

Cedars International Next Generation High
School Highland Campus

Campus Handbook

2017-2018

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RECEIPT OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT & HANDBOOK

Introduction

Campus rules of conduct and discipline, maintained in the campus student handbook are established to achieve and maintain order in the schools, and to teach respect toward others and responsible behavior. Each student is expected to respect the rights and privileges of other students, teachers, and District staff. All teachers, administrators, and other District personnel are expected to respect the rights and privileges of students.

Campus handbooks are intended to augment the District Student Handbook and District Code of Conduct. In case of conflict between a Board policy or the Student Code of Conduct and provisions of student handbooks, policy and/or the Student Code of Conduct shall prevail.

About Our School

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|---|---|
| <p>Mission Statement</p> <p>Cedars Academy Next Generation High School teachers and staff are committed to providing all students with rigorous learning and personalized relationships to ensure their success as responsible, globally-conscious citizens.</p> | <p>Core Values</p> <p>Respect: Honoring the value of yourself, another person or an object through your words, actions and attitude</p> <p>Integrity: Being honest, just and ethical in your words and actions</p> |
| <p>Vision Statement</p> <p>The goal of Cedars Academy Next Generation High School Highland Campus is to prepare students to excel in an information-based and technologically-advanced society. We are committed to leading educational reform and our instructional program encourages students to learn through collaboration with peers, businesses, and the community. Students develop problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills, and the resiliency they need to succeed in a rapidly changing and competitive world.</p> | <p>Responsibility: Holding yourself and others accountable for completing tasks, following directions, and upholding Cedars High School culture</p> <p>Perseverance: Doing your best to complete the task at hand regardless of obstacles or difficulty</p> <p>Trust: Believing in yourself and others to do the right thing</p> |
| <p>Project-Based Learning</p> <p>Our curriculum brings together the strength of modern technology, community partnerships, problem-solving, interdisciplinary instruction, and global perspectives in a student-centered, collaborative, project-based community.</p> | |
| <p>The Four Pillars</p> <p>Project-Based Learning is our primary mode of instruction. Technology is used as an Invisible Tool. Student Expectations are set high for all who attend our school. Positive School Culture is essential for the success of all stakeholders.</p> | |

21st Century Learning Outcomes

Written Communication: The ability to effectively communicate knowledge and thinking through writing by organizing and structuring ideas and using discipline appropriate language and conventions.

Oral Communication: The ability to communicate knowledge and thinking through effective oral presentation.

Collaboration: The ability to be a productive member of diverse teams through strong interpersonal communication, a commitment to shared success, leadership, and initiative.

Knowledge & Thinking: The ability to reason, problem-solve, develop sound arguments or decisions, and create new ideas by using appropriate sources and applying the knowledge and skills of a discipline.

Agency: The ability to develop a Growth Mindset and take ownership over one's own learning.

Academics

Curriculum

Project-Based Learning is the primary mode of instruction at Cedars Academy Next Generation High School Highland Campus. We offer a variety of courses for 8th grade and high school credit, courses designed to prepare students to take Advanced Placement (AP) exams, as well as courses for college credit through our Dual-Credit agreement with Austin Community College. Our campus has a strong focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

Graduation Pathways

The Class of 2018 and beyond will follow new graduation requirements that are aligned with House Bill 5 of the 83rd Texas Legislature. The requirements are outlined in the Texas Administrative Code Title 19, Chapter 74, Subchapter B, Sections 74.12 and 74.13. All students in these graduating classes will be expected to earn the Foundation High School Program diploma, as well as at least one Endorsement through a graduation pathway listed in the table below.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| STEM Endorsement | Business & Industry Endorsement |
|-----------------------------|--|

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Computer Science | Engineering & Robotics | STEM Research | Audio/Video Production | Graphic Design & Illustration |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Public Service | Arts & Humanities | Multidisciplinary Studies |
| To be determined | Art I, II, III & IV | One elective class from each of the other pathways |

Dual Credit and College Certification

Student Responsibility for the Cedars International Free Tuition and Book Program.

A student is eligible for the Cedars International Free Tuition and Book Program automatically the first time a student enrolls in an ACC dual credit class or an ACC certification class. The student will remain eligible in the Cedars International Free Tuition and Book Program each semester while enrolled in Cedars Academy Next Generation High School as long as a student maintains a final passing grade of a C or above for every class attempted at the end of each semester.

If a student falls below a C for a final grade in any class attempted at the end of a semester the student will be withdrawn from the Cedars International Free Tuition and Book Program and would have to purchase their own books and all classes attempted the next semester they enroll in ACC classes. If student passes all of their attempted classes with a final grade of a C or above the following semester they enroll in ACC classes the Cedars International Free Tuition and Book Program would be reinstated for as long as the student remains eligible with no final grades below a grade of a C.

If a student withdrawals from an ACC class at anytime and gets a partial refund the student would be required to pay that difference between the initial tuition minus the refunded amount for the next class the following semester they attempt classes. However, if a student receives no refund for withdrawing the student would be removed from the Cedars International Free Tuition and Book Program until the student passes all of their attempted classes with a final grade of a C or above the following semester they enroll in ACC classes.

Example: If a student withdraws from a class and receives an 80% refund the student would be required to pay 20% the following semester on any and all attempted classes and so on. However, if the student loses the entire tuition after withdrawing they would be removed from the Cedars International Free Tuition and Book Program until the student passes all of their attempted classes with a final grade of a C or above the following semester they enroll in ACC classes.

Intervention & Clubs

Students at Cedars Academy Next Generation High School Highland Campus have a variety of clubs that students can join during the school day that meet every Tuesday through Friday just after 3rd Period/B-Lunch. If a student is struggling academically, the student is assigned to the Intervention Club by one or more of the student's teachers. Club offerings change on a regular basis, and students are given the option to choose new clubs once every six weeks.

Grading Procedures

8th Grade:

1. In calculating semester grades, 3 six weeks grading period is added up and divided by 3 to give the semester average.
2. Teachers have the autonomy to set the weights for the different learning outcomes in echo for each of their classes.
3. Each learning outcome is assessed at least 3 times per six weeks grading period. This is to give the students a fair distribution of grades per learning outcome.
4. Grades are to be updated every week by Tuesday morning so that students and parents can have an accurate and up-to-date grade calculation.
5. If a student is failing at progress report or at the end of a six weeks grading period, parents will be notified.

9th- 12th Grade:

1. In calculating trimester grades, each six week grade is worth 42.5% of the trimester grade (which adds up to 85%), and trimester final exams are worth 15% of the trimester grade.
2. Teachers have the autonomy to set the weights for the different learning outcomes in echo for each of their classes.
3. Each learning outcome is assessed at least 3 times per six weeks grading period. This is to give the students a fair distribution of grades per learning outcome.
4. Grades are to be updated every week by Tuesday morning so that students and parents can have an accurate and up-to-date grade calculation.

5. If a student is failing at progress report or at the end of a six weeks grading period, parents must be notified.

Echo

Echo is the online Learning Management System from the New Tech Network that integrates gradebook, lessons, activities and Google Docs. For guidance on how to use Echo system, contact Mr. Stuart Ray: sray@cedars-academy.org

Discipline

Campus rules of conduct and discipline are established in the district Student Handbook. The following are campus-specific aspects of disciplinary management.

