings that impact their child at school. The school cannot intervene in

parental disputes and will not prevent any biological or legal guardian access to their child unless an order has been received from the courts, DCS, or police department stating otherwise.

### **Restraint and Seclusion**

A copy of La Paloma Academy's policies regarding the use of restraint and seclusion is available at the front desk.

## **Curriculum and Academics**

La Paloma Academy has a core curriculum that is aligned to the Arizona College & Career Readiness Standards. The curriculum stresses that students actively engage in the learning process with a focus on varied opportunities for functional use of the materials covered. An overview of the curriculum, grade by grade, is available on the school website.

### **Beyond Textbooks**

Beyond Textbooks is a curriculum calendar of essential standards that chooses objectives based off of two attributes: endurance and readiness. It also has resources created by teachers for teachers. Assessments are provided that match the standards being taught and the rigor of how they are assessed.

Teachers look at available curriculum calendars to determine educational plans for their classroom. They are able to pick from an assortment of lesson plans and instructional resources, and choose which ones best fit their teaching style, while making sure all standards are mastered. Students then take weekly formative assessments based on the standards taught.

### **Common Formative Assessments**

- **Formative assessments** are five-question quizzes given to students weekly to determine standard mastery.
  - Results are evaluated to determine whether students performed at a level of minimally proficient, partially proficient, proficient, or highly proficient.
  - Students who are determined to be proficient (4/5 correct) or highly proficient (5/5 correct) engage in daily enrichment activities for the following week.
  - Students who scored less than 4/5 go to daily re-teach sessions for the following week.

### **Grading and Assessments**

- **Report cards:** Areas covered on the report card include: grades, character, attendance, and teacher comments.
  - All teachers will maintain a folder for each student that contains, at a minimum, a representation of the student's reading, writing, and math work completed throughout the year. This data will be used for both grading and conference purposes.
  - All skills and abilities taught and assessed at La Paloma Academy are considered mastered when the student demonstrates at least a 70% proficiency level.
- **AASA:** Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching is a test designed specifically to measure each student's (3rd-8th grade) progress in learning the Arizona Academic Standards.
  - The two content areas tested are Mathematics and English Language Arts.
  - The Arizona Academic Standards are clear and concise statements of what ALL students are expected to know and be able to do at various stages of K-12 education.
  - Scores are reported in terms of four performance levels:
    - Highly Proficient;
    - Proficient;
    - Partially Proficient;
    - Minimally Proficient.
  - Any student who is Proficient or Highly Proficient has fulfilled the state requirements.

- o This assessment is given at the end of the year and the results are sent to the parents in the summer.
- **AzSCI:** Arizona Science Test is a test designed specifically to measure each student's (5th and 8th grade) progress in learning the Arizona Academic Science Standards
  - o The content area tested is Science.
  - o Scores are reported in terms of four performance levels
    - Exceeds the Standards
    - Meets the Standards
    - Approaches the Standards
    - Falls Far Below the Standards
- **Performance Matters:** Performance Matters Assessments offer innovative, research-based, multi-method, customized assessments and curriculum tools that assist educators in meeting local, state, and federal requirements and be given this year as a pre, mid, and post test for K-8th grade.

### **Intervention Services**

- **Child Find Procedures:**
  - o A free, appropriate, public education (FAPE), with a full continuum of services, is available to each and every student.
  - o Child Find is a component of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which requires states to identify, locate, and evaluate all children with disabilities, aged birth to 21, who are in need of early intervention or special education services.
  - o In compliance with federal legislation, La Paloma Academy has established specific Child Find policies and procedures:
    - Screenings will be implemented for all newly enrolled students and those transferring in without sufficient records.
    - The screenings will be completed within 45 calendar days of school entry.
    - The screenings will include consideration of academic or cognitive skills, vision, hearing, and communication, emotional, motor and adaptive development.
  - o Review, referral, and follow-up will be done on screenings and documented in the child's cumulative file, with backup data on the Child Find Screening Log.
  - o La Paloma Academy maintains documentation of and annually reports the number of children with disabilities within each disability category that have been identified, located and evaluated.
  - o All referrals are considered confidential and services are provided at no cost. The parent, legal guardian, or surrogate parent retains the right to refuse services and are provided other procedural safeguards under federal and state law.

