

CITY OF PALMS
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL, INC.

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CITY OF PALMS
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

PALM ACRES
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

NORTHERN PALMS
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

PARENT / STUDENT
HANDBOOK

2016-17

Approved by the Board of Directors June 2016

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Introduction

Schools operated by City of Palms CHS, Inc. are special places for students. Students will develop important academic, work, social, emotional well-being, and self-sufficiency skills that will enable them to be successful in life, on the job, and with their continuing education.

Students can graduate from our schools with an AdvancEd/SACS Accredited and Florida State recognized High School diploma, well prepared to live as a productive and responsible citizen in their community. They will leave feeling confident of their abilities and prepared to find a good job, enter a trade, an apprenticeship, or attend a postsecondary educational program.

Students, you will work hard and learn to give your best effort on your own behalf. Everyone at our schools is treated with respect. We require and demand a commitment from you, not just in following the school rules, but also in working to make you the best person you can be and to make our schools the best schools in the county.

Admission Information

A. Enrollment

Applications are accepted any time of the year at any of the schools operated by City of Palms Charter High School, Inc.

1. Complete an application and return it to the school.
2. In order to complete your enrollment application, you will also be required to submit copies of your Birth Certificate, a monthly utility bill, lease, or mortgage statement and a photo ID.
3. Once you have submitted your enrollment application and required documentation, you will be scheduled for orientation.
4. During your orientation, you will be assigned to a session, lab and teacher. Part of the orientation process includes a confidential assessment test.
5. In the event that enrollment exceeds capacity, a blind, random lottery will be held to determine what students are enrolled and what students are placed on a waiting list (in order of their selection). Any students that inquire about enrollment after the lottery is held will be placed on the waiting list on a first come, first-serve basis. Admission preferences may only be given to existing students, siblings of existing students, and re-enrolling students.

B. Fees

There is no tuition of any kind at any of the schools operated by City of Palms Charter High School, Inc.

C. Non-Discrimination Policy

Our schools adhere to the non-discrimination policy of the School District of Lee County. The schools do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, marital or parental status, or disability, in the provision of educational programs, activities or employment opportunities and benefits that we operate, pursuant to the requirements of Title IX, Title VI, Title VII, Age Discrimination Act of 1967 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 1992, Americans with Disabilities Act and the Florida Educational Equity Act of 1984.

D. Student Immunizations

All new students are required to submit a copy of their Immunization Records, within the first 14 days that they are enrolled. Students attending school are in violation of Florida law if:

- A student's immunization record is not on file
- The student still needs their initial Measles, Mumps, or Rubella (MMR) vaccine
- The student still needs their initial dose of DTaP vaccine
- The student still needs their initial dose of Polio vaccine

If a student's Immunization Records have not been received by the school by the 15th day of enrollment, the student will be released from school and will not be able to attend until they can acquire their medical records from their last school of attendance or primary physician or until they can prove that they have begun the Immunization process and have received at least one dose of DTaP/DPT/DT, MMR, Polio and Hepatitis B. A student who has been released for not submitting a copy of their Immunization Records will be counted as an unexcused absence while the student is not attending school.

If a student has received at least one dose of DTaP/DPT/DT, MMR, Polio and Hepatitis B, s/he is may remain in school. However, s/he must finish the series as soon as the scheduled intervals between dose permits. Any student with partial immunizations has until the end of the school year to complete their immunization vaccines.

For a student, grades 9-12, required doses include:

- 4 DPT, DTaP, or DT (Pediatric)
- 3 Polio Vaccine
- 2 MMR Vaccine
- 3 Hepatitis B Vaccine

E. Re-Enrollment

Students who have withdrawn during a school year and want to enroll again will re-enroll according to the enrollment process as previously outlined. Any variation to this process requires approval of the Principal.

F. Annually Required Documents

At the beginning of each school year (July 1st), the schools must distribute and collect the following forms and documents from all students who have rolled over from the previous school year:

- Current school year Board-approved Parent/Student Handbook (no collection necessary)
- Current school year Board-approved School Calendar (no collection necessary)
- Emergency Medical Authorization – must be completed, signed by the parent or student (if over 18), are collected.
- Title One Compact – must be completed, signed by the parent or student (if over 18), and collected for both school wide and targeted schools (if applicable).
- Family Education Services (FES) consent forms (if applicable).
- Free and Reduced Lunch Form **MUST** be completed.

G. Change of Address/Phone Number

It is the student's responsibility to inform the school office of any change of address or phone number. Any other relevant information must also be updated in the office.

H. Non-Sectarian School

All of our schools are public, non-sectarian schools.

Student Responsibilities

A. Code of Conduct

All of our schools follow the Lee County School District Code of Conduct which is provided in the booklet issued upon enrollment. You can also access it on the school district website at the following link: <http://www.leeschools.net/code-of-conduct>

The School District of Lee County is committed to be a world class school system with a focus on improved student achievement so that all students meet or exceed rigorous standards. With this vision in mind, the School District of Lee County has developed the *Code of Conduct for Students* to clearly communicate the behavioral expectations necessary for maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment.

Students at City of Palms Charter High School, Inc. schools are required to know the Code of Conduct. When students do not follow the rules, they are expected to accept the consequences. The student's attitude toward the rules of the school is very important.

The rules of the Code of Conduct apply to all enrolled students. Section 1003.31, Florida Statutes establishes that all students are subject to the law, rules, regulations, and policies of the State of Florida and The School Board of Lee County anytime a student is:

1. On school owned or leased property;
2. Attending school;
3. Presumed by law to be attending school;
4. Traveling to and from school, including actions on any school or public conveyance;
5. In attendance at or participating in a school-sponsored activity.

During such times, all students are subject to the immediate control and direction of teachers, staff members, or bus drivers to whom such responsibility has been assigned by the Principal or the Principal's designee.

Scope of Authority

The Principal has the unequivocal right to determine the appropriate charge(s) for the misconduct and the corresponding level of the offense based on the facts and circumstances of the incident(s).