Teacher Documentation Process

For mild & moderate behavior offenses, staff are expected to use the following process:

1. Verbal Warning will be given to the student.
2. Behavior Report will be given to the student and logged via echo.
3. Behavior Report will be given via echo, & Parent Contact will be made.
4. Behavior Report given via echo, & the student is sent to the Front Office.

Circle Time & Opportunities For Personal Growth

Once a student is sent to the Front Office, depending on the nature and severity of the disciplinary issue, students and parents/guardians may be given the option to either accept the consequences set forth by the Principal, or may opt to resolve the matter by addressing all staff and students of the school during Circle Time in a restorative justice practice we call an “Opportunity For Personal Growth.” The student will explain why he or she came to the school, how he or she violated our school’s culture, and what he or she will do differently to prevent this from happening again. At that point, the rest of our learning community will be asked whether they accept the student addressing the school back into our community, and if one person objects with valid reason, then the matter is referred back to the principal for further action.

School Hours

Monday start time is 9:15 A.M.- End time 4:05 P.M.

Tuesday- Friday start time is 8:40- End time 4:05 P.M.

Attendance Requirements

A child between 6 and 18, depending upon his/her birthday, and any child who is enrolled in Kindergarten, is required to attend school and any school-required tutorial sessions.

Absences from school can interfere with a child's learning and can be very expensive for the local taxpayer. The school receives state funds based on Average Daily Attendance (ADA), and the State mandates that the school enforce attendance laws. School employees investigate and report violations (TEC 21.021). To receive credit for a class, students must attend more than 90% of the instruction days. The only valid reasons for absences are illness of the student, serious illness or death in the family, and serious emergencies.

Students must bring a signed note from their parent / guardian with an explanation for any absence. This note is to be given to the office staff. Absences longer than 3 days require a physician's release for re-admittance. Students who miss more than 10 days of school or class within a six-month period may be referred to the principal to determine whether the absences are excused or how the student can regain credit.

A student may be retained in the current grade if s/he has missed 18 or more school days and his/her success in the next grade is considered jeopardized.

A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her parents if a school-aged student is deliberately NOT attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the student:

- Is absent from school on 10 or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period.
- For a student younger than 12 years of age, the student's parent could be charged with a criminal offense based on the student's failure to attend school.
- If a student over the age of 12 violates the compulsory attendance law, both the parent and student could be charged with a criminal offense.

What if I check my child out early?

Checking your child out of school before 4:00pm counts as a "Leave Early" entrance on your child's truancy record. It is considered unexcused unless a medical note is provided from a doctor or dentist stating your child had a medical appointment during a time period that warranted leaving early.

Unexcused "Leave Early" entries are considered missing part of a school day and count towards the 10 unexcused absences that triggers a filing.

Excused Absences: Cedars accepts the following as extenuating circumstances and, therefore, excused absences:

1. Personal illness, family illness/death, quarantine, dangerous weather/road conditions or any other unusual cause acceptable to the principal or teacher.
2. Days of suspension. (For grades taken during a suspension an academic penalty of no more than 20% of the grade may be imposed.)
3. Observance of religious holidays, holy days, including travel for that purpose.
4. Required screening, diagnosis, and treatment for Medicaid-eligible students.
5. An extracurricular activity or public performance as approved by the teacher or principal.
6. A juvenile court proceeding documented by a probation officer.
7. An absence required by state or local welfare workers.
8. Documented health appointments, such as doctor or dental appointments, if the student begins or returns to school on the same day as the appointment.
9. Family emergencies or unforeseen or unavoidable instances requiring immediate attention.

Unexcused Absences

Absences for reasons other than those listed may be considered unexcused. No make-up work for full credit shall be allowed for unexcused absences unless authorized by the teacher and/or principal.

Attendance Letters

Letters will be sent to parents once a student has reached 3 unexcused absences and again at 7 unexcused absences. The letters serve as a reminder of state law and a warning that charges will be filed once a student gets 10 unexcused absences. Remember, non-medical tardies and “leave early” entries count as unexcused absences as the students are missing a part of the school day.

Parent’s Note After an Absence

When a student must be absent from school, the Parent/Guardian has three (3) days from the date the student returns to school to send a signed note describing the reason for absence. When a student is absent for personal illness for three (3) or more consecutive days, the student shall present a statement from a physical or health clinic verifying the illness or other condition.

All notes, regardless of the type, must be presented to the campus attendance clerk upon the student’s return to school.

Doctor’s note after an absence for illness

Upon return to school, a student absent for more than 3 consecutive days because of a personal illness must bring a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's extended absence from school. Should the student develop a questionable pattern of absences, the principal or attendance clerk may require a statement from a doctor or health clinic verifying the illness or condition that caused the student's absence from school.

Saturday School

Saturday school will be held on campus for all students that have excessive absences and tardies. Saturday school will be mandatory for aforementioned students. Information will be provided to the parent prior to the scheduled day. Students will be required to complete assignments while in Saturday School.

Tuancy

Tuancy is an unexcused absence with no opportunity to make up the work for credit. Consequences for truancy may include after-school detention, additional make-up homework, or other disciplinary measures.

Release of Students

Students shall not be released from school at times other than regular dismissal hours, except with office approval and according to school sign-out procedures. A student who needs to leave school during school hours must be signed out in the office by a designated adult.

A student will not be released on a regular basis before the end of the instructional day. For the safety of the student, a student will only be released to people who have been designated by the parents/guardians as authorized to pick up that child. If a person is unfamiliar to the school staff, a picture I.D. will be required before the child is released to that person.

Withdrawal from School

A parent/guardian wishing to withdraw a student from school must contact the office at least 2 days before the student's last day so that records and documents may be prepared.

Drop-Off

The building will be open to students with staff members present at 8:00 A.M. Tuesday- Friday and at 8:45 AM on Mondays. Should students arrive earlier than those time listed they may wait

outside until a staff member arrives to open the building. Students will not be aloud to get food from the cafe nor sit and eat 5 mins before the first class period.

Pick- Up

A student who has not been picked up by 4:50 will be asked to wait for their ride home in the Foyer of the building where it is air conditioned and locked from the outside for safety. We ask that parents notify the school in writing of their student's transportation home such as riding a bike, walking or taking the public bus. If the student's mode of transportation changes please notify the front office of the change in writing. Students will be permitted to drive to school if they have a valid Texas Driver's License and proof of insurance.

Tardies

A student is considered tardy when they enter a classroom after the start time of the class. If a student arrives to school late they must check in with the front office first. If a student is late to a class because they stayed behind to continue working in another class the student must present the teacher of the current class with a pass from the teacher they stayed behind with. A student's report card will reflect the amount of times a student has been marked tardy. If a student is continually late to class(es) parents will be contacted for a conference.

Health & Safety

Student safety on school grounds and at school-related activities is a high priority at Cedars. We have implemented policies and committed resources with safety in mind. However, Cedars can address only part of the challenge; the essential remaining part is the cooperation of the students including: avoiding behavior that puts students or others at risk physically or emotionally following the Code of Conduct and any additional rules for behavior set by the school or teachers promptly following instructions of teachers or other school staff promptly reporting safety hazards, including intruders on campus following emergency evacuation signals and procedures. An accident report will be sent home to be signed by a parent/adult when an injury occurs at school.