- **Title One:**

Title One "is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments."

At La Paloma we use our Title 1 funds to ensure that all students have an opportunity to receive the services they need to be successful. Our services include full day Kindergarten, academic interventions in reading at all grade levels, academic interventions in math at all grade levels and small group instruction in classrooms to support instruction in all grades. Our students receive these opportunities through parent concerns, teacher concerns and/or test scores. Students can receive interventions for a limited time or an extended time based on individual needs. Title 1 is a federal program available to students schoolwide.

- **Special Education:**

La Paloma Academy will make the following services available to all students with disabilities in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendments of 1997 and 2004:

- o A free, appropriate public education.
- o A fair, accurate and unbiased evaluation to assist in deciding special education and related services (e.g...Speech, Counseling, Occupational Therapy).
- o An individualized educational program (IEP) based upon student's individual capabilities and needs.
- o An education in the most typical setting in which the student can make academic progress (general education classroom/resource room).
- o The same array of academic, non-academic, physical education and extracurricular activities that are available to students without disabilities.

La Paloma Academy Lakeside abides by the requirements of federal and state laws in serving students with disabilities, including the procedures and requirements applicable to charter schools under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), A.R.S. § 15-761, et seq., and A.A.C. § R7-2-401, et seq. To the extent applicable to charter schools generally, and to the grade levels served by La Paloma Academy Lakeside, La Paloma Lakeside's written special education policies and procedures are set forth in the most current version of the Arizona Department of Education's Policy & Procedure Checklist, which is incorporated herein and is [available electronically to school-based personnel and all parents here](#).

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS RETENTION NOTICE

Pursuant to A.R.S. 41-1351, special education records including placement records, referrals, evaluations, and testing data, will be destroyed seven years after the student's last fiscal year of enrollment. A permanent record of a student's name, address, phone number, grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade level completed and year completed, may be maintained without time limitation.

#### PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

Parents of a student with a disability (or suspected of having a disability) are entitled to a Procedural Safeguards Notice, which explains the rights of the parent and student to ensure they are protected through the special education process. A copy of the procedural safeguards notice is available by contacting the School Office.

**Remediation/Incentives:** The following policies have been enacted to focus attention on the value of academic achievement and to increase student accountability:

- **Rewards:**

- o Students who are proficient in either content area of the AASA will receive a ribbon for that content area;
- o Students who are highly proficient in either content area of the AASA will receive a medal for that content area;
- o Students who are proficient in one content area of the AASA and highly proficient in the other will receive an LPA scholar jacket;
- o Students who are highly proficient in both content areas of the AASA will also receive a trophy.

- **Interventions:**

- o No cost tutoring opportunities for all students struggling to maintain academic proficiency in core subjects.
- o **\*In grades 6th through 8th if, at the end of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd quarter grading periods, a student does not have a GPA higher than 1.0, they will be required to successfully complete 12 hours of remediation.**
- o Remediation may include one or more of the following:
  - Tutoring;

- Saturday school;
- Summer school;
- Additional academic courses in lieu of Specials or Electives.

**Students who fail to successfully complete required remediation may be retained.**

### **Homework Requests**

A request for homework can be made when an absence is excused. Requested work may be picked up in 24 hours. Work may also be sent home with another student the following day. Requests can be made to the teacher or the school office.

