

Lorain Preparatory Academy  
Parent - Student Handbook  
2010 – 2011



## **Welcome**

Welcome to Lorain Preparatory Academy (LPA). Our staff is pleased to have you here as a student and as a supportive parent. We will do our best to help you and to make your experience here productive and successful.

This **Parent – Student Handbook** has pertinent information, rules and regulations. Therefore it is important that every parent and student read and become familiar with its contents. This handbook is developed so we can have a safe and organized program and to create an understanding between students, parents, and LPA.

The administration and staff appreciate your support. We hope that your child's school year will be both educational and enjoyable.

The Board of Trustees of LPA encourages students, staff, administration and parents to review this document and submit proposed modifications to the CAO's office no later than March 1 of each school year. The CAO will then compile all such recommendations and will provide for a review of the Parent-Student Handbook. LPA's Board also invites all parents to attend their monthly meetings which are open to the public. Dates and times will be announced.

If at any time during the school year you have questions, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact LPA.

LPA and parents are a working partnership, providing your child(ren) with the best educational opportunities possible.

Please sign and return the Acknowledgement page at the back of this document and return it to school with your child. This will let us know that you have received and read the handbook. Thank you for your cooperation in advance.

## **Foreward**

This student handbook was developed to answer many of the commonly asked questions that may arise during the course of a school year. Because the handbook also contains information about student rights and responsibilities, each student is responsible for knowing its contents. Please take time to become familiar with the following information and keep the handbook available for use. It can be a valuable reference during the school year and a means to avoid confusion and misunderstanding when questions arise. Should you have any questions that are not addressed in this handbook, contact your Chief Administrative Officer (CAO.)

This handbook supersedes all prior handbooks and other written or oral statements regarding any item in this handbook. This handbook should not be construed to accord any rights or privileges to students or families beyond those accorded by law. This handbook may be revised at any time, with or without notice.

## **Mission of Lorain Preparatory Academy**

LPA is committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment where our students develop positive self-esteem, leadership, multi-cultural awareness, community involvement, a love for life-long learning, and achieve academic excellence.

## **Equal Education Opportunity**

It is the policy of LPA to provide an equal education opportunity for all students. Any person who believes that LPA or any staff person has discriminated against a student on the basis of race, color, creed, age, disability, religion, gender, ancestry, national origin, or other protected characteristics, or social or economic background, has the right to file a complaint. A formal complaint can be made in writing to LPA's CAO. The complaint will be investigated and a response, in writing, will be given to the concerned person within 30 days. Under no circumstances will LPA threaten or retaliate against anyone who raises or files a complaint.

## **School Day**

The school day is 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Doors open at 7:50 a.m.

## **Testing and Compulsory Attendance**

LPA is a community school established under Chapter 3314 of the Ohio Revised Code. LPA is a public school and students enrolled in and attending LPA are required to take achievement assessments and other examinations prescribed by law. In addition, there may be other requirements for students at LPA that are prescribed by law. Students who have been excused from the compulsory attendance law for the purpose of home education as defined in the Administrative Code shall no longer be excused for that purpose upon their enrollment in a community school. For more information about this matter, contact the CAO or the Ohio Department of Education.

## **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

The rules and procedures of LPA are designed to allow each student to obtain a safe, orderly, and appropriate education. Students are expected to follow teachers' directions and obey all LPA rules. Disciplinary procedures are designed to ensure fairness before a student is removed from curricular activities because of his/her behavior. Students may be removed from extracurricular activities at the discretion of the CAO or of the person responsible for directing, supervising or coaching the activity.

Students in the LPA system have the responsibility to act in such a way as not to interfere with the rights of others to the same educational opportunity. By accepting the right to participate in LPA programs on or off LPA property, students shall accept the responsibility to conduct themselves according to the rules and regulations and provisions governing the operation of these programs. The ideal of any education experience is for the students to become self – disciplined.

LPA's CAO is responsible for establishing and enforcing procedures necessary to ensure that students' rights are preserved and that accompanying responsibilities are carried out. Students may forfeit certain rights when it can be demonstrated that they are not assuming or showing responsibility. There is a right of appeal by students who believe their rights have been violated. An appeal process for suspension and expulsion is outlined in the appropriate section of the guidelines. It should be noted that LPA's CAO must use discretionary judgment in taking disciplinary action.

Parents have the right to know how their child is succeeding in LPA and will be provided information on a regular basis and as needed, when concerns arrive. Many times it will be the student's responsibility to deliver that information. If necessary, the mail or hand delivery may be used to ensure contact. Parents are encouraged to build a two – way link with their child's teachers and support staff by informing the staff of suggestions or concerns that may help their child better accomplish his/her educational goals.

The staff expects students to arrive at LPA prepared to learn. It is the student's responsibility to arrive on time and be prepared to participate in the educational program.

## **Student Well-Being**

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

LPA requires that all students must have an emergency medical card completed, signed by a parent or guardian, and filed in LPA's office. A student may be excluded from LPA until this requirement has been fulfilled.

Parents of students with specific health care needs **MUST** submit those needs, in writing, and with proper documentation by a physician, to LPA's office.

Video cameras and other monitoring equipment may be in use at LPA to help assure the safety of students, staff, and visitors.

## **Section 1 – General Information Enrolling in the Academy**

Students who are new to LPA are required to enroll with their parent/guardian. To enroll your child, parents are required to bring the following:

- ☞ Birth Certificate or other certification permitted by state law
- ☞ Proof of Residence (Mortgage document, Lease, utility bill)
- ☞ Proof of Immunizations
- ☞ Child's Social Security Card
- ☞ Custody papers from the court, when appropriate
- ☞ Last report card, when appropriate

In some cases, a temporary enrollment may be permitted, If that is done, the parents will be told what records are needed to make the enrollment complete and the date by which such records must be provided.

Admission to LPA is open to any individual, who, as of August 1 or September 30, is entitled to attend LPA in the State of Ohio pursuant to the Section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Ohio Revised Code in a school district in this state. Enrollment is open to residents of Ohio.

There will be no discrimination in the admission of students to LPA on the basis of race, creed, color, handicapping condition, or sex. Upon the admission of any handicapped student, LPA will comply with all federal and state laws regarding the education of handicapped students. LPA will not limit admission to students on the basis of intellectual ability, measure of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability. LPA will

admit the number of students that does not exceed the capacity restrictions of LPA, students shall be admitted by lot from all those submitting applications, except preference shall be given to students attending LPA the previous year. Preference may be given to siblings of students attending LPA the previous year.

## **Scheduling and Assignment**

The CAO will assign each student to the appropriate classroom and the program in which the student will participate. Any questions or concerns about assignment should be discussed with the CAO.

## **Dress and Grooming Requirements**

### **General school day:**

While fashions change, the reason for being in LPA does not. Students are in LPA to learn. Any fashion (dress, accessory, or hairstyle) that disrupts the educational process or presents a safety risk will not be permitted. Personal expression is permitted within these general guidelines.

Students are required to wear the LPA uniform everyday. The uniform guidelines are:

- ∞ **Bottoms:** (Khaki or Navy) pants, shorts, jumpers, skorts, skirts (All shorts, skirts, jumpers and skorts must not be any shorter than 1 inch above the knee.
- ∞ **Tops:** (White or Navy) collared polo shirt, collared polo button – down shirt or blouse, turtleneck
- ∞ **Shoes:** (Black, Blue, White) dress shoes, solid color tennis shoes  
Sandals are never permitted.  
Boots can be worn to and from school. Student must change into other shoes during instructional school day.
- ∞ **Belts:** black, brown, blue
- ∞ **Sweaters:** (navy, white, black) sweater, fleece, sweatshirt
- ∞ **Hoodies:** (pull over or zipper up) are not permitted

### **Dress Down Day:**

While dress down days can be a great break from our more formal uniform dress code, student safety is always at the forefront of our intentions.

- ∞ **Tops:** T – shirts without writing, blouses, sweaters
  - Spaghetti straps, tanks, midriff revealing, low cut, too tight, mesh or see thru tops are not permitted.
- ∞ **Hoodies:** (pull over or zipper up) are not permitted
- ∞ **Pants/Bottoms:** Jeans, shorts, skorts, skirts
  - Short shorts or short skorts are not permitted. Torn jeans and shorts, skorts, and skirts must not be any shorter than 1 inch above the knee.
- ∞ **Shoes:** Gym shoes preferred
  - Flip flops, sandals, high heels, and boots are not permitted.