Front Door: An automatic locking front door is installed. The door will be open from 8:15 to 8:45 a.m. and from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. Starting at 8:45 visitors will need to buzz the school secretary to be allowed in. The buzzer is located to the right of the door. Please keep in mind that the front office is closed at 4:30 and the front door will be locked.

Medication Policy

For students who need to have medications during a school day, the parent/guardian must complete a Medical Release form (available in the front office). All medicines will be kept in the school office and can only be administered by a staff member and only when accompanied by a Medical Release form. However, students may now self-administer prescription asthma, and/or seizure medication provided the student's parent/guardian and physician have provided written documentation indicating such. In addition the medication must be in a container that is properly labeled.

Immunizations

In accordance with standards required by the Texas Department of Health the following immunizations are necessary:

- Polio: 4 doses (However, 3 doses meets the requirement if the 3rd dose was received on or after the 4th birthday.)
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP/DTaP/DT): For K-6th grade, 5 doses; 1 dose must have been received on or after 4th birthday. However, 4 doses meet the requirement if the 4th dose was received on or after the 4th birthday. For students aged 7 years and older, 3 doses meet the requirement if 1 dose was received on or after the 4th birthday. For 7th grade, 1 dose of Tdap is required if at least 5 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. For 8th grade, 1 dose of Tdap is required when 10 years have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in place of Tdap if a medical contraindication to pertussis exists.
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccines (MMR): For K-6th grade, 2 doses of MMR are required. For 7th grade, 2 doses of measles and 1 dose each of rubella and mumps vaccine are required. (The 1st dose of MMR must be received on or after the 1st birthday)
- Hepatitis A (HepA): 2 doses are required. The 1st dose of hepatitis A must be received on or after the 1st birthday. A child will not be considered delinquent in this series until 18 months have elapsed since receiving the 1st dose.
- Hepatitis B (HepB): 3 doses are required. For students aged 11-15 years, 2 doses meet the requirement if adult hepatitis B vaccine was received.
- Varicella: 2 doses required. The 1st dose of varicella must be received on or after the 1st birthday.
- Meningococcal – For 7th grade, 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine is required upon enrollment. For student 11-12 years of age entering 7th grade, 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine is required.

Exemptions

Texas law allows (a) physicians to write medical exemption statements that the vaccine(s) required would be medically harmful or injurious to the health and wellbeing of the child or

household member, and (b) parents/guardians to choose an exemption from immunization requirements for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. The law does not allow parents/guardians to elect an exemption simply because of inconvenience (for example, a record is lost or incomplete and it is too much trouble to go to a physician or clinic to correct the problem). Schools and childcare facilities should maintain an up-to-date list of students with exemptions, so they may be excluded in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of public health.

For children claiming medical exemptions, a written statement by the physician must be submitted to the school or child-care facility. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.

Provisional Enrollment

All immunizations should be completed by the first date of attendance. The law requires that students be fully vaccinated against the specified diseases. A student may be enrolled provisionally if the student has an immunization record that indicates the student has received at least one dose of each specified age appropriate vaccine required by this rule. To remain enrolled, the student must complete the required subsequent doses in each vaccine series on schedule and as rapidly as is medically feasible and provide acceptable evidence of vaccination to the school. A school nurse or school administrator shall review the immunization status of a provisionally enrolled student every 30 days to ensure continued compliance in completing the required doses of vaccination. If, at the end of the 30-day period, a student has not received a subsequent dose of vaccine, the student is not in compliance and the school shall exclude the student from school attendance until the required dose is administered.

Additional guidelines for provisional enrollment of students transferring from one Texas public or private school to another, students who are dependents of active duty military, and students who are homeless can be found in the TAC, Title 25 Health Services, Sections 97.66 and 97.69.

Documentation

Since many types of personal immunization records are in use, any document will be acceptable provided a physician or public health personnel has validated it. The month, day, and year that the vaccination was received must be recorded on all school immunization records created or updated after September 1, 1991.

Head Lice

Head lice are one of the nuisances that parents of students occasionally find themselves dealing with. Cedars International Academy follows the Department of

State Health Services recommendations. Individual head checks are performed on an as needed basis. Mass screenings will not be conducted. Parents are encouraged to periodically check their child's head for lice. When live lice are discovered at school the parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up and treat their student as soon as possible. Students will be allowed to return to school after one (1) treatment. One (1) day of absence will be excused to allow for treatment. When returning to school the nurse must see the student before they attend classes. See the school nurse or visit <http://www.dshs.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm> for additional information.

School Meals

Cedars Academy participates in the National School Meals Program and offers free and reduced-price meals based on a student's financial need. Information on the meal program is available in the cafeteria office and participation is confidential. Applications must be completed annually. Breakfast and lunch are provided daily and meal prices may be adjusted each year.

Prices for the 2016-17 school year are as follows:

Breakfast: Free for all students at Cedars; Adult \$2.25

Lunch: Student Full \$2.60; Reduced \$.40; Adult \$3.25

Snacks: Prices Vary

Lunch Times:

Monday

A lunch 11:07- 11:37

B lunch 12:15- 12:45

Tuesday- Friday

A lunch 11:26- 11:58

B lunch 12:09- 12:39

Breakfast will not be served after 9:10 A.M. on Monday & 8:35 A.M. Tuesday- Friday.

Payment: Money for meals should be sent with the student and only cash or money orders will be accepted. If parents are purchasing and eating a lunch in the cafe, they must let cafeteria staff know.

Snacks may be bought until 5 minutes before the end of a student's lunch period.

Cafeteria Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately while in the cafe. Students are to clean up after themselves and dispose of any and all trash in provided bins. As a health precaution, students may not share food.

Behavior Expectations in the Cafeteria

- Respect other students and adults.
- Use appropriate table manners.
- Use quiet, inside voices and talk only to those near you.
- Remain seated.
- Do not share food or drinks.
- Ask permission to use the restroom.
- Please clean up your area upon dismissal from your table.

Students will be required to remain on campus during lunch hours unless a parent signs them out and picks them up. The campus is currently a closed campus during lunch at this time. Parents can drop off lunch items to the front office for students to pick up at lunch time. We ask that parents refrain from bringing food for other students as there are health risks associated with food allergies.

Bullying & Harassment

Cedars Academy Next Generation High School Highland Campus takes issues regarding bullying and harassment very seriously. Our school will investigate and take action to resolve bullying and harassment situations. If a staff member is informed of or suspects that bullying or harassment is taking place, the expectation is that administration will be informed of the matter as soon as possible to resolve the situation.

Entrance Requirements

Age & Grade Level: State law requires schools to have proof of the date of birth when a student enrolls in a Texas public school for the first time. To enroll in Kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old on or before September 1; to enroll in first grade, a child must be 6 years old on or before September 1.

In an effort to provide quality and appropriate education for all students, Cedars will place entering students at the grade level their previous school recommends. Please register your child for the grade s/he would be entering at his/her previous school. Children thrive when they feel successful, but may feel like failures when they are overwhelmed by a curriculum that is too challenging.

If the student's family has concerns about this grade placement, an assessment will be given in the child's first 2 weeks to determine the most appropriate grade placement. Grade placements will be based on our assessments and made to serve the best interest of the child.