### **Promotion Criteria**

Promotion considerations will include the following:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance</li> <li>• Grades</li> <li>• Test scores</li> <li>• Age</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current achievement</li> <li>• Social maturity</li> <li>• Teacher and parent evaluation and judgment</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

### **Third Grade Retention: Arizona's Move on When Reading**

Arizona's Move on When Reading policy is designed to provide students with evidence-based, effective reading instruction in kindergarten through third grade in order to position them for success as they progress through school, college, and career. The legislation in A.R.S §15-701, A.R.S §15-704, and A.R.S §15-211 explains the requirements for pupil promotion, early literacy instruction, and accountability for student achievement in reading.

ARS 15-701 requires that an Arizona student not be promoted from the third grade if the student scores far below the third grade level on the AzMERIT statewide assessment. A third grader who does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills may be promoted to fourth grade if the student:

1. Is an English Language Learner (ELL) who has received less than two year of English instruction.
2. Has a disability and the IEP team agrees promotion is appropriate or the student is in the process of being evaluated for an IEP.
3. Has been diagnosed with a significant reading impairment (including dyslexia).
4. Demonstrates sufficient reading skills or adequate progress toward sufficient reading skills through a collection of assessments approved by the State Board of Education.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation**

To be eligible to participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation ceremony students must:

- Have a minimum of a 1.0 cumulative GPA
- Have completed all required remediation
- If a student is on a behavior contract, they must not have any recent behavior that is in violation of the contract.

### **Eighth Grade Trip**

To maintain eligibility for the 8th grade end-of-year trip, students must:

- acquire a minimum of 125 House Points by the end of the 3rd quarter and maintain a minimum of 125 until trip departure date;

- follow the Six Pillars of Character while at school;
- submit a permission slip signed by a parent/guardian;
- submit payment for the fees associated with the trip.

## **Discipline**

### **Character Counts/Family Values**

Discipline is structured around the 6 Pillars of Character. The six pillars are: **Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.**

Students are expected to respect others by demonstrating the following behaviors: appropriate language and actions, listening and following directions, working and playing safely, working quietly, and being prepared to learn.

### **Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS)**

- PBIS focuses on proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate student behaviors to create a positive school environment.
- Instead of using a piecemeal approach of individual behavioral management plans, a continuum of positive behavior support for all students within La Paloma has been implemented in areas including the classroom and non-classroom settings (such as hallways, buses, and restrooms).
- Attention is focused on creating and sustaining primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support that improve lifestyle results for students by making targeted behaviors less effective, efficient, and relevant, and desired behavior more functional.

### **La Paloma Academy-Code of Conduct**

La Paloma Academy staff model and encourage the A.C.T. approach to our behavior standards.

Are Respectful and Trustworthy  
Care about Others  
Take Responsibility

### **Classroom Discipline Procedures**

The first week of school, classroom teachers will introduce, define, and discuss individual classroom rules with their students. From one classroom to another, rules may vary depending on the individual teacher. Every teacher utilizes a progression of consequences for negative behavior, and emphasizes positive reinforcement for desirable behavior demonstrating specific character qualities (ARS 15-154.01).

No single strategy of discipline solves all behavior, attitude, and schoolwork related problems. A student who is sent to the principal's office may be subject to a parent phone call, lunch detention, after school detention, in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension (short or long term), and/or expulsion, following the state guidelines. (ARS 15-841, ARS 15-842, & ARS 15-843) For all long-term suspensions and expulsions, the student is entitled to due process and can appeal to the School Board. The administration will enforce disciplinary measures as deemed appropriate.

### **Progression of Discipline**

The following framework for the application of disciplinary actions in the school is to provide students and parents with an understanding of the response that can be expected to a certain type of misbehavior. Discretion is left to the professional educators in deciding which disciplinary action(s) should be taken for

student misconduct. Several factors help determine the disciplinary consequences for one's actions. This may include the student's past history of behavior, the seriousness of the offense, the effect of the student's behavior on others, and what might be best for the particular student to learn to develop responsibility for his/her actions. The levels of misconduct are not an absolute rule, but serve as a general guideline for the decisions about discipline, which must be decided upon on a case-by-case basis by the teachers and administrators.