Under this Code of Conduct, the following definitions will apply:

Student:

A person, adult or minor, enrolled in City of Palms CHS, Palm Acres CHS or Northern Palms CHS.

Parent:

- a) Official care-giver of a minor child, including but not limited to mother, father, stepparent, grandparent, or court-appointed guardian, including any and all State of Florida government case workers and/or group home employees as identified at the time of admission or amended in writing thereafter; or an emancipated minor (proof required);
- b) For dependent adult student (ages 18-20): parent, guardian, etc. with whom he/she lives
- c) For married and independent adult students (ages 18-20) and for all students 21 years old or above: the student him/herself.

Spouse:

The legal spouse of a student, as expressed in a marriage certificate of any state, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or sovereign nation.

Signed into law and effective July 1, 2011, related to school district codes of conduct –

New requirements include “an explanation of the responsibilities of each student with regard to appropriate dress respect for self and others, and the role that appropriate dress and respect for self and others has on an orderly learning environment. Additionally, the new law provides penalties for students who wear clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner. Finally, the law includes adherence to the dress code and code of student conduct as a condition for participation in extracurricular activities.

To view the text of the new law, please visit the link:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2011/0228/BillText/er/PDF>

B. Dress Code & General Guidelines

The purpose of the Dress Code is to encourage students to focus on the learning process without the distractions of unsuitable dress or grooming. Students shall maintain a clean, orderly appearance at all times.

The responsibility for the personal appearance of the student rests with the parent/guardian and the student. A student who is dressed appropriately is demonstrating a respect for self and others, as well as contributing to a safe and orderly learning environment.

SPECIFIC to CITY OF PALMS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR MEN AND WOMEN: SCHOOL-APPROPRIATE SHIRT of ANY COLOR or SCHOOL SHIRT NO TANK TOPS

1. Clothing shall be adequate in both length and coverage to be considered appropriate for school.
2. Pants shall be worn fastened and at the waist with NO UNDERGARMENTS SHOWING.
3. Pants with holes, tears, etc. may not be worn, if in the Principal’s judgment, they may cause a disruption to the school environment.
4. Shirts or blouses shall be appropriately fastened in accord with the design of that shirt or blouse. The length shall extend beyond the waist level.
5. Clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner are prohibited.
6. Transparent or see-through tops, bare midriff, strapless, low-cut clothing, or tops and outfits that provide minimum coverage or are of a suggestive nature are prohibited; halters, backless dresses or tops, tube tops, tank tops, muscle shirts, or any clothing which may be distracting are prohibited.
7. Any articles of clothing or jewelry that could likely cause injury – such as chains, bracelets, rings, chokers with or without spikes, or studs – are prohibited. Wallet chains of any length are prohibited.
8. Shoes shall be worn at all times.
9. Apparel, emblems, insignias, badges, or symbols that promote the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, or any other illegal activity are prohibited.
10. Apparel or symbols which may be gang-related may not be displayed on a student’s person or in the student’s possession.
11. Gang-related tattoos, or other tattoos that may cause a substantial disruption to the educational environment as determined by the Principal, are prohibited.
12. Adornments that, in the Principal’s judgment could cause injury, are a safety risk or cause a disruption to the school environment may not be worn. Examples of prohibited adornments include, but are not limited to hoops or rings attached to the nose, eyebrow, cheeks or lips.
13. NO hats, caps, headgear (including hoodies) or sunglasses, bandanas, jackets without hoods shall be worn in school. (There may be certain exceptions for medical conditions or for religious purposes.)

**All students who attend City of Palms CHS, Palm Acres CHS, or Northern Palms CHS
MUST ADHERE TO THE DRESS CODE POLICY AS STATED.**

**The preceding list establishes the minimum acceptable standards for student dress to be
interpreted and enforced by the Principal.**

C. Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend their academic session and be on time. All students are expected to be on time and present each day school is open during the school year.

Students may not be absent from school without permission of the Principal/designee.

All students must strive to maintain an 80% in seat attendance rate (i.e.: four out of five days per week) while enrolled. Attendance rates less than 80% are subject to disciplinary action.

Students must sign a daily attendance sheet in the front office upon entering the building as well as in their home room at the beginning of their session. These sheets are kept as attendance records in the main office.

If the student needs to miss school, the student or parent/guardian (if student is under 18) must call the school **on the day of the absence** and a written excuse must be brought to school upon the student's return. Unexcused absences will reduce the student's overall attendance percentage. Excused Absences will also reduce the student's overall average attendance percentage but will be taken into account should the total attendance percentage drop below 80%.

In order to graduate, a student should maintain at least an 80% in seat attendance rate (i.e.: four out of five days per week) prior to completion of all other graduation requirements.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Excused absences require **written documentation** such as a doctor's note, verification from the court or employer, or any other documentation as stated below. All students are required to submit written documentation regarding excused absences to school on the first day they return to school. An excused absence or tardy will be granted if the student is not in school for the following reasons:

1. **Medical appointment** – With appropriate written documentation
2. **Under a doctor's care** – With appropriate written documentation
3. **Automotive** – With appropriate two truck or repair shop receipt
4. **Scheduled road test for a driver's license** – With appropriate written documentation
5. **Employment** – Must be conducted outside of school hours; with appropriate written documentation from employer; will be verified.
6. **Death of an immediate family member** - with appropriate written documentation from employer; will be verified.
7. **Personal Illness** - with appropriate written documentation from employer; will be verified.
8. **Court appointment** — With appropriate written documentation
9. **Other appointments which cannot be scheduled outside of school hours** (Case workers, Probation Officer, Signing a Lease) -- with appropriate written documentation from employer; will be verified.
10. **Religious holidays of the student's faith.**
11. **Other absences as deemed appropriate by the Principal**

Any prolonged absence due to illness or other documented reason will also be excused. Excused absences with documentation, such as a doctor's note or verification from the court, can still count against a student's average attendance percentage.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Unexcused absences include the following:

1. Any absence that is not excused
2. Any absence where a student fails to provide appropriate written documentation of the absence (Students should have written documentation for absences in-hand on the first day that they return to school.)
3. Leaving school early without proper authorization
4. Each day that a student is late without appropriate documentation and for any other unexcused absence defined by the school Principal.