In the case that Cedars is not informed of the recommendation for retention at the previous school, and the student is enrolled in the next grade, we reserve the right to honor the previous school's decision and the student will move back to the recommended grade.

Enrollment

Enrollment packets are available at the office or online for returning students and new students in English and Spanish at www.cedars-academy.org.

We are encouraging parents to fill out the packet online. However, parents can come to the office any time during regular school hours if they are unable to make it on one of the special enrollment days. See the district website for Enrollment dates.

1. Students are chosen by a blind lottery
2. Any child not chosen will be placed on a wait list according to selection.
3. You must fill out the enrollment packets within 1 week of notification that your child was selected.
4. If you enroll after the lottery has been held your child (ren) name(s) will be placed on a waiting list in order received after those students who were not chosen. Placement will be made in order of the waiting list.
5. At the end of the year the waiting list will be destroyed.
6. If you wish to be considered for a future year you are welcome to submit your information to the office. The office will notify you when the open enrollment period begins.

Dress Code

Students should show up to school in appropriate school attire. Cedars International Next Generation High School does not require students to wear a uniform. The following attire is not appropriate for male or female students to wear to school:

1. Shorts or skirts that do not meet the fingertips when arms are down at the side
2. Long trench coats

3. Bandanas
4. Sleeveless shirts
5. Low cut necklines
6. Shirts that are open or low in the back
7. Gang paraphernalia
8. Clothing or personal items that promote or display text, images or innuendos of weapons, tobacco, drugs, sex, alcohol or profanity
9. *Pajamas and or house shoes
10. *Halloween costumes

* (unless it is sanctioned by the principal for a school event)

It will be the responsibility of all staff to consistently enforce the dress code. All manner of dress and appearance that disrupts the learning environment and/or promotes inappropriate image are prohibited. Administration maintains the authority to make the final decision regarding students dress. Students may be asked to change clothes if they have them, call a parent to bring them a change of clothes or students might be given a jacket or t-shirt to change into from the front office if they are available.

School Visitors

Parents and other visitors are welcome at Cedars International Academy.

For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors must first report to the school office where he or she will be given a visitor's badge to wear while on campus. When checking into the front office, you will be asked to present a valid state issued ID for entering into the system. The system has the ability to provide alerts of individuals that may jeopardize the safety of the campus.

Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and only so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

Since visitors may serve as role models to students, all visitors must adhere to the highest standards of courtesy and conduct; disruptive behavior will not be permitted.

Field Trips

Students may be given field trip opportunities and should be in good academic standing and without severe discipline issues.

All willing parties interested in chaperoning a field trip will be required to complete a background check. This is an added safety measure to protect the children. Information must be submitted to the teachers and the teachers will notify the parents if they are accepted.

Parent Involvement

We invite parents, families, and community members to become involved in our school. At least twenty volunteer hours are strongly encouraged for all Cedars families. If you know in advance that you will not meet the 20 hours of optional volunteer time, you can donate \$50 to the Parent Involvement Committee for the year. This will cover extracurricular activities and additional supplies for your child. The following guidelines are as follows:

Volunteer Hours

1. Sign-in in the front office every time you volunteer and/or donate items
2. If you are not able to meet your optional 20 hours, you may donate \$50 in cash or money order to the front office for PIC.

Ways to Volunteer

1. Assist a teacher by attending project presentations
2. Attending scheduled Parent Involvement Committee meetings (see website for dates and times)
3. Donate class materials if the teachers has requests
4. Chaperone on field trips (background check must be approved prior to field trip)
5. Prepare materials for a teacher or the school
6. Assist with school-wide events
7. Help teachers connect with business partners that are willing to be panelists for presentations

There is a “Volunteer Sign-In” available in the front office where you can enter your name, the date, and the amount of time you have volunteered. It is your responsibility to log your hours.

As a parent of Cedars, you have the right to review Federal programs, ensure teachers are highly qualified and enter into a compact with the school.

Parent Involvement Committee

Cedars International Next Generation High School Parent Involvement Committee is a non-profit group comprised of parents, teachers, and staff dedicated to improving the educational experience of all children at Cedars International High School. The PIC works closely with administration to meet the goal of increasing parental and family involvement within the school.

Cedars International Next Generation High School believes that parent involvement is an essential component of having a successful school environment. We strongly encourage all

parents and faculty to be a part of PIC. PIC is a great way to show your support for your child and to ensure he/she receives the best education possible. The meetings schedule will be posted on the school website or you can call the front office and ask for the dates and times.

Governance

The school has two governing bodies. The School Board and the Governance Council.

The Governance Council acts as the voice of the campus community and provides recommendations to the School Board via the Superintendent and Board Liaison. It also provides vision and input for the daily operations of the school and sustains community wide relations.

The School Board, among other things, enters into legal contracts, determines policies based on input from the governance, makes hiring decisions, and oversees proper fiduciary management.

Each grade level has a representative on the Governance Council. Please make the effort to meet your representative.

Distribution of Materials

All materials intended for distribution to students must be submitted to the principal for review and approval.

Distribution of Non-School Literature

All non-school literature intended for distribution on school campuses or other District premises under this policy shall be submitted to the Superintendent or designee for prior review as per policy GKDA. Please contact the principal or superintendent for further information.

Cell Phones

Cell phones MAY be in a student's possession during school hours for educational purposes. Cell phones that are used inappropriately or for dishonest purposes will be confiscated. The cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day and a parent will be contacted.

Toys, Pets, Etc...

Because of liability issues, it is necessary for Cedars to discourage students from bringing pets to school. Items, such as skateboards, toy guns or other items deemed inappropriate that are brought to school will be kept in the office until after school.

Items that are brought to school in order to share them with the class should be within the guidelines set by the individual teacher.

Technology

Use of district-owned equipment and its network systems is not private and will be monitored by the district.

Any searches of personal telecommunications or other personal electronic devices will be conducted in accordance with law, and the device may be confiscated in order to perform a lawful search. A confiscated device may be turned over to law enforcement to determine whether a crime has been committed. **(Technology Policy- See Appendix)**

Celebrations

Celebrations are occasionally scheduled in classrooms or school wide, it is a school or class decision whether a party will reflect the theme of an upcoming holiday.

If religious beliefs conflict with a student's attending or participating in aspects of a celebration, parents may notify the teacher in writing and special arrangements can be made. Please make sure early in the year that your student's teacher is aware of which school-sponsored celebrations or activities your child should not take part in.