### **NON-REFERRAL – LEVEL 1**

Staff members who are supervising the student or who observe their misbehavior will respond immediately to Level 1 misconduct. If the misbehavior occurs in the classroom setting, the teacher refers to their classroom discipline procedures. Repeated misbehavior may require a conference between parents and staff.

### **DISCRETIONARY – LEVEL 2**

Level 2 Acts of Misconduct address misbehaviors that involve a level of frequency and/or seriousness that disrupt the learning climate of the school. Infractions which result from the continuation of Level 1 misbehaviors require the intervention of administrative and/or school support personnel in order to correct the situation. Misbehaviors which do not represent a direct threat to the health and safety of others, but that have educational consequences that are serious enough to require corrective action, will be handled by administrative personnel.

### **REFERRAL TO OFFICE – LEVEL 3**

Level 3 Acts of Misconduct include acts that are dangerous to the safety of the student(s) or others, or damage to property, as well as certain criminal acts. These acts will most often result in a removal from the school for a period of time.

### **School Detentions**

General rules of study hall behavior are enforced when a student is serving detention. Students are expected to be prompt, quiet and bring material to work on. A record is kept of all detentions given. Those students who are regular offenders can expect further corrective measures.

- Detentions can be served during the lunch period, after school, and/or on designated Saturdays.
- Students can be assigned to detention for academic and behavioral issues They could include, but are not limited to:
  - o Missing homework assignments,
  - o Inappropriate classroom conduct,
  - o Violation of behavior policies,

Students in detention may be expected to complete homework, write an essay on the infraction, and/or complete work missed due to tardiness/absences. Detention hours and days are subject to change. Students who show up late or do not show up at all will be assigned additional days of detention, and may be placed on a behavior contract, assigned to Saturday school, and/or suspended.

### **Suspensions**

**In-School Suspension:** In-school suspension (ISS) is a disciplinary technique which is designed to provide an educational environment to ensure that students participate in the academic community in some way. When a student is put on in-school suspension, he or she is removed from the traditional classroom environment and put into a special suspension room. The student may be warned that future

offenses could result in additional suspension or expulsion. For the length of the suspension, the student reports to the ISS room, and he or she is expected to complete homework assignments, work on projects, and complete any task assigned by the ISS facilitator. **On each day of ISS, after school privileges may be suspended for the student.**

**Out of School Suspension:** Any student suspended from school must not be on school property at any time during the days of suspension. Students on suspension are also suspended from all school activities. A suspended student will be allowed to make up any work missed while serving the suspension.

### **Behavior Modification Contracts**

Cases of repetitive, unwanted behavior may warrant the implementation of a "behavior contract". A behavior contract will specifically outline undesired behaviors. It will also include a plan for positive modification and the number of probationary days. If the student is found in violation of this contract, the student may be called to speak with the School Board and may be expelled from La Paloma Academy.

### **Counseling Services**

A counselor is available to all students, parents and teachers on a full-time basis. This service is available to help individuals with personal, social, school, or family concerns. Group counseling concerning a particular problem will be available as the need arises. *Counseling referrals may be made by the individual, teacher, principal, or parent.*

## **Health Services**

### **Important Information**

La Paloma Academy **does not** have a Registered Nurse in employment, therefore the Health Technicians/Student Health Services Coordinator and/or designated agents are not performing a nursing function. Duties allowable are specified and followed according to the Pima County Health Department Communicable Disease Flip-Chart, the American Academy of Pediatrics Emergency Guidelines for Schools, and First Aid/CPR certifications.

**School personnel may give first aid only.** They cannot diagnose, give medical treatment or prescribe medication for a child if a child becomes ill at school.

Follow-up medical assessment may be suggested if a health problem is suspected.