The following number of days may be deemed a pattern of non-attendance: 5 days in a calendar month or 10 days within 90 calendar days.

Any student whose unexcused absences exceed 11 consecutive days may be automatically withdrawn from school per school policy. Students may be permitted to re-enter the school after attending a scheduled meeting with a school official.

D. Withdrawal Policies and Procedures

Mandatory Withdrawals – 11 Consecutive Days

Per school policy, students may be withdrawn if they are absent for 11 consecutive days and have not provided the school with documentation of approved excused absences. A student will be sent a warning letter if the student is unexcused absent for 15 consecutive hours (3 school days). A second warning letter will be sent if the student is unexcused absent an additional 15 consecutive hours for a total of 6 days missed. If a student reaches 11 consecutive days, they may be withdrawn. Final withdrawal letters will be sent to the parents or student (if 18 or older) and the appropriate truancy procedures will begin as well as being reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles to suspend the student's driver's license when deemed appropriate.

Mandatory Withdrawals – Students Age 22 and Older

At the time a student reaches the age of 21 for regular education students, 22 for special education students they will be withdrawn from school, unless they are ready for graduation. The appropriate withdrawal letters will be sent to the student if they are not ready for graduation.

Voluntary Withdrawals

If a parent wishes to withdraw their student or an adult student wishes to withdraw from school, they must complete and sign a Withdrawal form.

Curricula Cut-Off

All curricula *in progress* at the time of withdrawal will be deleted from the system. Should a student choose to re-enroll, he/she will begin those classes again. The Principal will handle all special circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

E. Truancy Policy

The school will act according to any federal, state, county and/or local laws or rules for any student who is deemed as truant.

F. Tardy Policy

1. For security reasons, the doors to school can be locked at the beginning of each session.
2. Students who are tardy more than three (3) times within any one month may be subject to disciplinary action (not including suspension, in accordance with Florida Statutes).
3. Students must call in before their scheduled class to notify the receptionist that they will be late.
4. Students calling in later than 15 minutes before their scheduled class must see a member of the administration staff for a pass before being admitted to class.
5. The Principal will handle all special circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
6. Habitual tardiness is defined as six(6) or more tardies to school.

G. Levels of Disciplinary Action, Suspension & Expulsion Procedures

There are three (3) levels of disciplinary action and the levels are determined by the seriousness of the act. Please refer to the *Code of Conduct for Students (Grades 6-12)* for more detailed definitions and descriptions of these procedures. Rules of suspension and expulsion follow due process requirements as mandated by the School District of Lee County. Students accused of a violation of the *Code of Conduct for Students* or the school's disciplinary plan which, in the opinion of the Principal/designee, warrants disciplinary action including an out-of-school suspension or expulsion, shall be afforded the fundamental right of procedural due process. The degree of formality associated with a suspension conference or hearing depends upon the nature of the offense and the severity of the sanctions that may be imposed as a result.

Suspension - The Principal may suspend a student. No suspension shall exceed ten (10) school days.

The Principal shall:

1. Provide opportunity for a hearing in which the student may explain what occurred. This hearing should be held within three (3) days, if practicable, immediately following the infraction.
2. Make a good faith effort to immediately inform the student's parent/guardian by telephone of the student's out-of-school suspension and the reasons for the suspension.
3. A written notice of suspension shall be sent via U.S. mail within one calendar day of the anticipated suspension to the parent/guardian if the student is under the age of 18. The notice shall contain the reasons for the suspension and the right of the student to appeal to the Principal or Board of Directors.
4. Provide opportunities for students to make up work missed during the period of suspension in a timely manner.
5. A parent/guardian has the right to appeal the suspension, which must be submitted, in writing, to the Principal within fourteen (14) school days of the written notice of suspension. The Principal shall immediately forward this written appeal to the school's appeal hearing designee.

Expulsion

1. The Principal may recommend expulsion to the school district.
2. This is the removal of a student from school for the remainder of the year plus one additional year.
3. The Principal shall provide the student and the parent/guardian written notice of the recommendation for expulsion. The written notice shall include reasons for the intended expulsion.
4. The Principal will abide by all of the school district policies regarding expulsion.
5. All expulsion proceedings will be handled by the school district.
6. The time frame for expulsion will be determined by the school district.

H. Student Search and Seizure

Source: F.S. 1006.09(9)

School personnel may search students reasonably suspected of being in possession of contraband or other prohibited items while on board-owned property or wherever students are under the official supervision of board employees, such as on field trips, at extracurricular activities, or while being transported to and from such places either by school bus, by approved drivers, or by other means of conveyance.

School personnel may conduct a search of a student, a student's possessions, a student's locker, or any other storage area on school property without a warrant when school personnel have reasonable suspicion that illegal, prohibited, harmful items or substances, or stolen property may be concealed on a student's person or in a storage area.

School personnel are encouraged to attempt to obtain consent from a student to search for illegal, prohibited, harmful items or substances, or stolen property, but may proceed with a search without a student's consent, upon reasonable suspicion of a prohibited or illegally-possessed substance or object.

School personnel have the authority to search a student's backpack, purse, or wallet, upon reasonable suspicion, if the student refuses to reveal the contents inside.

See additional detailed information under **Safety – K. Search Policy (page 37)**

I. Emergency Removal

The school Principal may perform an emergency removal of a student. Emergency situations include but are not limited to:

1. Physically assaulting another student or staff member;
2. Behavior posing a clear and present danger to the safety and welfare of the students and employees of the school;
3. Creating an immediate disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

This removal may be done without immediate notice or hearing. Any student so removed will be given written notice and provided with a hearing within three (3) school days after the removal as defined in the Suspension section of this Handbook. If it is probable that the student is going to be expelled, the procedures outlined in the Expulsion section of this Handbook will be followed.