At all times, general day and dress down day, the following styles or manner of dress are NOT PERMITTED:

- Items of clothing that contain profanity, suggestive comments, or obscenities.
- Clothing, which advertises, or advocates drug or alcohol use.
- Wearing of hats (of any kind) in the building
- Bright neon colored accessories (wrist bands, belts, shoelaces, etc.)
- Hair color of an unnatural color
- Clothing must cover all tattoos, body or facial piercing is unacceptable.
- Single post ear – piercing is acceptable
- Dangling earrings – only stud earrings are permitted.

If a student has selected a manner of appearance that is beyond mere freedom of expression and disrupts the educational process or presents risk to themselves or others, they may be removed from the educational setting, and be subject to penalty under the Student Code of Conduct.

Students who are representing the LPA at an official function or public event may be required to follow specific dress requirements.

#### **Consequences for Non-Compliance with Uniform Policy**

Students who do not comply with the uniform policy will be given a verbal warning. If the student continues to dress out of uniform, the parent will be contacted with a written notice. In the event the problem continues, the parent will bring the uniform to school or take the student home.

#### **Care of Property**

Students are responsible for the care of their own personal property. LPA will not be responsible for personal property. **Valuables such as jewelry or irreplaceable items should not be brought to LPA.** LPA may confiscate such items and return them to the student's parents. Excessive amounts of cash are also not to be brought to school.

Damage to or loss of LPA's equipment and facilities wastes taxpayers' money and undermines LPA's program. Therefore, if a student does damage to or loses school property, the student or his/her parents will be required to pay for the replacement or damage. If the damage or loss was intentional, the student will also be subject to discipline according to the Student Code of Conduct.

## **STUDENT RIGHTS OF EXPRESSION**

LPA recognizes students' right of expression. With the right of expression comes the responsibility to do it appropriately. Students may distribute or display, at appropriate times, non-sponsored, noncommercial written material and petitions; buttons, badges, or other insignia; clothing, insignia, and banners; and audio and video materials. All items must meet the following LPA guidelines:

- A. A material cannot be displayed if it:
  1. is obscene to minors, libelous, indecent, or vulgar,
  2. advertises any product or service not permitted to minors by law,
  3. is insulting or harassing,

may incite fighting or presents a likelihood of disrupting LPA or a school event.

B. Materials may not be displayed or distributed during class periods, or during passing times between classes. Permission may be granted for display or distribution during lunch periods and after school in designated locations, as long as exits are not blocked and there is proper access and egress to the building.

Students who are unsure whether or not materials they wish to display meet LPA guidelines may present them to the CAO twenty-four (24) hours prior to display.

## **Early Dismissal**

No student will be allowed to leave LPA prior to 3:30 p.m. dismissal time without a parent coming to the office to request the release and sign the child out. No student will be released to a person other than a custodial parent(s) (or name listed on emergency card) without a permission note signed by the custodial parent(s.)

## **Transfer out of Lorain Preparatory Academy**

If a student plans to transfer from LPA, the parent must notify LPA. Transfer of educational records will be authorized only after the parent has completed the withdraw form, returned all LPA materials, and paid any fees or finds that are due. LPA records may not be released if the transfer is not properly completed. Parents are encouraged to contact LPA's office for specific details.

## **Immunization**

Each student must have the immunizations required by law or have an authorized waiver. Waivers are issued consistent with state law, and may include parent or guardian objection to an immunization for good cause, including religious, conviction, or upon certification by a physician that immunization for good cause, including religious conviction, or upon certification by a physician that immunization against any disease is medical contra indicated. If a student does not have the necessary immunization or waiver, the CAO may remove the student from LPA and require compliance within fourteen days of enrollment. This requirement is for the safety of all students and in accordance with State Law. Any questions about immunizations or waiver should be directed to LPA's office.

## **Injury and Illness**

All parents are required to supply address, telephone number, and health information for emergency procedures when a child is ill. This information helps LPA decide what to do when a child becomes sick or has an accident while in school. Parents are required to keep this information up to date, especially telephone numbers for home and work.

Emergency medical cards are provided at the beginning of each school year.  
PARENTS ARE REQUIRED TO CONTACT LPA WHEN ANY OF THE INFORMATION ON THE EMERGENCY CARD CHANGES.

All injuries must be reported to a teacher, aide, or the office. If the injury is minor, the student will be treated and returned to class. If medical attention is required, the office will attempt to contact the parent. If the parent cannot be contacted, emergency numbers will be used.

A student who becomes ill during the school day should request permission from his/her teacher or aide to go to the office. The office will determine whether or not the student will remain in school. No student will be released from school without proper parental permission.

## **Use of Medications**

Prescription medications will not be stored or administered in the school office. The only exception to this ruling is asthma inhalers and epipens.

In regard to asthma inhalers and epipens, medications will be administered by the CAO or designee under the following conditions:

- Parents must have a medication permission form completed to administer medication. DOCTOR'S INSTRUCTIONS INCLUDING STUDENT'S NAME AND ADDRESS, NAME OF MEDICATION, DOSAGE, DATE AND TIME OF ADMINISTRATION, POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS, ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS AND DOCTORS SIGNATURE ARE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM. This form must be dated and signed by the student's parent/guardian. It will be the student's responsibility to report to the office to the office at the proper time for medication.
- New medical request forms must be submitted each school year and as necessary for changes in medication orders.
- Medication must be in ORIGINAL CONTAINER and have affixed label including the student's name, name of medication, dosage, route of medication, and time of administration.
- It is **REQUIRED** that the medication and the signed permission forms BE BROUGHT TO LPA BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN.
- Non-prescription medications, such as Tylenol, cold remedies, etc will be treated as prescription medication. Parents may, at their choice, come to LPA and administer medication to their child. Cough drops with written parental permission may be allowed at the discretion of the CAO.
- Students are **NOT** permitted to keep medication of **ANY KIND** on their person, in their lunch boxes, or in their desks unless prior permission has been given.
- If the student is authorized by his/her physician and the written approval of the parent or guardian to carry a new asthma rescue inhaler and self medicate, all of the first three steps will be required. The physician's written approval shall also include instructions that outline procedures that LPA personnel should follow if the event the asthma medication does not produce the expected relief from the student's asthma attack, and identification of any severe adverse reactions that may occur to the child using the inhaler and it should be reported to the physician, and any severe adverse reactions that may occur to another child, and at least one emergency telephone number for contacting the physician in an emergency, and at least one emergency telephone for contacting the parent or guardian in an emergency, and any other special instruction from the physician.

- If a student shows unsafe or irresponsible behavior, the right to self medicate may be revoked.

LPA retains the discretion to reject requests for administration of medicine.

## **Control of Casual – Contact Communicable Diseases and Pests**

Because LPA has a high concentration of people, it is necessary to take specific measures when the health and/or safety to the group are at risk. LPA’s professional staff has the authority to remove or isolate a student who has been ill, has an undiagnosed rash or has been exposed to a communicable disease or highly transient pest, such as lice.

Specific diseases include: diphtheria, scarlet fever, ringworm, strep infection, whooping cough, mumps, measles, rubella, pink eye, impetigo, and other conditions indicated by Local and State Health departments.

**If a child contracts a Communicable Disease, LPA’s office should be notified as to the nature of the illness and the student shall not return to LPA until a physician gives him/her written permission to do so. This is a means of protecting all children.**

Any removal will only be for the contagious period as specified in LPA’s administrative guidelines.

## **Control of Noncasual – contact Communicable Diseases**

In the case of noncasual – contact communicable diseases, LPA still has the obligation to protect the safety of the staff and students. In these cases, the person in question will have his/her status reviewed by a panel of resource people, including the applicable Board of Health, to ensure that the rights of the person affected and those in contact with that person are respected. LPA will seek to keep students and staff members in the Academy unless there is definitive evidence to warrant exclusion.

Noncasual – contact communicable diseases include sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), AIDS related complex, HIV (Human – Immunodeficiency,) Hepatitis B, and other diseases that may be specific by state law, or applicable regulation.