### **Health Services Rules**

In order for your child to be available for learning and to control communicable disease in school, it is very important for you to keep your child at home when he or she displays any of the following:

- A temperature of 100.4 degrees or more. Your child should remain at home in bed for the day and should be fever free for 24 hours (without the aid of Tylenol or Motrin) before returning to school.
- A diagnosed strep infection. Your child should be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Red swollen eyes that itch and drain pus (woke up with eyes glued shut).
- A diagnosed case of conjunctivitis. Your child should be on antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Vomiting during the night or in the morning.
- Persistent diarrhea during the night and/or in the morning.
- A moist productive cough, a deep cough, chest congestion, or discolored nasal discharge.

- An unexplained rash.
- If your child has been diagnosed with a communicable illness, please contact the Health Office immediately so the parents of other students in the class can be notified. Examples include, but are not limited to chicken pox, impetigo, scabies, hepatitis, and ringworm.

**Do not send your ill child to school to be evaluated by the Health Office.**

### Head Lice

Students found with live head lice or nits (eggs) may remain in class but are discouraged from close head to head contact with others. Staff from the Health Office will contact parents of symptomatic students and discuss treatment options. Any student showing symptoms will be screened and in special cases the Health Office may screen the entire classroom. Classroom notifications will not be sent home until/unless the Health Office and/or administration determines it is necessary, which is usually when at least 10% of students in the classroom are infested.

**Please notify the Health Office immediately if your child has head lice.**

### If your child gets sick at school

When it is determined that a student should be sent home as a result of illness or injury, a parent/guardian who has legal custody will be notified by school personnel and asked to come pick up the child from school.

- If a student feels ill at school, they should report their complaint to the classroom teacher for a referral to the Health Office.
- Students are not to contact their parents directly (via cell phone for instance) regarding illness unless prior arrangements have been made with the Health Office.
- If your child becomes ill enough to be removed from school, has more than a minor injury, or has an emergency, you will be notified.
- It is the parent's responsibility to make arrangements to pick up an ill or injured child as promptly as possible.
- Ill/injured children are not allowed to walk home, even with parental permission.
- Our office is small, so other children coming in would be exposed to the illness your child has. Please consider how you would want your child treated in such a circumstance.
- The student can only be released to someone other than the parent/guardian if that person has been designated on the emergency form by the parent/guardian.
- **Please keep contact information current at all times, in case of an emergency.**
  - Student emergency forms are kept in the office.
  - Invalid numbers and emergency contacts could result in delayed medical treatment for your child.
  - It is imperative that you notify the office immediately of any changes.
  - Please do not give a phone number that is strictly a message machine, we need to be able to speak with someone who can reach you quickly.
  - If the parents cannot be contacted, the emergency numbers will be tried first,
  - **If the school is unable to reach parents/guardians or any of the emergency contacts, the police and/or DCS may ultimately need to be called.**
  - Paramedic/ambulance services may also be contacted in the case of an emergency (if needed). **Families will be responsible for the cost of paramedic/ambulance service.**

### Medication at school

**Prescription Medication:** When it is necessary for a child to take prescription medication at school we must have:

- A completed LPA Medication Administration form (available in the Health Office);
- Medication in the original container with, if it is prescribed, the pharmacy label attached;
- **Medications from outside the U.S. are not allowed to be given at school.**

- All medication must be picked up by the last day of school by the parent/guardian. Any medication left at school after the last day of school will be discarded.

#### **Over-The-Counter Medication:**

- Over-the-counter medications must be in the original container.
  - If OTC medications or herbal supplements need to be given for more than 3 days, a written doctor's order must be provided with a statement indicating the necessity of why this medication needs to be taken at school.
  - The LPA Medication Administration form must also be completed.
  - Over-the-counter medication includes cough drops, sore throat lozenges, Neosporin, etc.
- Some over-the-counter medications are available in the health office. Parent/guardian may give permission for the health technician to administer certain OTC medication to the student during the school day.

Students are neither permitted to carry their medication, nor take medication independently on campus. All medications must be brought to the Health Office by an adult, stored in the Health Office, and picked up from the Health Office by an adult.