J. Parent & Student Surveys

By contract, parents and students are asked to complete a Parent & Student Satisfaction Survey as well as any other school surveys deemed appropriate by the school's Principal.

Academics

A. The Curriculum

The curriculum is a combination of academics, workplace instruction and experience. Each student works on an individualized computer program, participates in small group direct instruction sessions and completes independent work in order to earn credits for graduation and pass any mandatory state testing. Students also have access to electronic educational software programs and the Internet for their academic lessons and vocational exploration. One-on-one tutoring is also available if needed.

Students receive an individual academic and career plan (IACP) based upon their academic needs and vocational/employment plans. The Vocational Specialist works with each student to assist with job placement, vocational opportunities and career advancement.

B. Academic Sessions

Non-working students are designated to attend one, five (5) hour academic session per day, Monday – Friday. Students who have obtained employment or who are currently volunteering are designated to attend one, five (5) hour academic session per day, Monday – Friday. Check with the Enrollment Specialist for an updated schedule and list of available sessions.

All Students

Session 1	7:00am - Noon
Optional Session	9:30 am - 2:30 pm
	<i>(Dependent upon Seating Availability)</i>
Session 2	12:00noon - 5:00 pm

Each student participates in a minimum of five hours of learning opportunities per week. These learning opportunities include employment, volunteering, vocational counseling or other activities deemed suitable. Students may earn a lifetime maximum of four (4) credits that are counted towards the eight (8) elective credits for graduation. There is a limit of three such credits earned per school year. Exceptions to this requirement are only permitted after an in-depth review of the student's individual circumstances is performed, and approval is obtained from the Graduation Committee and Principal.

Any student not participating in volunteer activities, vocational counseling, community organizations, or working will be required to attend all scheduled hours of instruction. All activities outside of the school, except working, need to be approved by the Principal and documented so the student can receive credits.

C. Grading

Each student is required to complete weekly academic activities on the computer. In addition, workbooks, newspapers, magazines and resource materials are available for student use while completing off-line assignments. Students must receive 80% or better to master the activities.

Each student is also required to keep a portfolio of his/her accomplishments. The school's Graduation Committee and Principal review the portfolio on behalf of the Board of Directors before the student is deemed ready for graduation.

D. Progress Reports

The schools use a Complete/Incomplete grading system. Progress Reports are issued to each student every nine (9) to ten (10) weeks.

Grading periods will end on or about:

- Period 1: October 14, 2016
- Period 2: December 22, 2016
- Period 3: March 16, 2017
- Period 4: May 26, 2017

Or as otherwise set forth in the School Calendar provided to each student.

E. Grade Levels

Unlike traditional high schools, there are no grade levels at our schools. However, from time to time, we must designate a grade equivalent for a student for various administrative purposes. The equivalent grade level will be determined for each student by the following:

- To be a **10th grader**, a student must have all of the following: 5 total credits, 4 of which are the following core credits*: English I, Algebra 1, World History (or equivalent course), and Physical Science, Earth Science or Biology (or equivalent course).
- To be an **11th grader**, a student must have all of the following: 12 total credits, 8 of which must be core credits*, 2 of which must be in Language Arts, and 1 of which must be in Math.
- To be a **12th grader** a student must have all of the following: 16 total credits, 11 of which must be core credits*, 3 of which must be in Language Arts and 1 of which must be in Math.

*Core Credits are those that are achieved in Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies and Science.

F. Conferences/Open House

Parents/legal guardians may be contacted to meet with instructors and the student several times a year. The school encourages parents to request a conference at any time. If academic or attendance problems arise, conferences can be scheduled accordingly.

Open Houses are held twice a year. Dates/times will be announced and will be posted on the school's websites (www.cityofpalmscharter.com) (www.palmacrescharter.com) (www.northernpalmscharter.com)

G. Transferring Credits

Student credits from former high schools do transfer to our schools. An official transcript has a raised seal. We MUST have an official transcript in order for a student to graduate.

H. Graduation Requirements

The Florida Department of Education has recently adopted new rules and guidelines pertaining to Student Graduation Requirements. These provisions were enacted through legislation governing High School Standards which outline the requirements for students earning a standard diploma, special diploma, GED Exit Option, and Certificate of Completion.

Significant changes in this effort are reflected in the newly adopted use of End of Course (EOC) Assessments. The Florida EOC Assessments are part of [Florida's Next Generation Strategic Plan](#) for the purpose of increasing student achievement and improving college and career readiness. EOCs will be computer-based, criterion-referenced assessments that measure the [Next Generation Sunshine State Standards](#) for specific high-school level courses, as outlined in the course description. The first assessment that began the transition to end-of-course testing was the Algebra 1 EOC, administered for the first time in May 2011.

New provisions outlining General Requirements for High School Graduation are reflected in the documents entitled Student EOC Requirements High School Standards, and Senate Bill 4: 7-Year Timeline for Implementation Requirements for Ninth Grade Students.

Additional information may be obtained through the following link <http://fcats.fldoe.org/eoc/>.

Administration

A. Student Records Policy

City of Palms Charter High School will allow access to records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 as pertaining to release of records. In compliance with FERPA, parents have the right to inspect student records. Parents are required to submit their request to inspect student records in writing to the Principal to allow him/her to schedule a reasonable and appropriate time and date for the parent to review the record. Records will be provided for parental inspection only under the direct supervision of Principal or his/her designee. City of Palms Charter High School must comply with the parent's request for inspection within thirty (30) days. Copies of records only will be provided as required under FERPA.

Parents have the right to request corrections to student records. Requests for corrections must be submitted in writing to the Principal in a letter that includes the basis for such correction. Parents have the right to a response to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records. Parents also have a right to obtain copies of the records or make other arrangements where circumstances would effectively prevent the parent or student from exercising the right to inspect.