Parents will be requested to give consent to have their child’s blood checked for HIV, HBV, and other blood-borne pathogens when the child has bled at LPA and students and/or staff have been exposed to the blood. Any testing is subject to laws protecting confidentiality.

## **Head Lice**

LPA has a NO NIT POLICY.

Any child found to have head lice will be temporarily excluded from LPA until ALL NITS AND/OR LIVE LICE are removed from the child’s head. The excluded child will be rechecked for head lice by LPA prior to being allowed to return to class. As a precaution, the child will be rechecked within 10 days after returning to class for possible reinfestation.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act – Section 504**

The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires LPA to ensure that no individual will be discriminated against on the basis of a disability. This protection applies not just to the student, but also to all individuals.

Students with disabilities may be served within the regular education program with an accommodation plan developed by LPA staff. Parents, who believe their child may have a disability that substantially limits the child's ability to function properly in LPA, should contact the CAO.

LPA has adopted the Model Procedures for the Education of Children with Disabilities, and will serve its student with disabilities consistent with the model procedures.

### **Special Education**

LPA provides a special education program for students identified as having a disability defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA.)

A student can access special education services through the proper evaluation and placement procedure. Parent involvement in this procedure is required. More importantly, LPA wants the parent to be an active participant. To inquire about the procedure or programs, a parent should contact the CAO.

LPA has adopted the model procedures for the education of children with disabilities, and will serve its students with disabilities consistent with the model procedures.

### **Student Records**

The teachers, behavior intervention specialists, and administrative staff keep confidential student records.

Confidential records contain educational and behavior information that has restricted access based on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Ohio Law. This information can only be released with the written consent of the parents, the adult student, or a surrogate, subject to limited exceptions.

Included in the confidential records may be test scores, psychological reports, behavior data, disciplinary actions and communications with the family and outside service providers. Confidential information that is in a student's record that originates from an outside professional or agency may be released to the parent only with permission of the originator. Such records shall be placed in a student's file only with knowledge of the parent. Parents may obtain such records from the originator and should maintain them in a home file. Parents may also provide LPA with copies of records made by non-LPA professional agencies or individuals.

Students and parents have the right to review all educational records generated by LPA, request amendment to these records, insert addendums to records, and obtain copies of such records. Copying costs may be charged to the requestor. If a review of records is desired, please contact the building CAO in writing stating the records desired. The

records will be collected and an appointment will be made within forty-five days (45) of the request with the appropriate persons present to answer any questions there may be.

## **Student Fees, Fines, and Charges**

LPA charges specific fees. Such fees or charges are determined by the cost of material, freight/handling fees, and add – on fees for loss or damage to LPA property. LPA and staff do not make a profit.

Students using LPA property and equipment, including textbooks can be fined for excessive wear and abuse of the property and equipment. The fine will be assessed at replacement cost.

LPA may withhold a student's grades and/or credit for failure to pay assessed fees for materials used in a course of instruction other than textbooks or electronic textbooks.

## **Student Valuables**

Students are not allowed to bring valuables to LPA. Items such as cell phones, jewelry, expensive clothing, electronic equipment (CD player, MP3 player, laptop computer, video games), money, and the like are tempting targets for theft and extortion and are not permitted. If such items are brought to LPA, they will be confiscated until a parent picks the item up. LPA cannot be responsible for their safekeeping and WILL NOT be held liable for the lost or damage to student valuables.

If Money is being sent to LPA, parents should:

- Place the money in an envelope
- Include a note stating the reason for the money being sent
- Place the teacher's name and child's name on the outside of the envelope

## **Review of Instructional Materials and Activities**

Parents have the right to review any instructional materials being used in LPA. They also may observe instruction in any class, particularly those dealing with instruction in health and sex education. Any parent who wishes to review materials or observe instruction must contact the CAO prior to coming to LPA. Parents' rights to review teaching materials and instructional activities are subject to reasonable restrictions and limits.

## **Cafeteria/Student Eating Area**

LPA cafeteria/student eating area is available to all students whether lunch is purchased at the cafeteria/student eating area or brought from home. The cafeteria/student eating area is planned to be enjoyed, not abused. In the cafeteria/student eating area and multipurpose room, the quality of student citizenship can be most clearly observed. Due to the number of students involved, base rules of etiquette and courtesy are necessary. Students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Failure to do so may result in revoking cafeteria/student eating area privileges.

#### CAFETERIA/STUDENT EATING AREA PROCEDURES:

- It is LPA's policy that student CANNOT charge lunches.
- Students are expected to stay seated while eating lunch.
- Students are expected to talk in quiet voices to their friends.
- Students are not allowed to eat from other student's lunches.
- Students may raise their hand to get help from supervisors or get permission to throw away trash.
- Students are expected to leave the table and benches clean after eating.
- Proper lunchroom manners are expected.

Applications for LPA's Free and Reduced Meal program are available for all students in LPA's office.

### **Fire and Tornado Drills**

LPA has a Multi-Hazard Plan in place and practices all necessary drills, such as fire and tornado in compliance with State regulations and laws.

LPA complies with all fire safety laws and will conduct fire drills in accordance with State law. Tornado drills will be conducted during the tornado season using the procedures provided by the State. Specific instructions on how to proceed will be provided to students by their teachers who will be responsible for safe, prompt, and orderly evacuation of the building.

### **Emergency Closings and Delays**

If LPA must be closed or the opening delayed because of inclement weather, it will be on the local television stations. If Lorain City Schools are closed due to inclement weather, LPA is closed.

Parents and students are responsible for knowing about emergency closings and delays.

There may be some emergency instances which will require LPA to be closed early. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS DISCUSS WITH THEIR CHILD EMERGENCY PROCEDURES THAT THEY SHOULD FOLLOW IN THE EVENT LPA IS CLOSED EARLY.

### **Visitors**

Visitors, particularly parents, are welcome to LPA. For the safety of students and staff, ALL visitors MUST report to the office to sign in and pick up a visitor's pass. Any visitor found in the building without signing in shall be reported to the CAO. If a person wishes to confer with a member of the staff, he/she must call for an appointment prior to coming to LPA in order to prevent any inconvenience. Any visitor, including a parent or guardian, failing to comply with LPA's visitor procedure or the direction of the CAO may have restrictions placed on visiting, up to and including prohibition from the premises. The CAO may utilize law enforcement officials in the enforcement of the visitor policy and the safety and security of LPA.

## **Use of LPA Equipment and Facilities**

Students must receive the permission of the teacher before using any equipment or materials in the classroom and the permission of the CAO to use any LPA equipment or facility. Students will be held responsible for the proper use of the safe-keeping of any equipment or facility they are allowed to use.

## **Lost and Found**

A lost and found area is located in the building. Students may check for lost items. Parents are invited to come and check for lost items. Lost items include valuables found in or around LPA should be turned in to the office.

Parents are asked to mark each child's car, sweater, hat, boots, backpacks, and lunch box for identification. Unclaimed items will be given to charity.

## **Student Sales**

NO student is permitted to sell any item or service at LPA without the approval of the CAO. Violation of this policy may lead to disciplinary action. For example, trading or selling of the following items is not allowed: radios, CDs, CD players, MP3 players, tape recorders, toys, cell phones, dolls, electronic video games, trading cards, or other spare time items. The items or others like them shall not be brought to LPA unless the teacher or CAO has given specific permission.

## **Use of Telephones**

Students are not permitted to make calls on the telephone unless the CAO or CIS gives permission. Students will not be called from class for telephone calls. Phone messages from parents to students may be given to the secretary, who will give the message to the student. It is extremely disruptive to have students called from class. No telephone calls will be forwarded to the classrooms.

## **Advertising Outside Activities**

No announcement or posting of outside activities will be permitted without the approval of the CAO. A minimum of twenty-four (24) hours notice is required to ensure that the CAO has the opportunity to review the announcement or posting.

## **Arrival and Dismissal**

Arrival and dismissal: During morning drop off and afternoon pick, we ask that parents follow LPA procedures closely to protect ALL children.

Please do not use interrupt class or use cell phones when dropping off or picking up students.

## Academy Parties

There are only three scheduled parties each year: Fall Celebration, Winter Break, and End of Year.