- The exceptions to this may be Epi-Pens and/or inhalers, *under limited circumstances and with appropriate paperwork* (see Health Tech), which the student should always have in their possession.

#### **Administration of Medications:**

- Health Technicians are employees who have been designated by the principal of La Paloma Academy, to act as their agent, and may assist the student with the administration of medication. (This includes medication on an as-needed basis and over-the-counter medications).
- **LPA does not have registered nurses in their employment.**
- **Under no circumstances may personnel administer medication to a student if nursing judgment is required for proper administration.**
- All medication must be brought to school and picked up from school by the parent/guardian or an authorized adult.
- Medications brought in will be counted and documented.
- **The parent/guardian must notify the Health Office of any changes in medication, dose or time to be taken and a new doctor's order must be provided.**

For the safety of themselves and other students, at no time shall a student possess, transport, or transfer medication.

#### **Immunizations**

Students can be enrolled without current or immediate proof of immunizations. However, **the student will be suspended until or unless parent submits documentary proof and they are not exempted from immunization pursuant to ARS 15-873.**

- Exemption forms are available from the Health Office.

A student may be allowed to attend if the student has received at least one dose of each of the required immunizations prescribed pursuant to ARS 36-672 and has established a schedule for the completion of required immunizations.

Homeless students have until the fifth calendar day after enrollment to provide proof of immunizations.

Documentary proof is not required for a student to be admitted to school if one of the following occurs:

- The parent or guardian of the pupil submits a signed statement to the school administrator stating that the parent or guardian has received information about immunizations provided by the Department of Health Services and understands the risks and benefits of immunization and the

potential risks of non-immunization and that due to personal beliefs, the parent or guardian does not consent to the immunization of the pupil.

- The school administrator receives written certification which is signed by the parent or guardian and by a physician or a registered nurse practitioner that states that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student's health and that indicates the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance which precludes immunization.

Arizona Department of Health Services requires that all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders (11 years old) are required to get the Tdap and Meningococcal immunizations.

- o These immunizations are also recommended for 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they turn 11 years old.

### **Screenings**

**Hearing screenings** will be administered to all students in Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, all resource students, and to all incoming students.

**Vision screenings** are only conducted on resource students.

- If you do not want your child to have their hearing or vision screened, please notify us in writing within 10 days of registration.
- If your child does not pass any of the screenings, they will be rescreened within 30-45 days.
- If your student does not pass the second screening, you will be sent a referral in the mail. If you receive a referral, please follow up with your doctor as soon as possible and provide us with written information from the doctor regarding the results of the visit.

### **PE Excuses**

Students requesting to be excused from PE must provide the Health Office with a note signed by the parent. Requests to be excused for three or more PE classes must be accompanied by a Physician's written order.

Any student utilizing an orthopedic support or device while on campus must provide a medical excuse and then be cleared through the Health Office.

### **Chronic Illness**

It is imperative the Health Office is notified if your child has any significant conditions such as asthma, diabetes, allergies, heart disease, epilepsy, physical/mental disabilities and/or if there is a change in the status of any condition.

The parent/guardian of a student with illnesses or conditions that may require accommodations must:

- Obtain a request for "Medical Certification of Student with Chronic Health Condition" form from the Health Office, the 504 Coordinator, or Registrar.
  - o Form must be completed by treating medical provider;
  - o The medical provider will be asked to assess the following considerations:
    - The specific way in which the child's medical/mental condition may impact their ability to arrive to school on time, attend school, and/or remain for the entire day;
    - The nature of the health condition relevant to the student's anticipated activity level during absences;
    - Whether the condition is intermittent, temporary, or permanent in nature.
  - o Completed form **must** be faxed to La Paloma Academy's from the medical provider's office;
  - o Once La Paloma Academy receives the completed form, a meeting will be scheduled to determine if a 504 plan is necessary. This meeting could include the school's health technician, the student's teacher, and/or the 504 coordinator. The purpose of the meeting is to determine appropriate accommodations and create a written plan, if necessary. Chronic illness procedures will also be reviewed.
- Sign a FERPA release to facilitate communication between school staff (Health Office and/or Attendance Office) and the student's medical provider(s), if requested.
- Submit a request for certification each school year.