Parents and students eighteen or older (or a former student eighteen or older) have the right to request a school to amend information contained in the student's records that is deemed inaccurate, misleading, or violation of the student's privacy or other rights.

1. Parents and students eighteen and older must submit requests for correction in writing to the Principal in a letter that includes the basis for such correction.
2. The Principal must respond to the request in writing or in person within fourteen (14) days of receipt as to whether or not the school will comply with the request.
3. If the school refuses to amend the record, it must inform the requesting parent or student and advise him/her of the right to a hearing.
4. The parent or student can then request a hearing in writing to the Chairperson of the Board of Directors.
5. The Chairperson responds to the hearing requests in writing within thirty (30) days.
6. Hearings will be scheduled for the Board meeting that immediately follows the date of the Chairperson's response and the requesting parent or student must be given notice of the date, place, and time of the hearing.
7. Regardless of the decision whether or not to change the record, the decision must be put in writing and must include a summary of the evidence presented and reasons for decision.
8. If the school determines that the record in question should be amended, the school must do so and notify the parent or student in writing.
9. If the school determines that the record in question should not be amended, the school must inform the parent or student of the right to place in the student's records a statement commenting upon the challenged information and/or setting forth any reasons for disagreeing with the school's decision.
10. Parents have the right to file a complaint with the Department of Education if they think the school is not complying with the federal laws or regulations regarding student records.

B. Non-Custodial Parent Records Access and Release

City of Palms Charter High Schools will only give access to or release records to parents who have a legal right to the records of their child. If a parent has ever been to court for custody, those court documents must be on file with the school. Both custodial and non-custodial parents have equal access to the following unless there is a court order to the contrary:

- Cumulative file
- Health records;
- Psychological records;
- Parent conferences and lab observations.

Only the custodial parent can have access to Due Process where the child is classified as being handicapped and only the custodial parent can make decisions about the child.

Students over the age of eighteen (18) may deny the disclosure of school records to parents or guardians.

The stepparent does not have access to the stepchild's records unless the stepparent has adopted the child, the natural parent has given power of attorney, or the natural parent shows the record to the stepparent.

City of Palms Charter High School, Parent, and Non-Custodial parent must act in accordance with the Board of Director's Student Records Policy when addressing student records issues.

C. Confidentiality of Records

At City of Palms Charter High School we take student records and their confidentiality very seriously and have a policy of not disclosing any student records to anyone outside of the school except in strict accordance with state and federal law. Records of students are only released to another school upon request from that school or from a signed release by the parent/guardian or as otherwise required by law.

D. Student Directory Information

It is the policy of City of Palms Charter High School not to release any personal information such as names, home address, and phone numbers or any directory information, as that term is defined by Florida and Federal law, to outside agencies or requesting parties without the direct written consent of the parent or guardian or as otherwise required by law, such as military recruiters, etc. Unless a parent/guardian or adult student permits the distribution of any personal information, the School will not release the information.

Directory Information consists of:

- Student's Name, Address, Telephone Number, Electronic Mail Address
- Photograph
- Student's Date and Place of Birth
- Dates of Attendance
- Grade Level
- Date of Graduation
- Scholarships Received
- Degrees, Awards and Honors Received
- Most recent educational agency or institution attended
- Participation in Officially Recognized Activities and Sports
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used to communicate in electronic systems that cannot be used to access education records without a PIN, password, etc. A student's social security number, in whole or in part, cannot be used for this purpose.

E. Audio-Visual Information

We recognize the value of audio-visual and other types of electronic communication in providing our students with an effective education. In communicating our school-related activities, opportunities exist to photograph and /or videotape students and their work in a variety of activities. However, individual student records (academic, behavioral) will not be disclosed. Communications may include newsletters, local newspapers, community access cable channel, school-sponsored web pages, marketing materials and other publications. Highlighting the achievements and celebrating student successes in our schools is an integral part of the reporting responsibility to the community.

However, we will respect your wish for privacy in this area. Please call the school, should you have any questions or concerns. You may also notify the school in writing if you prefer that we do not use your student's name, picture and/or work product for presentations or other uses.

F. Child Find

We are participating in an effort to assist the State of Florida in identifying, locating, and evaluating all children who may have disabilities that may be hindering their ability to receive FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education).

School districts across the state of Florida are also participating in this effort to identify disabilities such as hearing impairments, visual impairments, speech or language impairments, specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, multiple disabilities, cognitive impairments, physical impairments, autism, traumatic brain injury, and other health impairments.

We are committed to affording all children their right to a free and appropriate education, regardless of any disability a child may have. However, in order to accomplish this, we must know that a need is present.

We are interested in meeting the needs of children with disabilities. If you know a child who may have disabilities, contact us for more information.

G. Parent's Right to Know Teacher Qualifications

Annually, we will notify parents of their right to request the following regarding their child's teacher(s):

- Licensure and certification information
- Emergency or provisional status
- Educational background
- Qualifications of Instructional Aides (if applicable)

H. Parent Involvement Policy

In any given year, we foster and enhance parent-involvement in the school. It is our goal to involve parents in their children's learning and to form an open line of communication between school and home. This will be accomplished through the following policies:

1. Information. Parents are informed about school activities and events through interim progress reports, report cards, notes sent home, parent newsletters, school website, and parent/teacher conferences and informal personal and telephone conferences.
2. Open Door Policy. Parents are invited to come to the school to observe the education of their children on any day with prior notification. School "Open House" is periodically scheduled.

3. Volunteer Program. All parents are invited to volunteer in the school on any given day of the week with prior notification.

Curriculum. We provide a high quality curriculum to enable our students to meet high standards, and prepare for the state graduation exam. We share these results with parents and provide an explanation of the results with parents during the course of the school year.

I. School Counselor

During each school year, students are offered an opportunity to work with our School Counselor. He/she will be in the building during normal hours of operation.