Prayer

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt the academic instruction or other activities in school. The school and students will not require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

2017/2018 School Calendar

<http://cedars-academy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Calendar-2017-18-2.pdf>

Staff Directory

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Staff Member | Teaching Assignment |
|---------------------|----------------------------|

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Chambers, Michael mchambers@cedars-academy.org | 8th, 10th, 11th US History |
| DiMaria, Sarah sdimaria@cedars-academy.org | Algebra I & Statistics |
| Fishman, Adam afishman@cedars-academy.org | Physics & Engineering |
| Gantley, Alexandra agantley@cedars-academy.org | English I & IV Gov. Econ |
| Garner, Jennifer jgarner@cedars-academy.org | 8th Grade Art & Art I |
| Hammontree, Ty thammontree@cedars-academy.org | Technology |
| Harden, Elenor eharden@cedars-academy.org | Spanish I, II & Technology |
| Hart, Stephanie sthart@cedars-academy.org | Biology & P.E. |
| Ray, Stuart sray@cedars-academy.org | 8th Science & Environmental Systems |
| Santos, Richard rsantos@cedars-academy.org | 8th ELA, English II & III |
| Dr. Trinidad, Janice jtrinidad@cedars-academy.org | 8th Math & Geometry |

Campus Leadership Team

| Name | Position | Office | Phone Extension |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Dr. Mark Diaz | Superintendent | K-8 Campus | 512-419-1551 |
| Mr. Steve Zipkes | Principal | 101 | 512-956-4406 |
| Ms. Stephanie Ehler | Dean of Curriculum and Instruction | 103 | 512-956-4406 |
| Mr. Les Simpson | Technology Director | 112 | 512-956-4406 |

Student Code of Conduct 2016 - 2017

As required by state law, Cedars International Academy has officially adopted the Student Code of Conduct in order to promote a safe and orderly learning environment for every student.

We urge you to read this section of the handbook thoroughly and to discuss it within your family. If you have any questions about the behaviors and consequences, we encourage you to ask for an explanation from the student's teacher or school administrator.

The student and parent must each sign the last page of this handbook in the space provided, and then return the page to Cedars. Thank you!

**CEDARS ACADEMY NEXT GENERATION HIGH SCHOOL
HIGHLAND CAMPUS
STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT
2016-2017**

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APPLICATION OF THE CODE

The Cedars International Academy Board of the Cedars Academy Next Generation High School Highland Campus has adopted this Student Code of Conduct (the “Code”) in accordance with Section 12.131 of the Texas Education Code, in order to clearly communicate standards for expected student conduct, the disciplinary consequences which may be applied to students who violate those standards, and the applicable procedures for the implementation of disciplinary consequences. All students must comply with the Code. Definitions of words and phrases used throughout this Code are provided at the end of the Code.

Parents and students are encouraged to contact campus administration with any questions or concerns regarding the requirements and provisions of the Code. Parents and students are expected to review and be familiar with the provisions of the Code. Lack of knowledge or awareness about any School rules, including this Code, will not excuse violations of the Code. Parents and students will be required to sign a statement acknowledging receipt and understanding of the Code. A copy of this Code is available on the school’s website.

The School has the authority to create and enforce rules related to student conduct and behavior while on school property, traveling to or in attendance at a school-sponsored or school-related event or activity, whether on or off campus. The School has the authority to issue disciplinary consequences for certain other student conduct that relates to, affects, or shares a nexus with the School, its students, or its employees regardless of when or where the conduct occurs. The School may also issue discipline based on a student’s use of electronic media, whether on or off campus.

Other School rules, codes or policies may apply to a student’s misconduct, and may result in multiple disciplinary consequences issued for the same conduct.

In considering a student’s request for admission, the School may consider the student’s history of a criminal offense(s), juvenile court adjudication(s), or disciplinary problems under subchapter A, Chapter 37 of the Education Code, as evidenced by records received from schools previously attended by the student, law enforcement, or any other relevant documentation, and may exclude the student from admission on this basis.

If a student who would otherwise be ineligible for admission to the School provides false information on an admissions application or other enrollment document and as a result of the false information is admitted to the School, the student shall be immediately withdrawn from enrollment from the School upon discovery of the falsification. Falsification of information for the purpose of gaining enrollment in a public school is a criminal offense under § 37.10 of the Texas Penal Code. The School may elect to report the falsification to law enforcement or take any other action

permitted by law.

EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENT CONDUCT

The mission of Cedars Academy Next Generation High School Highland Campus is to prepare students to excel in an information-based and technologically advanced society. We are committed to leading educational reform and our instructional program encourages students to learn through collaboration with peers, businesses and the community. Students develop problem-solving skills, interpersonal skills and the resiliency they need to succeed in a rapidly changing and competitive world. Our curriculum brings together the strength of modern technology, community partnerships, problem solving, interdisciplinary instruction and global perspectives in a student-centered, collaborative, project-based community.

To achieve that mission, the School must be an environment safe, secure and free from disruption. Students are expected to demonstrate behavior appropriate to the School's learning environment, to treat other students, School personnel, and visitors to the School with respect. As such, each student is expected to:

- Behave in a responsible and respectful manner;
- Demonstrate courtesy and respect for others, especially other students and School personnel;
- Attend classes and required School activities and events regularly and on time;
- Prepare for each class and complete assignments on time;
- Respect the rights and privileges of other students and school personnel in person and online;
- Respect and care for School property and facilities;
- Turn off cell phones or other electronic media during instructional time, and otherwise follow policies related to use of technology;
- Cooperate with School personnel in maintaining safety, order and discipline;
- Dress appropriately in accordance with the School's dress code;
- Review and comply with the Student Handbook and other School and campus rules;
- Obey classroom rules and classroom expectations for behavior;
- Refrain from verbal or written acts of bullying whether in person or online;
- Avoid violations of this Code.

Students are expected to comply with the school's technology and electronic media use policies and procedures. Students are also expected to demonstrate the same

behavior online or while using electronic media as is expected in the classroom, on school property, or at school-related events. Sending, posting, or possessing electronic messages that are disrespectful, disruptive, abusive, obscene, illegal, threatening, harassing or damaging to another person disrupts the learning environment and will not be tolerated.

Parent cooperation is essential to achieving the School's mission and ensuring that students learn in a safe, secure and positive environment. Parental involvement and cooperation is vital in the discipline process. Parents should understand and be familiar with the Code, ensure that his or her child understands and seeks to comply with this Code, and assist the school in counseling students regarding appropriate behavior.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

The following conduct constitutes a violation of the Code. Any student found to have engaged in such conduct shall be subject to one or more disciplinary consequences as identified within the Code.

General Student Behavior

1. Cursing, using offensive language, name calling, ethnic, racial or gender slurs, other derogatory statements, or yelling;
2. Disrespectful behavior towards adults;
3. Failure to follow directives;
4. Disruption of instruction or other school activities or operations;
5. Unexcused or excessive tardiness;
6. False statements or false accusations;
7. Bullying (*including cyberbullying*), teasing, or targeting other students;
8. Inappropriate cell phone or electronic media use;

Violation of School Rules and Policies

9. Failure to comply with the Student Handbook, or other School or campus rules;
10. Leaving the classroom, school building, mandatory school activities or events, or adult supervision without permission;
11. Skipping a class period or other mandatory activity, in whole or in part, without permission;
12. Violation of School or campus policies or rules related to the use of electronic media, including personal or School-owned electronic devices (*e.g.*, cell phones, tablets, game systems, computers, cameras), or the School's network or Internet connection;
13. Truancy or other failure to attend school without excuse;
14. Defacing, destroying or otherwise modifying School property without authorization;

15. Taking photographs or making video or audio recordings of students, employees, or other persons without the consent of the other person;
16. Soliciting or attempting to solicit another student to violate the Code, School policies and rules, or the law;
17. Taking steps toward violation of the Code even if the act is not completed, as determined by appropriate School administrator;
18. Failing to follow school directives and classroom rules and expectations;
19. Disobeying rules and expectations regarding school transportation;
20. Inappropriate or unauthorized use of School property, including posting or distributing literature or materials without School authorization;