### **Special Procedures**

Examples of Special Procedures would include but not be limited to catheterization, gastrostomy tube feeding, tracheostomy care, etc. Invasive procedures such as this that are needed by the student during school hours are permitted under the following conditions:

- At the beginning of each school year, the parent/guardian, or other person having legal control over the student, must submit a written, current and unexpired request that the school provide for the specific procedure needed by the student;
- Licensed physician of the student submit a written, current and unexpired request for the specific procedure needed by the student be provided for during the hours when school is in session or the hours when the student is under the supervision of school officials;
- A physician or registered nurse provide written, current and unexpired instructions regarding the specific procedure needed by the student which states which staff members are designated to provide the specific procedure and a description of the nature and extent of any supervision that is required;
- A staff member who is authorized to provide the specific procedure must receive training from a physician or registered nurse consistent with the state board of nursing.

### **Students with Special Health Conditions**

Parents of students with special health conditions need to report this information to the school office or school Health Tech upon registration. The information may be helpful to school personnel in case of an emergency. The campus Health Tech will then notify all necessary and relevant staff.

### **Students with Disabilities**

**The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** is a federal law that protects the rights of students with disabilities. In addition to standard school records, for children with disabilities education records could include evaluation and testing materials, medical and health information, Individualized Education Programs and related notices and consents, progress reports, materials related to disciplinary actions, and mediation agreements. Such information is gathered from a number of sources, including the student's parents and staff of the school of attendance. Also, with parental permission, information may be gathered from additional pertinent sources, such as doctors and other health care providers. This information is collected to assure the child is identified, evaluated, and provided a Free Appropriate Public Education in accordance with state and federal special education laws.

Each agency participating under Part B of IDEA must assure that at all stages of gathering, storing, retaining and disclosing education records to third parties that it complies with the federal confidentiality laws. In addition, the destruction of any education records of a child with a disability must be in accordance with the IDEA regulatory requirements.

For additional information or to file a complaint, you may call the federal government at (202) 260-3887 (voice) or 1-800-8778339 (TDD) OR the Arizona Department of Education (ADE/ESS) at (602) 542-4013. Or you may contact:

Family Policy Compliance Office U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20202-5901	Arizona Department of Education Exceptional Student Services 1535 W. Jefferson, BIN 24 Phoenix, AZ 85007
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This notice is available in English and Spanish on the ADE website at [www.ade.az.gov/ess/resources](http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/resources) under forms. For assistance in obtaining this notice in other languages, contact the ADE/ESS at the above phone/address.

## **School Safety**

### **Fire Procedures, Policies and Drills**

In an effort to improve school safety, La Paloma Academy performs the following “drills” on a regular basis:

- **Fire drills** (practiced once per month) - Upon hearing the alarm, students and teachers will immediately move out of the building. Students should leave all books and school paraphernalia behind, and exit the building in an orderly manner. Do not visit friends when leaving the building. Stay away from the building after exiting and wait for the “all clear” announcement. The signal to re-enter the building will be an intercom announcement.
- **Hard Lockdown** (practiced minimum 2 times per year) - All doors, inside and outside are to be locked. A hard lockdown indicates a very serious situation exists. All teachers are to lock their classrooms after checking the grounds for any person not secured in a room. In a hard lockdown, equipment and lights are to be turned off. Students are instructed to stay away from windows and doors and to sit quietly on the floor in a designated corner of the room. A “Hard Lockdown” takes precedence over a fire alarm.
- **Soft Lockdown** (practiced minimum 2 times per year) - All outside doors are locked. A soft lockdown indicates a serious situation could exist in the vicinity of La Paloma Academy. The staff is instructed to close all blinds where applicable. During a “Soft Lockdown”, no one will be allowed to enter or exit the building. However, the school day will continue as normal inside the building.
- **Shelter in Place\*** (practiced minimum 1 time per year)- Shelter in place is an instruction to stay inside a building and find a safe location until given the all clear.