Teachers enlist the help of parents to assist with the planning and/or supplying the treats. Watch for information from your child's teacher. The date and time of parts will be determined at the building level.

Birthday parties are left up to the discretion of the teacher. Please contact the teacher first before sending any treats to LPA. It is LPA policy not to pass out birthday invitation unless there is one for each member of the class. Handing out a few invitations may cause disruption and hurt feelings.

## Recess

Our policy is that all children go out for recess. They should wear adequate clothing and dress for the weather. On days when the weather is extremely cold (determined by wind and chill factor) or rainy recess will be held inside. **Students will have indoor recess if the wind chill is 20 degrees or less.**

If a student is well enough to come to LPA, he/she is expected to go out for recess. To stay inside, the student must bring a note from the doctor. After an extended illness, if requested in writing by the parents, the student may be allowed to stay in for a day or more at the CAO's discretion.

Students are expected to stay in their assigned play area. Students may not bring items such as baseballs (hardballs,) Frisbees, skateboards, roller blades, scooters or any toy, which may present a safety hazard. It is expected that students listen and follow all instructions given by the playground aids or teachers.

## Leaving LPA

Students may not leave LPA grounds without permission from office personnel. Before this can be granted, a written request from the parent must be presented.

**Students must be signed out in the office by parent/guardian before leaving the building during the LPA day and/or after school.** Students leaving LPA without permission will be considered truant.

## Gum

The chewing of gum will not allowed on school premises. Students should not bring gum to LPA. **Please do not send gum or gum products as a birthday or party treat.**

## Student Pictures

Families may purchase student pictures each year. Student will have their individuals pictures taken early in the school year. Specific information about the procedure and purchase of pictures will be sent home prior to picture day. Specific times for pictures will be established.

## **Parent Involvement**

LPA encourages volunteerism in the school. Volunteers are important to our educational program. When parents volunteer in LPA, they should be a positive role model for our students and follow LPA rules. Volunteers are required to sign in and out at LPA's office and obtain a visitor's pass each time they are volunteering in the building.

## **Section II - Academics**

### **Field Trips**

Field trips are academic activities that are held off LPA grounds. Buses will transfer students to and from field trips. There are also other trips that are part of LPA's co-curricular and extra-curricular programs. **No student may participate in any LPA sponsored trip without written parental consent.**

Field trips are designed to extend curricular areas for our students, however depend on availability of funds. Parents may be asked to pay for part of and/or to chaperone on a field trip. The role of chaperone is to supervise students; therefore siblings are not allowed to accompany parents on any field trip.

Students whose behavior represents safety concerns may be excluded from participation in a field trip.

### **Grading Periods**

Report cards are issued at the end of each ten – week grading period. At the end of the year report cards will be mailed home.

Progress reports are sent home to the parents of all students at the midpoint of each ten – week grading period. They are used to inform parents of any problem or improvement of the students.

Parent – teacher conferences are scheduled in the fall and spring. LPA's calendar will list the exact dates. The classroom teacher will schedule conferences. Parents may arrange a conference with their child's teacher any time during LPA's year by contacting LPA and arranging an appointment.

### **Promotion, Placement, and Retention**

Many factors are taken into consideration when a student is promoted to the next level or retained in the current grade level. Each child is treated as an individual case and will be given individual consideration. LPA does not endorse social promotion.

The teachers are to confer with the CAO concerning all retentions. Parents will be notified of possible retention in writing, near the end or or directly after the third ten – week grading period.

A final decision to retain a student will be made no later than one week before LPA's year ends, and parents will be notified in writing. Teachers will arrange conferences with the parent to explain the benefits of retention and the probable effect it will have on the student's educational growth.

The CAO will be available to discuss the reasons for promotion or retention of any student.

## **Homework**

The assignment of homework can be expected. Student grades will reflect the completion of all work, including outside assignments. It is the student's responsibility to complete and turn in homework assignments. Homework is part of the student's preparation for the standardized tests and graduation.

## **Computer Technology and Networks**

Before any student may enhance his/her LPA career through participation in LPA's computer network, the student and parents must sign an agreement, which defines the conditions under which the student may participate. Failure to abide by all of the terms of the agreement may lead to termination of the student's computer account and possible disciplinary action consistent with the student code of conduct and referral to law enforcement authorities. LPA retains the right to review and monitor computer equipment and networks, and users of LPA computer equipment or networks should have no expectation of privacy.

The use of the network is a privilege, which may be revoked by LPA at any time and for any reason. Appropriate reasons for revoking privileges include, but are not limited to, the altering of system software or placing of unauthorized information, computer viruses or harmful programs on or through the computer system in either public or private files or messages. LPA reserves the right to remove files, limit or deny access, and refer the student for other disciplinary actions.

## **Student Assessment**

To measure student progress, students will be tested in accordance with State standards and LPA policy.

Ohio Achievement Assessments (OAA) are administered once or twice per academic year. Dates are subject to change by the Ohio Department of Education. Parents will be informed two weeks prior to the State established testing dates.

Unless exempted, each student will be expected to pass the appropriate OAA. Make – up dates are scheduled, but unnecessary absences should be avoided.

Additional group tests, such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Scantron Achievement Series, and A+ Interactive Learning System will be administered at various times of the school year to monitor progress and determine educational mastery level. These tests are used to help the staff determine instructional needs.

Classroom tests will be used to assess student progress and assign grades. These are selected or prepared by teachers to assess how well the students have achieved specific objectives.

## **Section III – Student Conduct**

### **Academy Attendance Policy**

It is imperative that students be in attendance each school day in order not to miss a significant portion of their education.. Important learning results from active participation in classroom and other LPA activities, which cannot be replaced by individual study.

LPA is also concerned about helping students develop a high quality work ethic, which will be a significant factor in their success with future employers. One of the most important work habits that employers look for in hiring and promoting workers is dependability in coming to work every day and on time. This is a habit that LPA wants to help students develop as early as possible in their academic careers.

### **Truancy**

A “habitual truant” is a child of compulsory school age who is absent without legitimate excuse for five or more consecutive school days, seven or more school days in one school month, or twelve or more school days in a school year. A “chronic truant” is any child of compulsory school age who is absent without legitimate excuse for seven or more consecutive school days, ten or more school days in one school month, or fifteen or more school days in a school year.

Ohio law demands that any student who, without legitimate excuse, fails to participate in 105 consecutive hours of learning opportunities offered to the student by LPA shall be automatically withdrawn from LPA. LPA will provide the parent/guardian notice and an opportunity to respond prior to an automatic withdrawal. LPA will send notice of automatic withdraw to the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Branch, and to the public school district where the student’s parent/guardian resides.

Unexcused absence from LPA (truancy) is not acceptable. Students who are truant will receive no credit for LPA work that is missed. A student’s designation as a habitual or chronic truant may result in a hearing before a judge in a court of law and/or a report to the local authorities concerning lack of parental responsibility in providing proper care and supervision of a child.

LPA shall attempt to address student attendance problems through a variety of prevention and intervention strategies. These measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Taking disciplinary action against a student for truancy, in accordance with the student code of conduct
- Offering counseling to the family of a student with truancy problems
- Requiring the parent/guardian to contact LPA to discuss the student’s absences
- Giving a student and his/her parent/guardian written warning about the possible legal consequences of truancy
- Requiring the student’s parent/guardian to attend a parental education or training program to encourage parental involvement in compelling the student’s attendance at LPA
- Referring the matter to the Lorain County Clerk of Common Pleas, Juvenile Branch, for consideration
- Initiating automatic withdrawal from LPA

- Filing complaint against the student and his or her parent/guardian in the Lorain County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Branch

LPA will endeavor to work cooperatively with the Lorain County Court of Commons Pleas, Juvenile Branch, and appropriate state and local agencies to deal with the issue of habitual and chronic truancy. LPA will assure:

- The attendance policy will be issued annually to parents/guardians. Parents/guardians are asked to acknowledge receipt of the policy in writing.
- LPA will maintain a “flagging” system to identify absent students as potential habitual and chronic truants before they meet the mandatory timelines for classification as such. Parents/guardians of these students are to be informed of the concern and consequences of such absenteeism.
- LPA has appointed its CAO/BIS (or designee) as the attendance officer for LPA. This person may be subpoenaed to court to verify and testify should there be questions about attendance issues.
- Letters of notification and warning will be sent via certified mail to the parents/guardians of each habitual and chronic truant.
- The police will be notified when a child meets the habitual truant standard.
- LPA will send notice to the superintendent of the public school district where the parent/guardian of the truant student resides.