Violent, Illegal, and Other Serious Offenses

21. Possession of prohibited items;
22. Conduct which meets the elements of a criminal offense, as determined by the School;
23. Physical, verbal or sexual harassment of others;
24. Inappropriate physical or sexual behavior, including jokes, comments, gestures or unwelcome physical conduct or contact;
25. False statements or false accusations;
26. Hazing or initiations;
27. Participation in a gang, soliciting or attempt to solicit participation in a gang;
28. Possessing, distributing, using or being under the influence of tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, or controlled substances, including prescription drugs if the student has not been prescribed the drugs or is taking the drugs in excess of the dosage specified by the prescription;
29. Possessing drug paraphernalia;
30. Stealing, lying, cheating, or copying the work of another without authorization (plagiarism);
31. Deliberately, and without School authorization, accessing, damaging, or altering School data and records, including but not limited to confidential records, electronic data, networks or systems;
32. Violence of any kind, including dating violence;
33. Fighting;
34. Gambling;
35. Setting or attempting to set a fire;
36. Inappropriate or indecent exposure of body parts;
37. Retaliation of any form against other students or School personnel;
38. Conduct which requires the student's registration as a sex offender;
39. Possession or distribution of pictures, text messages, electronic messages or other material of a sexual or obscene nature;
40. Endangering the health or safety of others;
41. Other conduct as identified within this Code.

DETERMINING APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINE

Depending on the nature and severity of the offense, discipline may be issued by the student's classroom teacher, campus administrator, or administrator's designee, in accordance with this Code. In order to make a determination of misconduct or issue disciplinary consequences under this Code, the authorized School employee must have a reasonable belief that the student engaged in the suspected conduct. The employee's conclusion may be based on any relevant evidence including, but not limited to, observation, other personal knowledge, verbal or written witness statements, other forms of documentation, or information received from law enforcement.

In reaching a decision regarding a student discipline matter, the School may consider the specific facts and circumstances of the situation, including but not limited to:

- The student's intent;
- The student's age and grade level;
- The student's past disciplinary history;
- Whether the student's conduct may have been the manifestation of a disability;
- The extent of the student's cooperation during the investigation of the matter;
- The nature and severity of the alleged conduct;
- Whether the student has previously engaged in similar conduct;
- Whether self-defense was involved;
- The student's remorsefulness for the conduct;
- The severity of the effect or harm of the conduct on other persons or property;
- The frequency of the conduct.

The School may issue discipline based on a determination that a student has engaged in conduct which meets the elements of a criminal offense. The School has the authority to make such a determination without regard for whether the student is arrested, charged, or otherwise processed by the criminal justice system for the criminal offense. The School may consider information received from law enforcement or other entities within the criminal justice system in issuing discipline under this Code.

Actions will not be based on a student's race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sex, religion, disability, or any other unlawful consideration.

INVESTIGATION OF DISCIPLINE ISSUES

In order to determine whether a violation of the Code has occurred, campus administrators or other authorized individuals may conduct an investigation. Investigations of student misconduct may involve, but are not limited to, interviews of other students, employees and adults, review of school surveillance footage, review of relevant documents, review of information on School-owned computers, verification of tips received from other individuals, gathering of physical evidence, contact of or cooperation with law enforcement agencies and officials. Law enforcement may be contacted and informed of student conduct which may constitute a criminal offense.

Students should have no expectation of privacy with respect to School-owned property. Lockers, desks, and other items provided for student use remain School property, and students do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy in School property or in personal items placed inside School property. School administrators or other authorized personnel may monitor and search student desks and lockers for any reason. School officials may search any School property, including School property that is within a student's possession or otherwise being used by a student, at any time, with or without notice to the student and without consent. School officials may confiscate any items found during a search, including prohibited items, dangerous items or other items that violate School policy.

A student's person or property may be searched by authorized school officials if the official has a reasonable belief that the search will result in the discovery of evidence of a violation of the Code or of the law. Any personal property which is brought onto school property or to a school-sponsored or school-related activity or event, on or off school property, may be subject to search (e.g., student cell phone, backpack, personal computer, purse, car, etc.).

DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) are subject to discipline under those laws and in accordance with the provisions of this Code.

The School may take disciplinary action pertaining to the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol against any student with a disability under Section 504 who is currently engaging in the illegal use of drugs or in the use of alcohol to the same extent that the School would take disciplinary action against nondisabled students. The due process procedures afforded under Section 504 do not apply to disciplinary action for the use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol. However, a student who is eligible for special education under the IDEA should have a manifestation determination review conducted to address any use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol if such conduct could result in a change of placement.

Any disciplinary action that would constitute a “change in the placement” of a student receiving special education services may be taken only after the student’s Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee conducts a manifestation determination review in order to determine whether the student’s conduct was a manifestation of his or her disability.

A change in placement occurs if a student is:

1. Removed from the student’s current educational placement for more than ten consecutive school days; or
2. Subjected to a series of removals that constitute a pattern because:
 - a. The series of removals total more than ten school days in a school year;
 - b. The student’s behavior is substantially similar to the student’s behavior in the previous incidents that resulted in the series of removals; and
 - c. Additional factors exist, such as the length of each removal, the total amount of time the student is removed, and the proximity of the removals to one another.

The School will determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether a pattern of removals constitutes a change in placement.

A student who has not been determined eligible for special education services and who has engaged in behavior that violates the Code is entitled to the protections under the IDEA regarding discipline of a student with special needs described above if the school has knowledge that the student was a student with a disability before the behavior that precipitated the disciplinary action occurred. If the school does not have knowledge that a student is a student with a disability prior to taking disciplinary action, the student may be subject to the disciplinary actions applied to students without disabilities. If a request is made for an evaluation of a student during the time period in which the student is subjected to disciplinary action, the evaluation shall be conducted in an expedited manner.

Refer to the Cedars Academy Next Generation High School Highland Campus student handbook for more information regarding special education services.

TYPES OF DISCIPLINE

Available disciplinary consequences include:

- Parent conference;
- Verbal correction;
- Counseling;
- Conference with teacher or administrator;
- Education/training;
- Improvement plan;
- Community service;
- School-related assigned tasks or duties;
- Loss or restriction of privileges (e.g., eligibility to hold special positions, exemption from exams, etc.);
- Consequences related to student participation in extracurricular activities, including removal, suspension, or restriction of participation;
- Removal from class to campus office;
- Issuance of demerits;
- Confiscation of items;
- Detention;
- In-School Suspension;
- Other alternative placement;
- Out-of-School Suspension;
- Expulsion.

One or more of these disciplinary consequences may be issued to a student found to have violated the Code. If the Code does not specify the appropriate disciplinary consequence for a particular type of student conduct, the School may issue whatever disciplinary consequence is deemed reasonable and appropriate, with the exception of expulsion. A teacher may have additional rules and consequences for student conduct in the classroom which may result in discipline under this Code or may be enforced in addition to any discipline issued under this Code.

If a student withdraws from the School before completing assigned In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, or Expulsion, the School shall send documentation of the discipline to the next school that enrolls the student. If a student withdraws from the School before the expulsion process is completed, the School may choose to complete the expulsion process and send documentation of the expulsion decision to the next school that enrolls the student. If the student returns to enroll in the School at a later date and has not been required to complete the disciplinary consequences previously required, the School may require the student to complete the discipline upon return.