The School Counselor provides support to students who are experiencing difficulties. He/she assists students with learning new behavioral skills, developing self-confidence, becoming more aware of how others see them etc. The School Counselor also discusses how to practice new behaviors, and better understand how to deal with the many problems life presents.

Your child may be asked to participate in individual/group sessions held at School. These sessions will include discussions on attitudes, ideas, behaviors, feelings, and opinions. Participants will have the opportunity to learn new skills and behaviors that may help their personal development and adjustment.

The School Counselor will keep all information shared by the student confidential except in certain situations in which there are ethical and/or legal responsibility to limit confidentiality. The proper authorities will be notified if the student reveals information about hurting him/herself or another person; if the student reveals information about child abuse; and/or for any other situations which ethically and/or legally compel disclosure.

Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns, or do not wish your student to participate in these sessions.

Please Note: Should you, the parent/guardian, elect to seek family assistance (i.e. counseling, family counseling, case management, etc.) before or during the school year, our School Counselor can assist with the following:

- Provide a list of community agencies you can contact for service.
- Act as a school liaison between outside agencies and families.
- Provide a starting point for discussing services in the school or community setting.

As noted on the school application, the student and parent/guardian acknowledged and agreed to abide by all policies and procedures as stated in the Parent/Student Handbook.

J. Test Security Policy

So that the measurement accuracy of our students' achievement is not compromised, test security for all tests is of extreme importance. Accordingly, security measures are to be followed, as set forth below.

1. The Principal/Testing Coordinator (P/TC) is responsible for all test security during the entire time such tests are in their possession (from the moment materials are received by the School until after the testing is completed and they are shipped back to the appropriate provider).
2. The P/TC is responsible for designating a test coordinator for his site and that individual will serve as the contact person for all testing programs. The testing coordinator will conduct pre-testing workshops for all testing Principals and Proctors to administer the spring and fall testing programs in accordance with the Test Manual/

Handbook prepared and distributed by the Department of Education.

3. The P/TC is responsible for all correspondence/materials received concerning all formal tests.
4. Upon receipt at the School, the P/TC or a designee shall be the only person to open all tests.
5. It shall be the Principal's responsibility to check received tests to ensure they are correct in number and form.
6. At no time shall any test materials be left unattended or unsecured.
7. All testing materials shall be secured in a dedicated, locked storage cabinet that is only accessible to the P/TC or a designee. Except when tests are being distributed, used, and/or collected, they are to remain secured or attended at all times.
8. The P/TC shall develop a list of all persons designated as Test Proctors and the number of test copies each Test Proctor is to be given.
9. For each testing location and session, the Test Proctors shall develop, monitor, and implement a sign in/out system, which shall include, where applicable, the code numbers of each test distributed, as well as the signature of the person taking/returning the tests.
10. All Test Proctors shall abide by the test publishers designed testing procedures and will not participate in the reproduction of any tests or procedures, or distribute such materials to any person other than the appropriate person(s) at the time of testing.
11. Each Test Proctor is responsible for ensuring that all test security provisions are met while each test administration session is in progress. He/she must account for all test materials received from the Principal. Each day at the end of the testing session, each Test Proctor will return all test materials to a secured location.
12. Only the P/TC or authorized personnel may be present in the testing room while the tests are being administered.
13. Any suspected test security violations, including, but not limited to cheating or missing test materials, shall be reported to the Principal immediately upon discovery.
14. Within ten (10) school days of the conclusion of the Principal's investigation of a possible violation, he/she shall notify the proper authorities at the Department of Education if a violation has, in fact, been found or remains unresolved.
15. If circumstances warrant that the Department of Education needs to assign an investigator to hold a hearing regarding any alleged breach, a school representative shall be present at any and all such hearings. It is imperative that all employees shall testify honestly and openly.
16. If the result of the investigation reveals cheating or wrong-doing by a staff member, it shall be grounds for termination.
17. In addition to the above policy guidelines, all Department of Education guidelines for test security shall be followed.

K. Automated External Defibrillator Policy

All or our schools shall have an automated external defibrillator as referenced in F.S.

768.1325. An "automated external defibrillator" is a medical device approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for performing the process of "automated external defibrillation."

"Automated external defibrillation" means applying the specialized defibrillator to a person in cardiac arrest, allowing the defibrillator to interpret the cardiac rhythm, and, if appropriate, delivering an electrical shock to the heart to allow it to resume effective electrical activity.

A sufficient number of staff members will successfully complete an appropriate training course on the use of an automated external defibrillator and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The course must be offered or approved by the American Heart Association or another nationally recognized organization.

After a staff member has received the above training, he or she may perform automated external defibrillation, regardless of whether that person is a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, physician, or emergency medical service provider. However, when automated external defibrillation is not performed as part of an emergency medical services system or at a hospital, an emergency medical services system shall be activated as soon as possible.

The Board of Directors, shall direct each school to assign at least one (1) staff member from the school to do the following:

1. Maintain records of when and which staff members from the school building successfully completed the required training as described above;
2. Maintain and test the School's automated external defibrillator in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines, and report any malfunctions to the designated staff member;
3. Consult with a physician regarding compliance with required training for, and maintenance of the automated external defibrillator;
4. Notify the designated emergency medical services organization of the location of the automated external defibrillator in the school.

Except in the case of willful or wanton misconduct, or when there is no good faith attempt to activate an emergency medical services system in accordance with F.S. 768.1325(3), no person shall be held liable in civil damages for injury, death, or loss to person or property, or held criminally liable, for performing automated external defibrillation in good faith, regardless of whether the person has obtained the appropriate training described above.

L. Wellness Policy

With the passing of the Child Nutrition and Women, Infants, and Children WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 by Congress, the school recognizes the role it can play in building nutrition knowledge and skills in children to promote healthy eating and physical activity choices. This law requires local education agencies participating in a program authorized by the National School Lunch Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to develop a local wellness policy. The objectives of the wellness policy are to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health, and reduce childhood obesity.