Teachers are encouraged to consult with the CAO about a student’s attendance problems and to suggest to students and their parents that more formal interventions may become necessary.

If an enrolled student is considered a chronic truant, and the enrolled student’s parent/guardian fails to compel the student’s attendance at LPA, LPA may file a complaint jointly against the student and the student’s parent or guardian in the Lorain County Clerk of Common Pleas, Juvenile Branch, in accordance with Ohio law.

### **Excused Absences**

Student may be excused from LPA for one of the following reasons and will be provided an opportunity to make up missed LPA work and/or tests:

- Personal illness but not illness in the family unless the circumstances are approved by the CAO
- Death in the immediate family
- Professional appointments that cannot be scheduled at non school times
- Absences approved by the CAO for good cause

Student with a health condition that causes repeated absence are to provide the LPA Office with an explanation of the condition from a registered physician.

Parents must provide an explanation for their child’s absence by no later than 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence or send a note the following day. The parents/guardians are to call the LPA office and explain the reason for the absence. If the absence can be foreseen (the “good cause” must be approved by the CAO,) the parent should arrange to discuss the matter as many days as possible before the absence will occur so that arrangements can be made to assist the student in making up the missed school work.

Students who are excusably absent for more than ten (10) days in a grading period, regardless of the reasons, will be considered “frequently absent.” If there is a pattern of frequent absence for “illness,” the parents will be required to provide a

statement from a physician describing the health condition that is causing the frequent illness and the treatment that is being provided to rectify the condition. Without such a statement, the student's permanent attendance record will indicate "frequent unexplained illness," a possible sign of poor work ethic and irresponsible behavior.

During the next grading period, a "frequently-absent" student will be placed on "attendance watch" to monitor whether or not the pattern continues.

### **Suspension and expulsion from LPA**

A suspended or expelled student should take self-responsibility for completing school work missed due to suspension or expulsion. It is recommended that a student complete missed assignments during the suspension or expulsion and turn them in to the teacher upon his/her return to school. Assignment may be obtained from the teacher beginning with the first day of a suspension or expulsion. The student will not be given credit for properly completed assignments.

### **Excusable, Non-approved Absence**

If a student is absent from LPA because of illness or vacation, the absence will not be considered truancy, and s/he may be given opportunity to make up the schoolwork that is missed.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Any student who is absent from LPA for all or any part of the day without a legitimate excuse may be considered truant and the student and his/her parents may be subject to the truancy laws of the State.

### **Notification of Absence**

If a student is going to be absent, the parents must contact LPA by 9:00 a.m. and provide an explanation. If prior contact is not possible, the parents should provide a written excuse as soon as possible. When no excuse is provided, the absence will be unexcused and the student will be considered truant. If the absence of a student appears to be questionable or excessive, the LPA staff will try to help parents improve their child's attendance.

An excused absence allows the student to make up all possible work. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain missed assignments. It is possible that certain kinds of schoolwork such as labs or skill-practice sessions cannot be made up and, as a result, may negatively impact a student's grade.

The skipping of class or any part of the LPA day is considered an unexcused absence and no make-up of class work will be permitted. Disciplinary action will follow.

### **Tardiness**

A student who is not in his/her assigned location by the start of the LPA day shall be considered tardy. Any student arriving late to LPA is to report to the office before proceeding to class. If a student misses any part of the instructional school day, his/her attendance is affected.

### **Vacations during the school year**

Parents are encouraged not to take their child out of LPA for vacations. When a family vacation must be scheduled during the school year, the parents should discuss the

matter with the CAO and the student's teacher(s) to make necessary arrangements. It may be possible for the student to receive certain assignments that are to be completed during the trip.

### **Make-up of Tests and Other LPA Work for Excused Absences**

Students who are excusably absent from LPA shall be given the opportunity to make-up work that has been missed. The student should contact the teacher as soon as possible to obtain assignments.

Students will be given the number of days of excused absence within which to make-up work.

If a student misses a teacher's test due to excused absence, she/he may make arrangements with the teacher to take the test. If she/he misses an Ohio Achievement Assessments or other standardized tests, the student should consult with the teacher to arrange for taking the test within the testing window.

## **STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT LPA EVENTS**

LPA encourages students to attend as many LPA held after school as possible, without interfering with their schoolwork and home activities. Enthusiastic spectators help to build the LPA spirit and encourage those students who are participating in the event.

However, in order to ensure that students attending evening events as non-participants are properly safeguarded, it is strongly advised that a parent or adult chaperone accompany students when they attend the event. LPA will not be able to supervise unaccompanied students nor will it be responsible for students who arrive without an adult chaperone.

LPA will continue to provide adequate supervision for all students who are participants in an LPA activity. Students must comply with the Code of Conduct at LPA events, regardless of the location. Student behavior may prohibit attendance at school events.

## **STUDENT RULES OF CONDUCT**

A major component of the educational program at the LPA is to prepare students to become responsible workers and citizens by learning how to conduct themselves properly and in accordance with established standards.

The Student Rules of Conduct apply at all times on LPA owned or controlled property, including buses or other LPA transportation vehicles owned, controlled, or utilized by District students, at LPA activities and functions, and when students are otherwise under the authority of LPA personnel. These Rules also apply to conduct by a student that occurs off of property owned or controlled by the LPA but that is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by LPA. Finally, these Rules also apply to misconduct by a student, regardless of where it occurs,

that is directed at an LPA official or employee or the property of an LPA official or employee.

The CAO is deemed to have all the power and authority accorded a principal and a superintendent in a traditional public school. The Board of Trustees is deemed to have all of the power and authority accorded a board of education in a traditional public school district.

A copy of this policy shall be posted in a central location in LPA and made available to students upon request. No student shall be suspended, expelled, or removed except in accordance with this policy.

### **Expected Behaviors**

Each student shall be expected to:

- A. Abide by national, State, and local laws as well as the rules of LPA
- B. Respect the civil rights of others
- C. Act courteously to adults and fellow students
- D. Be prompt to LPA and attentive in class
- E. Complete assigned tasks on time and as directed
- F. Help maintain a school environment that is safe, friendly, and productive
- G. Act at all times in a manner that reflects pride in self, family, and in LPA
- H. Follow school-wide rules and expectations :
  - R** – Respect ourselves, others, and our school
  - O** – Only Make Responsible Choices
  - A** – Always Be There, Be Ready
  - R** – Remember to set high expectations

### **Search and Seizure**

Search of a student and his/her possessions may be conducted at any time the student is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees, if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is in violation of law or LPA rules. A search may also be conducted to protect the health and safety of others. All searches may be conducted with or without a student's consent.

Students may be provided lockers, desks, and other equipment in which to store materials. It should be clearly understood that this equipment is the property of LPA and may be searched at any time, *with or without* reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the law or LPA rules. Locks are to prevent theft, not to prevent searches. Any and all property of LPA, including lockers, may be subject to random or for-cause search.

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

All computers located in classrooms, labs and offices of LPA are LPA's property and are to be used by students, where appropriate, solely for educational purposes. LPA retains the right to access and review all electronic, computer files, databases, and any

other electronic transmissions contained in or used in conjunction with LPA computer system, and electronic mail. Students should have no expectation that any information contained on such systems is confidential or private.

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

### **Student Concerns, suggestions, and grievances**

LPA is here for the benefit of the students. The staff is here to assist each student in becoming a responsible adult. If a student has suggestions that could improve LPA, she/he should feel free to offer them. Written suggestions may be presented directly to the CAO.

When concerns or grievances arise, the best way to resolve the issue is through communication. No student will be harassed by any staff member or need fear reprisal for the proper expression of a legitimate concern. As with suggestions, concerns, and grievances may be directed to the CAO.

A student may have the right to a hearing if the student believes she/he has been improperly denied participation in an LPA activity or has been subjected to an illegal rule or standard. A student may not petition to have a change in grade.