The Code shall be applied and enforced consistently and equitably among students, with the understanding that every disciplinary situation will differ and decisions will be made based on the individual facts and circumstances of a given situation.

DETENTION / IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A student may be assigned to one or more sessions of detention or placed in in-school suspension for engaging in prohibited conduct under this Code. The student's parent or guardian will be notified by phone and in writing of the student's conduct and assignment to detention or in-school suspension. Detention will be held outside of the instructional day, either before or after school, during lunch period, or during recess. In-school suspension will require the student to report to the in-school suspension classroom for all or part of one or more school days. While in in-school suspension, the student will be provided the appropriate class assignments and will be expected to complete those assignments as if the student were in the regular classroom.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

A student may be suspended for one or more school days for engaging in prohibited conduct under this Code. The student's parent or guardian will be notified by phone and in writing of the student's conduct and the length of the period of suspension. A student may not be suspended for more than three consecutive school days. During a period of suspension, the suspended student may not enter onto school property or participate in or attend school-sponsored or school-related events or activities. The student's teachers will provide assignments that the student will be expected to complete during the period of suspension. Student assignments or other class work completed during a period of suspension will be accepted for grading if completed in a timely fashion.

REASONS FOR EXPULSION

A student **must** be expelled from the School if he or she is found to have committed any of the acts listed below.

1. **Weapons.** The student used, exhibited, or possessed any of the following while on school property or while attending a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property:
 - a. A firearm;
 - b. An illegal knife;
 - c. A club; or
 - d. A prohibited weapon.

2. **Violent Conduct.** The student engaged in conduct that contains the elements of the following offenses within the Texas Penal Code, regardless of location:
 - a. Aggravated assault, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, arson, murder, capital murder, criminal attempt to commit murder or capital murder, indecency with a child, aggravated kidnapping, aggravated robbery, manslaughter, criminally negligent homicide, or continuous sexual abuse of a child or children;
 - b. Assault against another student, an employee, or a volunteer of the School;
 - c. Deadly conduct;
 - d. A Title V felony under the Penal Code.

3. **Disruptions.** The student engaged in conduct that contains the elements of the following offenses within the Texas Penal Code, regardless of location:
 - a. False alarm or report or terroristic threat involving a public school;
 - b. An offense related to an abusive volatile chemical;
 - c. Breach of computer security if the conduct involves accessing a computer network, or computer system owned by or operated on behalf of a public school and the student knowingly alters, damages, or deletes school district property or information or commits a breach of any other computer, computer network, or computer system;
 - d. Criminal mischief if the conduct is punishable as a felony;

- e. Public lewdness or indecent exposure.
4. **Drugs and Alcohol.** The student engaged in conduct that contains the elements of the following offenses within the Texas Penal Code:
- a. On school property, at school-sponsored or school-related event, or within 300 feet of school property:
 - i. Sells, gives, or delivers to another person or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of any amount of marijuana, dangerous drug, or alcoholic beverage.
 - b. Regardless of location:
 - i. Sells, gives, delivers to another person or possesses or uses or is under the influence of marijuana or a dangerous drug, as defined by the Health and Safety Code, if the conduct is punishable as a felony.
 - ii. Sells, gives, delivers to another person an alcoholic beverage, as defined by the Alcoholic Beverage Code, commits a serious act or offense while under the influence of alcohol or possesses, uses, or is under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, and the conduct is punishable as a felony.
5. **Other.** The student, while on campus or at a school-sponsored or school-related event, on or off campus:
- a. Engages in conduct that constitutes a felony;
 - b. Commits an assault;
 - c. Commits frequent violations of this Code that cause significant disruption to the School environment or substantial interference with the instructional process.

EXPULSION PROCESS

If the school administrator or administrator's designee determines that the student's conduct warrants expulsion, the administrator shall provide written notice to the parent, guardian, or adult of the proposed expulsion of the student. The written notice shall also include the reason(s) for the proposed expulsion and the date, time, location and procedure for the expulsion hearing. The student is entitled to a hearing with the campus administrator during which the student and/or the student's representative (e.g., parent, guardian, attorney, other) will have the opportunity to review and present evidence and information. The campus administrator may place reasonable restrictions on the conduct of the hearing, including the length of the presentations. At the end of the hearing, the campus administrator may issue a decision immediately or may wait until a later date to communicate a decision. The administrator shall send written communication of the decision to the parent, guardian or adult student. If the administrator determines that expulsion is appropriate, the written decision ("Expulsion Order") shall include the length of the term of expulsion.

The parent, guardian or adult student may choose to voluntarily waive the right to an expulsion hearing by signing a hearing waiver form provided with the notice of proposed expulsion. If the hearing is waived, the administrator will review the relevant evidence and issue a written decision to the parent as described above.

The School will notify the independent school district in which the student resides of the student's expulsion within three business days of the Expulsion Order.

TERMS OF EXPULSION

The period of expulsion may be determined by many factors, including the severity of the conduct and the existence of a continuing risk of harm to other students and employees if the student were allowed to return. An expulsion may be temporary or permanent. A temporary expulsion may range in length from 4 school days to one calendar year. A permanent expulsion allows the School to deny future admission to the student based on consideration of the student's past disciplinary history. In each instance, the Expulsion Order must explain the circumstances which justify the length of the expulsion.

PERMANENT EXCLUSION FROM ADMISSION PERMITTED: A student expelled from the School for any length of time may not be eligible for readmission to the school. In considering the readmission of a student upon expiration of the period of expulsion, the school will consider, among other factors, the length of the expulsion, the nature of the violation that lead to the expulsion and the circumstances justifying the expulsion.

During a period of expulsion, the student is prohibited from entering onto any school property and attending any school-sponsored or school-related events. Failure to comply with this prohibition will result in the filing of criminal trespass charges against the student. Except as otherwise required by law, students will not receive educational services or receive course credits during a period of expulsion.

DISCIPLINE APPEAL PROCESS

With the exception of expulsions, student discipline decisions at the campus level are final and not appealable. A parent, legal guardian, or adult student may appeal an expulsion decision by filing a written appeal with the Superintendent within 5 business days of the date of the Expulsion Order. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee will review the record of the expulsion proceedings at the campus level, along with any other relevant information, and will issue a written decision to the appealing party within 10 business days of receiving the request for review.

If the appealing party is not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, he or she may appeal that decision to the Cedars International Academy Board by filing a request for review with the Superintendent's office within 5 business days of the date of the decision. The Superintendent shall notify the Cedars International Academy Board President and arrange for the Cedars International Academy Board to hear the complaints of the appealing party at the next available board meeting. The Superintendent shall notify the appealing party of the location, date and time of the hearing in front of the Cedars International Academy Board. The decision of the governing body is final and not appealable. An expulsion action will not be delayed during the appeal process.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are provided to further detail and define the terms of this Code. The Cedars International Academy Board shall have final authority to interpret or amend any terms or provisions within this Code.

Abusive volatile chemicals: Those substances as defined in Texas Health and Safety Code § 485.001.

Alcoholic Beverage: Those substances as defined in Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code § 1.04.

Assault: Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury to another.

Bullying: Written or verbal expression or physical conduct that (1) has the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; or (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

Club: An instrument specially designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury or death by striking a person with the instrument, including a blackjack, nightstick, mace, and tomahawk.