The main goal of nutrition education is to influence students' eating behaviors. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, full physical and mental growth and lifelong health and well-being. Healthy eating is demonstrably linked to reduced risk for mortality and development of many chronic diseases. Schools and school communities have a responsibility to help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to establish and maintain lifelong healthy eating patterns.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a total school environment that promotes and supports student health and wellness, helps to reduce childhood obesity, and meets the requirements of the Child Nutrition and Women, Infants and Children WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004. These requirements include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Goals for nutrition education, physical activity and other school-based activities designed to promote student wellness;
2. Nutrition guidelines for all foods available during the school day;
3. A plan for measuring implementation including designating one or more persons charged with operational responsibility; and
4. Involving parents, students, school food service providers if available, school administration, and the public in developing a wellness program.

M. Medication Administration

No medication will be administered by the staff at school, including asthma inhalers.

However, pursuant to the F.S. 1002.20(3)(h) students are permitted to possess and use a metered dose or dry powder Asthma Inhaler to alleviate or prevent asthmatic symptoms. In addition, F.S. 1002.20(3)(i) permits a student to carry and use an epinephrine auto injector to treat anaphylaxis (an intense allergic reaction) aka epi-pen.

To carry either an inhaler or an auto-injector, written approval must be obtained from the student's physician, and, if the student is a minor, from the student's parent or legal guardian.

The physician's written approval must include the following information:

1. The name and address of the student;
2. The school in which the student is enrolled;
3. The name and dose of the medication contained in the inhaler or auto injector.
4. The name of the drug and the dosage to be administered;
5. The times or intervals at which each dosage of the drug is to be administered;
6. The date the administration of the drug is to begin;
7. The date the administration of the drug is to cease (if applicable);
8. Acknowledgement that the prescriber has determined that the student is capable of possessing and using the auto injector appropriately and has provided the student with training in the proper use of the auto injector.
9. Any severe adverse reactions that should be reported to the prescriber and one or more phone numbers at which the prescriber can be reached in an emergency;
10. Special instructions for administration of the drug by the student;
11. Instructions outlining procedures to follow if the medication does not provide adequate relief;
12. A list of adverse reactions that may occur to a child for whom the medication was not intended who uses the medication; and
13. And any other special instructions.

The school must have the above stated documentation provided by the physician and parent or guardian, if the student is a minor, in order to allow a student to use an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto injector or any other necessary self-administered medication.

A school employee will request assistance from an emergency medical service provider whenever a student is administered epinephrine at a public school or at an activity, event, or program sponsored by the school or in which the school is a participant. This request for medical assistance applies whether the student self-administers the medication or a school employee administers it to the student.

N. Complaint Policy and Procedure

The Board of Directors ("Board") of City of Palms Charter High School, Inc. believes that Complaints from parents or other members of the community should be addressed thoroughly and completely. The people involved should treat one another with the highest level of respect and dignity. Complaints are best resolved where the issue originated, typically with the teacher.

Initially, Complaints shall be addressed formally or informally with the school teacher. Complaints must be made in a civil/respectful manner in order to be considered by school personnel. Where appropriate, the Complaint should be in writing on a form developed by the Principal and should contain a statement of the facts and the specific outcome desired by the parent/guardian or other person making the Complaint ("Complainant"). The Complainant may sign the Complaint and should be given a copy. The teacher should work with the Complainant to resolve the issue in a timely, professional, and courteous manner. The efforts used to resolve the Complaint and the outcome should be noted on the form. Allegations involving illegalities should be reported immediately to the Principal, who will advise the Board, their counsel, and the Board's legal counsel.

Complaints unresolved through a parent/teacher communication or Complaints involving teachers or staff members should be in writing as noted in above, and directed to the Principal. The Principal shall investigate and attempt to resolve the issue in a fair and timely manner. The outcome should be noted on the form and further documented by letter or email as appropriate under the circumstances. If the Principal cannot resolve the issue, the Complaint (with documented history or preceding steps) is forwarded in written form to the Board.

The Board shall conduct an independent investigation by contacting appropriate persons involved. The outcome of the investigation should be noted on the form and further documented by letter or email as appropriate under the circumstances. If the Board cannot resolve the issue, the Complaint (with documented history of preceding steps) shall be forwarded to the Sponsor Representative assigned to the school and the Board's attorney. The Sponsor Representative shall conduct an investigation by contacting all parties involved and report the results to the Board and the Sponsor. The Board shall inform the Complainant, and any other necessary parties about the results of its investigation. The Complainant may address the Board during the Public Comment period at a Board meeting. Where appropriate, it should also be slated as an item for report on the Board's next meeting agenda and handled in accordance with all confidentiality restrictions.

The resolution of any Complaint reaching the Board shall be filed as part of the Board's records.

Complaints received directly by the Board, the Sponsor or the District shall be handled in accordance with the Board's Complaint Policy and Procedure and should go through steps 1 and 2 when possible. Upon receipt of a Complaint, the Sponsor shall forward it to the Principal to address the Complaint at the local level first. Upon receipt of a Complaint from the Sponsor, the Principal shall forward a copy of this Complaint Policy and Procedure to the Complainant and request that the Complainant complete the designated Complaint form. The Sponsor shall facilitate the Complaint by:

- Directing the Complaint to the appropriate school official first;
- Notifying the Board of the Complaint;
- Investigating the Complaint if warranted or if requested by school officials; and,
- Reporting the resolution of the Complaint to the Sponsor so that the Complaint may be tracked and closed.

Upon closure of a complaint, the Principal will issue a letter to the Complainant of one of the following:

- Compliance – (findings were unsubstantiated and school has complied); or
- Non-Compliance – (Noting the areas of non-compliance, recommending possible changes/technical assistance and statement that the school will respond to complainant with a corrective action(s) plan letter)

All documentation of the Complaint, findings and any corrective action(s) plan will be placed in the appropriately marked complaint file for closure.