## **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Board of Trustees has adopted the following Student Code of Conduct. The Code includes the types of misconduct that will subject a student to disciplinary action and the procedures for implementing disciplinary action.

It is the responsibility of the staff at the LPA to provide a safe and orderly learning environment. History has shown that certain student actions are not compatible with a "safe" and "orderly" environment. Discipline is within the sound discretion of the staff and administration at LPA.

The following provides examples of major areas that could result in disciplinary action. The absence of a behavior or any specific action from the list does not mean that such conduct does not violate the discipline code or cannot be disciplined.

## **EXPLANATION OF TERMS APPLYING TO THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

(Organized by Rule Number)

Each of the behaviors described below may subject the student to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion from LPA and/or notification of law enforcement authorities.

## **1. Conduct Involving Drugs**

LPA is a "Drug Free" zone within the boundaries of the school safety zone established by State law as well as to any LPA activity and transportation. This means that any activity - sale, use, distribution, or use of drugs, alcohol, fake drugs, steroids, inhalants, or look-alike drugs is prohibited. If caught, the student could be suspended or expelled and law enforcement officials may be contacted. Sale also includes the possession or sale of over-the-counter or prescription medication to another student.

## **2. Use of Breath-Test Instruments**

The CAO or assistant administrator or designee may arrange for a breath test for blood-alcohol to be conducted on a student whenever she/he has individualized reasonable suspicion to believe that a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. Imposition of a breath test is at the discretion LPA, and discipline may be imposed without a breath test upon other evidence of use of alcohol.

The student will be taken to a private administrative or instructional area on LPA property with at least one (1) other member of the teaching or administrative staff present as a witness to the test.

The purpose of the test is to determine whether or not the student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. The amount of consumption is not relevant, except where the student may need medical attention.

If the result indicates a violation of LPA rules as described in this handbook, the student will be disciplined in accordance with disciplinary procedures described in this handbook. If a student refuses to take the test, she/he will be advised that such denial will be considered an admission of alcohol use with the consequent discipline invoked. The student will then be given a second opportunity to take the test.

## **3. Use of Tobacco**

Smoking and other tobacco uses are a danger to a student's health and to the health of others. LPA prohibits the sale, distribution, use or possession of any form of tobacco during school time or at any LPA activity. This prohibition also applies when going to and from the LPA and at the LPA bus stops. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

## **4. Student disorder/demonstration**

Students will not be denied their rights to freedom of expression, but the expression may not infringe on the rights of others. Disruption of any LPA activity will not be allowed. If a student (or students) feels there is need to organize some form of demonstration, she/he is encouraged to contact the CAO to discuss the proper way to plan such an activity. Students who disrupt LPA may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

## **5. Possession of a weapon**

A weapon includes conventional objects like a firearm, guns, pellet guns, ammunition, knives, or club type instruments. It may also include any toy that is presented as a real weapon or reacted to as a real weapon. A "firearm" has the same meaning as provided in the "Gun-Free schools Act of 1994," 108 Stat. 270, 20 USC 8001(a) 2. A "knife" is any instrument that possesses a pointed or sharp-edged blade of

metal or other rigid material and that is designed or can be used for cutting, slicing, or stabbing. This definition shall include, but is not limited to: straight razors, razor blades, utility knives, box cutters, ice picks, pocket knives, switch blades and hunting knives. Possession of a weapon may subject a student to suspension or expulsion. It makes no difference whether or not the weapon belongs to someone else, unless the student can provide convincing evidence that the weapon was placed in the student's possession without his/her knowledge. If it can be confirmed that a weapon was brought on the LPA property by a student other than the one who possessed the weapon, that student shall also be subject to the same disciplinary action.

A student may be expelled from LPA if she/he brings onto or has in his/her possession on LPA property or at an activity any of the following:

- A. any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas including bombs, grenades, rockets, missiles, mines, or device that can be converted into such a destructive item
- B. a knife
- C. any firearm or similar objects that are intended to invoke bodily harm or fear of bodily harm (e.g. air gun, blow-gun, toy gun, etc.)

#### **6. Use of an object as a weapon**

Any object that is used to threaten, harm, or harass another may be considered a weapon. This includes but is not limited to padlocks, pens, pencils, laser pointers, jewelry and so on. This violation may subject a student to suspension or expulsion.

#### **7. Knowledge of Dangerous Weapons or Threats of Violence**

Because the Board believes that students, staff members, and visitors are entitled to function in a safe environment at LPA, students are required to report knowledge of dangerous weapons or threats of violence to the CAO. Failure to report such knowledge may subject the student to discipline.

#### **8. Purposely setting a fire or attempting to set fire**

Anything, such as fire, that endangers the property and its occupants at LPA property will not be tolerated. Arson will subject the student to suspension or expulsion.

#### **9. Physically assaulting a staff member/student/person associated with LPA**

Physical assault at LPA against an LPA employee, student, volunteer, or contractor, or another, which may or may not cause injury may result in charges being filed and subject the student to suspension or expulsion. Physical assault is defined as "causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another."

#### **10. Verbally threatening a staff member/student/person associated with LPA**

Verbal assault at LPA against an LPA employee, volunteer, or contractor or making bomb threats or similar threats directed at the building, property, or an LPA-related activity will be considered verbal assault. Verbal threats or assault may result in suspension and expulsion. Verbal assault is a communicated intent to inflict physical or other harm on another person, with a present intent and ability to act on the threat.

### **11. Extortion**

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

### **12. Gambling**

Gambling includes casual betting, betting pools, organized-sports betting, and any other form of wagering. Students who bet on an activity in which they are involved may also be banned from that activity. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

### **13. Falsification of schoolwork, identification, forgery**

Forgery of hall passes and excuses as well as false I.D.'s are forms of lying and are not acceptable.

Plagiarism and cheating are also forms of falsification and subject the student to academic penalties as well as disciplinary action. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

### **14. False alarms, false reports, and bomb threats**

A false emergency alarm, report or bomb threat endangers the safety forces that are responding, the citizens of the community, and persons in the building. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion. The CAO may expel a student from LPA for a period of up to one year for making a bomb threat to LPA building or to any premises at which an LPA activity is occurring at the time of the threat. An expulsion shall extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place.

### **15. Explosives**

Explosives, fireworks, and chemical-reaction objects such as smoke bombs, pipe bombs, bottle bombs, small firecrackers, and poppers are forbidden and dangerous. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

### **16. Trespassing**

Although schools are public facilities, the law does allow the LPA to restrict access on the property of LPA. If a student has been removed, suspended, or expelled, the student is not allowed on the property of LPA without authorization of the CAO. In addition, students may not trespass onto the property of LPA at unauthorized times or into areas of LPA determined to be inappropriate. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

### **17. Theft**

When a student is caught stealing the property of LPA or someone's, she/he will be disciplined and may be reported to law enforcement officials. Students are encouraged not to bring anything of value to LPA that is not needed for learning without prior authorization from the CAO or teacher. LPA is not responsible for personal property. Theft may result in suspension or expulsion.

### **18. Disobedience**

The staff at LPA is acting "in loco parentis," which means they are allowed, by law, to direct a student, as would a parent. This applies to all staff, not just teachers assigned to a student. If given a reasonable direction by a staff member, the student is expected to comply. Disobedience can result in suspension or expulsion.

### **19. Damaging property**

Vandalism and disregard for the property of LPA will not be tolerated. Violations could result in suspension or expulsion, and repayment to LPA of the costs of repair or replacement of the damaged property.

### **20. Persistent absence or tardiness**

Attendance laws require students to be in school all day or have a legitimate excuse. It is also important to establish consistent attendance habits in order to succeed in school and in the world-of-work. Excessive absence could lead to retention, suspension or expulsion from school.

### **21. Unauthorized use of the property of LPA or private property**

Students are expected to obtain permission to use any property of LPA or any private property located on the premises of LPA. Any unauthorized use shall be subject to disciplinary action. This includes use of the Internet and communication networks in a manner not sanctioned by policy and administrative guideline. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

### **22. Refusing to accept discipline**

LPA Sciences may use informal discipline to prevent the student from being removed from school. When a student refuses to accept the usual discipline for an infraction, the refusal can result in a sterner action such as suspension or expulsion.