Controlled substance: Substances as defined in Chapter 481 of the Texas Health & Safety Code or 21 U.S.C. § 801 et seq.

Deadly conduct: Recklessly engaging in conduct that places another in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or knowingly discharging a firearm in the direction of an individual, habitation, building, or vehicle.

Electronic media: Refers to all forms, kinds and types of electronic devices, communication systems, networks, software, websites, and any other technology resources including, but not limited to, social media, text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (e-mail), Web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video-sharing or file sharing Web sites, cellular telephones, portable electronic devices, computers.

False alarm or report: Knowingly initiating, communicating, or circulating a report of a present, past, or future bombing, fire, offense, or other emergency that is known to be false or baseless and that would ordinarily: (1) cause action by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies; (2) place a person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; or (3) prevent or interrupt the occupation of a building, room, or place of assembly.

Firearm (federal): (1) any weapon, including a starter gun that will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (3) any firearm muffler or firearm weapon; or (4) any destructive device, such as an explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, or grenade.

Firearm (state): Any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance or any device readily convertible to that use.

Gang: An organization, combination, or association of persons composed wholly or in part of students that: (1) seeks to perpetuate itself by taking in additional members on the basis of the decision of the membership rather than on the free choice of the individual, or (2) that engages in illegal and/or violent activities. In identifying gangs and associated gang attire, signs, or symbols, the School will consult with law enforcement authorities.

Harassment: Threatening to cause harm or bodily injury to another, engaging in sexually intimidating conduct, causing physical damage to the property of another, subjecting another to physical confinement or restraint, maliciously taking any action that substantially harms another's physical or emotional health or safety, alone or in combination with other conduct prohibited by School policy, rules or the Code.

Hazing: Any act, occurring on or off campus, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purposes of pledging, initiation into, affiliation with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in an organization or group. Consent to or acquiescence in the hazing activity does not excuse the student of responsibility for the misconduct.

Illegal knife: A knife with a blade over 5 ½ inches; hand instrument designed to cut or stab another by being thrown; dagger, including but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; bowie knife; sword; or spear.

Paraphernalia: Any article or device used or intended for use to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce marijuana, a controlled substance, or a dangerous drug into the human body, including but not limited to roach clips, rolling papers, needles, baggies with residue, razor blades, bong and pipes.

Possession: Regardless of the student's knowledge or intent to possess the item, to have in or on: (1) a student's person or in the student's personal property, such as the student's clothing, purse, or backpack; (2) in any vehicle used by the student for transportation to or from school or school-related activities, such as an automobile, truck, motorcycle, or bicycle; or (3) any other school property used by the student, such as a locker or desk.

Prohibited item: Includes but is not limited to (1) alcoholic beverages, marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs; (2) paraphernalia; (3) prohibited weapons; (4) any other item prohibited by this Code.

Prohibited weapons: Includes the following items: armor-piercing ammunition, chemical dispensing device, explosive weapon, firearm silencer, knuckles, machine gun, short-barrel firearm, switchblade knife, or zip gun, Taser gun.

Retaliation: Harming or threatening to harm another: (1) on account of their service as a School employee or volunteer, (2) to prevent or delay another's service to the School, or (3) because the person intends to report a crime or violation of this Code.

Self-defense: When the person who is not the aggressor in an encounter uses the minimum force required to remove himself or herself from immediate danger of harm. Actions that escalate or continue the encounter will not be considered self-defense.

Sexual harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with a student's performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

Soliciting: Requesting, commanding, or attempting to induce another student to engage in specific conduct that would constitute a violation of the Code, and with the intent that a violation of the Code be committed.

Short-barrel firearm: A rifle with a barrel length of less than 16 inches or a shotgun with a barrel length of less than 18 inches, or any weapon made from a rifle or shotgun if, as altered, it has an overall length of less than 26 inches.

Switchblade knife: Any knife with a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that opens automatically by pressing a button or other device located on the handle or opens or releases a blade from the handle or sheath by the force of gravity or centrifugal force.

Terroristic threat: Threats to commit an offense involving violence to any person or property with intent to: (1) cause a reaction by an official or volunteer agency organized to deal with emergencies; (2) place any person in fear of imminent serious bodily injury; (3) prevent or interrupt the occupation or use of a building, room, place of assembly, place to which the public has access, place of employment or occupation, aircraft, automobile, or other form of conveyance, or other public place; (4) cause impairment or interruption of public communications, public transportation, public water, gas, or power supply or other public service; (5) place the public or a substantial group of the public in fear of serious bodily injury; or (6) influence the

conduct or activities of a branch or agency of the federal government, the state, or a political subdivision of the state (including the School).

Title 5 felony offenses: Offenses against the person that, depending on the circumstances, may include the following offenses under the Penal Code: murder; capital murder; transport; assault; aggravated assault; sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault; improper relationship between educator and student; indecency with a child; injury to a child, an elderly person, or a disabled person; abandoning or endangering a child; improper photography or visual recording; coercing, soliciting, or inducing gang membership; deadly conduct; terroristic threat; aiding a person to commit suicide; harassment by a person in a correctional facility; continuous sexual abuse of a young child or children; and tampering with a consumer product.

Under the influence: When in an employee's professional judgment, the student does not have the normal use of mental or physical faculties likely attributable to the student's use of marijuana, a controlled substance, dangerous drug or alcoholic beverage. Such impairment may be evidenced by the symptoms typically associated with drug or alcohol use or other abnormal or erratic behavior. The student need not be legally intoxicated.

Use: With respect to substances, voluntarily injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing a prohibited substance into the body. With respect to objects or devices, putting into action or service or carrying out an action or purpose with the object or device.

Zip gun: A device or combination of devices that was not originally a firearm and is adapted to expel a projectile through a smooth-bore or rifled-bore barrel by using the energy generated by an explosion or burning substance.

Any Questions about above mentioned content please contact Dr. Mark Diaz Superintendent.

After reading all information above please sign, date and turn in the receipt of the Handbook and Student Code of Conduct on the following page.

RECEIPT OF THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT & HANDBOOK

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____
_____ Grade _____

Parent, Guardian, or Person Responsible

I, as the parent or guardian of _____, have received a copy of or have been given access to the Cedars International Academy Student Code of Conduct (the "Code") for the 2017 - 2018 school year. I have read, understand, and agree that my child shall abide by the Code. I understand that my child will be held accountable for his or her behavior, and he or she is required to comply with the expected standards of conduct set out in this Code and will be subject to disciplinary consequences if he or she fails to do so. I understand that the Code governs my child's behavior while on school property and at school-sponsored or school-related activities whether on or off campus; and that my child may also be subject to discipline for certain conduct which occurs outside of school regardless of time or location, including any school-related misconduct. I understand that the School may contact law enforcement for further investigation or criminal prosecution for certain violations of law.

I also understand that parental involvement and cooperation is vital in the discipline process. By signing below, I acknowledge my understanding and commitment to ensure that my child understands and complies with the Code.

Parent/Guardian/Person Responsible Name:

_____ Parent/Guardian/Person Responsible
Signature: _____ Date _____

Note: Failure to sign and return this receipt does not exempt the child or parent from having to abide by the contents of the Student Code of Conduct.