### **Child Abuse/Neglect**

According to ARS 13-3620, it is the legal obligation of La Paloma Academy staff to report situations of suspected child abuse and neglect. If an employee suspects child abuse or neglect, the employee will first notify school administration (including, but not limited to, school counselor, principal, assistant principal) and/or lead teacher prior to contacting authorities. After reviewing the situation with administration and/or a lead teacher, the employee with first-hand information about the situation will contact the Department of Child Services and/or law enforcement. La Paloma Academy employees will maintain strict confidentiality and speak with no individual beyond the designated school officials (i.e. nurse, counselor, principal) involved.

If any student or employee feels they are the victim of sexual abuse of any kind, they may directly contact Jackie Trujillo – Superintendent, [jtrujillo@arizonacharterschools.org](mailto:jtrujillo@arizonacharterschools.org).

### **Transportation of Students**

During La Paloma Academy or La Paloma Academy-sponsored functions, students may be transported only in La Paloma-approved vehicles operated by La Paloma-authorized personnel. Exemptions are made only with the specific written approval of the Superintendent or designee.

It is specifically forbidden for any employee (other than bus drivers and transportation staff) to transport students for school purposes without prior authorization of the Superintendent or designee nor without written parental permission. Any time an employee is authorized to use their vehicle for La Paloma purposes that includes transporting students, they will be required to present proof of insurance (\$100,000/\$300,000 liability) to the Superintendent or designee.

## **Sports and Athletic Program**

Opportunities will be provided for 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate in team athletics on a tryout basis.

Girls' Sports: Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball

Boys' Sports: Soccer, Basketball, Flag Football

### **Physicals**

- La Paloma Academy uses the Arizona Interscholastic Association Annual Physical Examination/Evaluation forms for our required sports physicals.
- The Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (MTBI)/Concussion form will be completed online, at school, by all 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This is required and will help students become aware of concussion signs for themselves and other students while in P.E. or After School sports.
- **All student athletes must have a current physical evaluation and clearance to participate in sports (forms are available in the Health Office)**

### **Eligibility**

- Student-athletes who are suspended from school may not participate or attend a game or practice on the day(s) of the suspension.
- Student-athletes who are absent from school may not participate or attend a game or practice on the day(s) of the absence.
- Student-athletes' eligibility will be checked each school week administratively. Eligibility will be promptly reported to coaches and teachers. Eligibility status will remain unaltered until the next weekly check.
- In order to be eligible, all student-athletes must have a GPA of at least 1.5 as well as no "F's" in any classes.
- In order to be eligible for athletics, all athletes grades 6-8 must maintain a "House Points" balance of more than 0.
- The 1st check in which a student is determined to be ineligible will prohibit that athlete from playing in any games/traveling with the team to off-campus games. Ineligible students are expected to use this extra time within their schedules to meet with teachers and improve academic standing.
- The next *consecutive* check in which a student is determined to be ineligible will prohibit that athlete from playing in any games/traveling with the team to off-campus games. In addition, the athlete may not attend team practices. Ineligible students are expected to use this extra time within their schedules to meet with teachers and improve academic standing.

### **Student Athlete/School Ground Concussions and Head Injuries**

A student who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion in practice, a game, P.E. or recess will be removed from participation or competition at that time. A student who has been removed from an interscholastic contest, practice, PE or recess for a possible concussion or head injury may not return to physical activity unless cleared to do so by a physician. If not cleared to return to physical activity, a student may not return to play or practice until the student has provided the school with written clearance from a physician. The student will be required to follow the Return to Play Progression process as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. All student athletes must have a current physical and clearance to participate in sports.

La Paloma Academy Health Technician has the discretion (without doctor input) to impose a 5-day no-play restriction if concussion concerns exist.