### **23. Aiding or abetting violation of the rules of LPA**

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

### **24. Displays of affection**

Students demonstrating affection between each other are personal and not meant for public display. This includes touching, hugging, kissing, petting, or any other contact that may be considered sexual in nature. Such behavior may result in suspension from LPA or possibly expulsion.

### **25. Possession of electronic equipment**

Most electronic equipment necessary in LPA is supplied by the LPA. Students are not allowed to bring radios, "boom-boxes", portable TV's, electronic toys, pagers, cellular telephones, laser pens, and the like without the permission of CAO. The property will be confiscated and disciplinary action will be taken. Violations of this rule could result in suspension or expulsion.

## **26. Violation of individual LPA/classroom rules**

Each learning environment has different rules for students. Individual rules are for the safe and orderly operation of that environment. Students will be oriented to specific rules, all of which will be consistent with the policy of LPA. While every attempt will be made to teach/re-teach appropriate behavior, persistent violations of rules could result in suspension or expulsion.

## **27. Disruption of the educational process**

Any actions or manner of dress that interferes with the activities or disrupts the educational process at LPA is unacceptable. Such disruptions also include delay or prevention of lessons, assemblies, field trips, athletic, and performing arts events.

## **28. Harassment/Bullying/Hazing**

The Ohio Legislature defines bullying as an intentional written, verbal, or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both: (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student, and (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student.

### **Harassment Policy 2010-2011**

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

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

Any student that believes she/he has been/or is the victim of harassment should immediately report the situation to any available staff member.

Every student should, and every staff member must report any situation that they believe to be improper harassment of a student. Reports may be made to those identified above.

If the investigation finds harassment occurred it will result in prompt and appropriate remedial action. This may include up to expulsion for students, up to discharge for employee, exclusion for parents, guests, volunteers and contractors, and removal from any officer position and/or a request to resign for Board members. Retaliation against any person for complaining about harassment, or participating in a harassment investigation, is prohibited. Suspected retaliation should be reported in the same manner as harassment. Intentionally false harassment reports, made to get someone

in trouble, are also prohibited. Retaliation and intentionally false reports may result in disciplinary action as indicated above.

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

**Harassment**

- A. submission to such unwelcomed conduct or communication is made either an explicit or implicit condition of utilizing or benefiting from the services, activities, or programs of the Academy of Arts and Sciences
- B. submission to, or rejection of, the unwelcomed conduct or communication is used as the basis for a decision to exclude, expel or limit the harassed student in the terms, conditions or privileges of the Academy of Arts and Sciences
- C. the unwelcomed conduct or communication interferes with the student's education, creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment, or otherwise adversely affects the student's educational opportunities. This may include racial slurs, mocking behavior, or other demeaning comments.

**Sexual Harassment**, may include, but is not limited to:

- A. verbal harassment or abuse
- B. pressure for sexual activity
- C. Repeated remarks with sexual or demeaning implications
- D. unwelcome touching
- E. sexual jokes, posters, cartoons, etc.
- F. suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, safety, job, or performance of public duties

**Bullying** – intimidation of others by acts, such as but not limited to:

- A. threatened or actual physical harm
- B. unwelcomed physical contact
- C. threatening or taunting verbal, written or electronic communications
- D. taking or extorting money or property
- E. damaging or destroying property
- F. blocking or impeding student movement

**Hazing** – any type of initiation procedure for any Academy related activity, which involves conduct such as, but not limited to: illegal activity, such as drinking or drugs;

- A. physical punishment or infliction of pain
- B. intentional humiliation or embarrassment
- C. dangerous activity
- D. activity likely to cause mental or psychological stress
- E. forced detention or kidnapping
- F. undressing or otherwise exposing initiates

Note: If the LPA club or organization does not have an official and approved initiation procedure, and if no LPA staff members are involved in the activity, there is a significant likelihood that the activity may result in violation of this policy.

### **Confidentiality**

Every reasonable effort will be made to maintain confidentiality during the investigation process. However, a proper investigation will, in some circumstances, require the disclosure of names and allegations.

### **Notification**

Notice of this policy will be given annually, and discussed with students, as well as incorporated into the teacher, student and parent/guardian handbooks. State and Federal rights posters on discrimination and harassment shall also be posted. All new hires of LPA will be required to review and sign off on this policy and the related complaint procedure.

### **29. Possession of a firearm, Arson, and Criminal Sexual Conduct**

The CAO shall expel any student who possesses a dangerous weapon in a weapon-free LPA zone or commits either arson or criminal sexual conduct in the LPA building or on LPA property, including buses and other transportation.

A dangerous weapon is defined as “a firearm, knife, iron bar, or brass knuckles” or other devices designed to or likely to inflict bodily harm, including, but not limited to, air guns and explosive devices.

Students with disabilities under IDEIA or Section 504 shall be suspended or expelled in accordance with LPA and/or Board Policy and Federal due process rights appropriate to students with disabilities.

### **30. Criminal acts**

Any student engaging in criminal acts at or related to LPA may be reported to law enforcement officials as well as disciplined by LPA. It is not considered double jeopardy (being tried twice for the same crime), when the rules of LPA and the law are violated.

Students should be aware that state law allows that LPA officials, teachers and appropriate law enforcement officials be notified when a student of said school is involved in crimes related to physical violence, gang related acts, illegal possession of a controlled substance, analogue or other intoxicants, trespassing, property crimes, including but not limited to theft and vandalism, occurring in LPA as well as in the community.

### **31. Safety Concerns**

Students should not use roller blades, bicycles, skateboards scooters, shoes with wheels or any other form of personal transportation device in hallways or pedestrian traffic areas at LPA. Exceptions may be made to reasonably accommodate students with

mobility impairments. Use of any means of travel within buildings and on grounds by other than generally accepted practices where appropriate is prohibited. Students violating this expectation will be subject to disciplinary action.

### **32. Profanity**

Any behavior or language, which in the judgment of the staff or administration, is considered to be obscene, disrespectful, offensive, vulgar, profane and/or violates community held standards of good taste will be subject to disciplinary action.

## **Corrective Action**

It is important to remember that the rules apply going to and from LPA, at LPA, on the property of LPA, at LPA-sponsored events, and on school transportation. In some cases, a student can be suspended or expelled from LPA.

Ultimately, it is the CAO's responsibility to keep things orderly. In all cases, LPA shall attempt to make corrective action prompt and equitable and to have the corrective action match the severity of the incident.

### **Definitions**

- Verbal Reprimand/Warning
- Detentions - Up to an hour before or after school on a day LPA is in session under the supervision of LPA personnel. Parent notification and acknowledgment will be made prior to detention.
- In-school Suspension - Isolation from peers (one hour to all day). Daily class work will be made available. Credit will be given for all complete work. Removal from co-curricular activities may occur.
- Out-of-school Suspension - Removal from LPA up to 10 days. Removal from co-curricular activities.
- Expulsion The CAO may expel a student from LPA for a period not to exceed the greater of eighty school days or the number of school days remaining in this semester or term in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place, unless the expulsion is extended consistent with the Code of Conduct and state law. If, at the time an expulsion is imposed, there are fewer than eighty LPA days remaining in the school year, in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place, the CAO may apply any remaining part or all the period of the expulsion to the following school year.
- Saturday school – Saturday school may be used as an alternative form of discipline at the discretion of the CAO.

Two types of corrective action are possible, informal corrective action and formal discipline.

### **Informal Corrective Action**

Informal correction action takes place within the LPA. It includes:

- counsel with student
- remove certain privileges

- arrange student and/or parent conference
- behavior contract
- change of seating or location
- recess, lunch-time, before or after-Academy detention
- in-school restriction

### **Detentions**

A student may be detained after school or asked to come to school early by a teacher, after giving the student and his/her parents one (1) day's notice. The student's parents are responsible for transportation.

### **Formal Discipline**

Formal discipline removes the student from LPA. It includes emergency removal for up to seventy-two (72) hours, suspension for up to ten (10) school days, and expulsion from LPA. Suspensions and expulsions may carry over into the next school year. Removal for less than one (1) school day without the possibility of suspension or expulsion may not be appealed. Suspension and expulsion can be appealed.

### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities are entitled to the rights and procedures afforded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (I.D.E.I.A.) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (A.D.A.), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

## **PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND EMERGENCY REMOVAL**

### **A. Suspension**

Suspension is defined as the denial to a student for a period of at least one (1) but no more than ten (10) school days.

After alleged misconduct becomes known to LPA administrators, the student shall be given written notice of the intention to suspend and the reasons for such action by the CAO or assistant administrator. The student will be given an opportunity to appear at an informal hearing before the CAO or assistant administrator, or designee, to challenge the reasons for the possible suspension or to otherwise explain his/her actions.

Within one school day after the time of a student's suspension, the CAO or assistant administrator, or designee shall send written notice of the suspension to the student and his/her parent, guardian, or custodian and the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The notice shall specify the duration of the suspension and the reasons therefore. It also shall include notification of the right of the student or his/her parent, guardian or custodian to appeal the suspension to the Board of Trustees or its designee the CAO, within fourteen (14) calendar days of the first date of suspension, to be represented in the appeal proceeding, and to request that such hearing be held in executive session if conducted by the Board of Trustees.

This procedure shall not and need not be followed in cases where a student is removed from one or more curricular for a period of less than twenty-four (24) hours and

is not subject to suspension or in cases where a student is removed from any extracurricular activities.

## **B. Expulsion**

Expulsion is defined as the denial to the student, for a period of more than ten (10) LPA days but less than eighty (80) LPA days (except for circumstances identified below), of permission to attend LPA and to take part in any LPA function.

Prior to any expulsion, the CAO shall give the student and his/her parent, guardian or custodian written notice of the possibility of expulsion and shall provide the student and his/her parent, guardian or custodian with an opportunity to appear in person before the CAO or designee and challenge the reasons for the possible expulsion or otherwise explain the student's actions.

The notice shall include the reasons for the possible expulsion, notification of the right of the student, guardian, custodian or their representative to appear before the CAO or designee to hear and to challenge the reasons for the possible expulsion or otherwise to explain the student's actions, and notification of the time and place to appear. The time to appear shall not be earlier than three (3) nor later than five (5) days after the notice is given unless the CAO grants an extension of time at the request of the student, or his/her parent, guardian, custodian or representative. Such extensions shall not exceed five (5) days. If an extension of time is granted, the CAO or designee shall notify the student and his/her parent, guardian, custodian or representative of the new time and place to appear.

Within one school day after the time of any expulsion, the CAO shall send written notice to the student and his/her parent, guardian or custodian and the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The notice shall specify the duration of the expulsion and the reasons therefore. It also shall include notification of the right of the student or his/her parent, guardian or custodian to appeal the expulsion to the Board of Trustees or to its designee within fourteen (14) days of the expulsion, to be represented in the appeal proceeding, to be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee in order to be heard against the expulsion, and to request that such hearing be held in executive session if conducted by the Board.

The CAO shall initiate expulsion proceedings pursuant to R.C. 3313.66 with respect to any student who has committed an act warranting expulsion under the LPA's policy regarding expulsion even if the student has withdrawn from LPA for any reason after the incident that gives rise to the hearing but prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. If, following the hearing, the student would have been expelled for a period of time had the student still been enrolled in LPA, the expulsion shall be imposed for the same length of time as on a student who has not withdrawn from LPA.

Suspensions and expulsions may be carried over into the following school year. When students are expelled for more than twenty (20) school days or for any period of time that extends into the next school year, the CAO shall give the expelled student(s) the names, addresses and telephone numbers of public and private agencies that work toward improving student attitudes and behavior.

The CAO is authorized to expel a student from LPA for a period not to exceed one year for committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons as defined in Division (A)(5) of Section 2901.01 of the Revised Code or serious physical harm to property as defined in Division (A)(6) of Section 2901.01 of the Revised Code while the student is at LPA, on any other

property owned or controlled by the Board, or at an interscholastic competition, an extracurricular event, or any other LPA program or activity not located either in an LPA or property owned or controlled by the Board. Any expulsion under this division shall extend, as necessary, into the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place. The expulsion period may be reduced on a case-by-case basis for such reasons as the age and mental capacity of the student, the student's prior disciplinary record, the degree of remorse shown, and any other fact deemed mitigating by the CAO under the particular circumstances.

Whenever a student is suspended or expelled for possession or use of drugs or a firearm, knife, or other weapon, the CAO shall notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and the Judge of the Juvenile Court. Such notification is to be given within two (2) weeks after the suspension or expulsion in a manner that complies with the provisions of R.C. 3321.13(B) (3).

### **C. Emergency Removals**

Emergency Removal is defined as the denial to a student whose presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process taking place either within a classroom or elsewhere on LPA premises, for a period not exceeding seventy-two (72) hours, of permission to attend the Academy and to take part in any LPA function.

When circumstances are such that a student's continuing presence in LPA, pending completion of the procedures set forth in subparagraphs A or B, is reasonably certain to pose a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat or disrupting the academic process taking place either within the classroom or elsewhere on LPA premises or at LPA sponsored or related activities or events, the CAO or assistant administrator, or designee, may remove a student from curricular or extracurricular activities or from LPA premises without complying with the notice and hearing requirements of subparagraphs A or B. In like circumstances, a teacher may remove a student from curricular or extracurricular activities under his/her supervision, without complying with the notice and hearing requirements of subparagraphs A or B. As soon as practicable after making such removal, the teacher shall submit reasons, in writing, for such removal to the CAO.

If a student is removed under this subparagraph, written notice of the reason(s) for the removal and written notice of the hearing to be held regarding the removal shall be given to the student as soon as practicable prior to the hearing. The hearing must be held within seventy-two (72) hours from the time the initial removal is ordered.

The hearing shall be held in accordance with the procedure set forth in subparagraph A above, pertaining to suspensions, unless it is probable that the student may be subject to expulsion. In that event, the hearings shall be held in accordance with the procedure set forth in subparagraph B above, except that the hearing shall be held within seventy-two (72) hours of the initial removal. LPA's official who ordered, caused or requested the student's removal under this provision shall be present at the hearing, unless unable to attend.

This procedure shall not and need not be followed in cases when a student is removed from one or more curricular or extracurricular activities for a period of less than twenty-four (24) hours and is not subject to suspension or expulsion.

#### **D. Disciplinary Removal**

Disciplinary Removal is an action less severe than suspension, expulsion or emergency removal and is defined as the removal of the student from a class or other curricular for less than twenty-four (24) hours.

1. A student may be removed from a class or other curricular activity where the student engages in conduct which tends to interfere with or disrupt the class or curricular activity or for a violation of code or LPA rules and regulations.
2. When a student is removed from a curricular activity for more than twenty-four (24) hours, the student shall be given notice of the removal and the reasons for the removal. The student will be given an opportunity to appear before the CAO or assistant administrator, or designee, to hear the reasons for the removal and to explain his/her actions.

#### **E. Other Matters**

1. The student and his/her parent, guardian, or custodian may be requested to come to LPA for a conference with the CAO or assistant administrator, or designee. This conference shall normally be held no later than the date the student is scheduled to return to LPA from a suspension or expulsion.
2. Personnel employed by LPA to direct, supervise, or coach a pupil activity program may prohibit a student from participating in that program for up to five school days for violation of LPA rules, violation of program standards, or other cause deemed sufficient by LPA. The CAO or assistant administrator, or designee, may suspend a student from any particular or all extracurricular activities of LPA for any extended period of time.

MEMORANDUM TO PARENTS REGARDING BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY  
ON DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Trustees prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on LPA' grounds, in LPA-approved vehicles, or at any LPA-related event. Drugs include any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, controlled substance, or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from LPA, LPA will also notify law enforcement officials.

LPA is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which s/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact LPA's Chief Administrative Officer or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

Parent/Student Acknowledgement of LPA's Student Code of  
Conduct

We, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Student

have received and read the LPA Handbook and Code of Conduct. We understand the rights and responsibilities pertaining to students and agree to support and abide by the rules, guidelines, procedures, and policies of LPA. We also understand that this handbook supersedes all prior handbooks and other written material on the same subjects; *that this handbook should not be construed to accord any rights or privileges to students or families beyond those accorded by law; and that this handbook may be revised at any time, with or without notice.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date