School Facilities

A. Hours of Operation and School Address

School hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday. If you need to contact the school after hours, voice mail is available.

School: City of Palms Charter High School
Address: 2830 Winkler Avenue, Suite 201, Ft Myers, Florida 33916.
Phone: (239) 561-6611 Fax: (239) 561-6230
E-Mail: INFO@cityofpalmscharter.com
Website: www.cityofpalmscharter.com

School: Palm Acres Charter High School
Address: 507 Sunshine Blvd N, Unit B, Lehigh Acres, Florida 33971.
Phone: (239) 333-3300 Fax: (239) 333-3301
E-Mail: INFO@palmacrescharter.com
Website: www.palmacresscharter.com

School: Northern Palms Charter High School
Address: 132518 North Cleveland Avenue, North Ft Myers, Florida 33903.
Phone: (239) 997-9987 Fax: (239) 561-6230
E-Mail: INFO@northernpalmscharter.com
Website: www.northernpalmscharter.com

B. Smoking and Eating

The law prohibits smoking in the building or on the grounds of the school. Food and beverages are not allowed in the classroom or the computer labs. Students are in class a limited number of hours per day. They should make arrangements to eat before or after their respective academic sessions.

C. Parking - If you drive, you may park only in the area designated for students.

D. Transportation

Students typically rely on public transportation or private transportation to come to school. Because of our flexible scheduling the “traditional school bus” is not contracted as they do not influence our enrollment or attendance. Many students are of driving age and own a car or carpool with someone who drives.

CPOCHS will assure that transportation is not a barrier to equal access according to Florida statutes. Transportation service will be provided by the School to a student with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that so stipulates. The School has the ability to investigate public transportation options (i.e., bus passes) as needed and private providers as mandated by Florida law for those students who are eligible for school bus which could include contracting with private providers.

Students living past the two-mile radius are given a monthly bus pass. Students’ monthly pass documentation is kept at the school to show student membership. In accordance with State Board of Education Rule 6A-3.001(3) – “the bus stop for a student will be no more than 1.5 miles from the student’s home.” Review of the students’ eligibility for a monthly bus pass includes documentation that supports whether or not the bus stop for a student will be more than 1.5 miles from the student’s home. Route maps obtained from LeeTran (Lee County’s public transportation system) will be used to calculate the distance from the student’s home to the nearest bus stop. If the distance exceeds 1.5 miles, the School will investigate other transportation options which could include contracting with private providers.

E. Visitors

Our schools are closed campus schools. If an emergency arises the student will sign out and if need be, the party picking up the student will also sign with information as required by the school. All students must and will be accounted for while on campus.

Parents, graduates, and other visitors are always welcome with advanced notice and approval of the school office. Exceptions to the advance notice and approval are made in the event of an emergency. No children are permitted in the classroom at any time. If children would like to visit the school, an appointment for a tour must be scheduled with the main office.

All visitors are required to report to the school office prior to their visit and may be escorted while in the building. All visitors must sign in upon arrival and sign out before leaving the building and must wear a visitor's pass while in the building. Visitors will need to have a valid picture ID or Driver's License upon signing in, this information may be input into the national sexual predator database system for safety and security of our students based on recent the Jessica Lunsford Act. Visitors must pre-arrange any meetings or visits with teachers or Principals prior to entering the building. Visits should be 1/2 hour unless other arrangements have been made for an extended period of time.

When parents are visiting, they are asked not to attempt a conference while students are in the classroom.

F. Emergency Phone Calls

Students may give the school's phone number to relatives for emergency purposes only. The main office will take a message and forward it to a student as soon as possible.

G. School Closure Policy

Should it be necessary to close school due to weather or other unforeseen emergencies, information will be given over radio and television stations. Students are asked not to call the school.

Safety

A. Fire Alarm

When the fire bell rings, exit the building through the nearest exit in an orderly fashion according to instructions given by the attending adults. Instructions are also posted in each classroom.

B. Reporting Injuries

If a student is injured at school he/she must immediately report the injury to a teacher or Principal. The main office will complete a copy of the injury report.

C. Drug-Free School

In accordance with Federal Law, the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by a student on school grounds, or in the school building is prohibited. Drugs include alcoholic beverages, steroids, dangerous controlled substances as defined by State statute, or any substance that could be considered a "look alike." A student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, including expulsion.

If a student comes to school under the influence of drugs, he/she shall be sent home for the day and the parent/guardian shall be notified if the student is under the age of 18.

The complaint process in effect ensures that all matters will be investigated and resolved in accordance with the steps outlined in the Board of Director's Complaint Policy and Procedure.

D. Weapon-Free School

School is a Weapon-Free ZONE. No student at any time, for any reason, shall knowingly possess, handle, transmit, or use any object, which can be reasonably considered a weapon in or on property of the school or at any school sponsored activity held away from school property. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

E. Gang Activity

Students are prohibited from engaging in gang activities while at School, on school property, to or from school, or at a school related function or event.

F. Lost and Found

Any personal items that have been left at school will be taken to the front desk. If students find personal items that belong to others, they should turn the items into the front desk as soon as possible. School is not responsible for lost money, jewelry, or other personal items.

G. Backpacks, Desks, and Other Personal Storage Areas

Desks and other storage areas provided to students for their use remain the property of the school. Students by State Statute have no expectation of privacy in any storage area assigned to them. No student shall lock or otherwise impede access to any storage area. Unapproved locks will be removed and destroyed.

Upon authorization of the Principal, backpacks, desks, and other personal storage areas may be searched at any time for any reason. The Principal may at any time, with reasonable suspicion, call upon the assistance of the local police authorities to conduct a search of backpacks, desks, and other personal storage areas, and the contents contained therein.

H. Bullying, Harassment and Hazing Policy

Introduction

It is the policy of the schools that all students, Principal(s), educators and staff have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from bullying, harassment or hazing in any form. The school will not tolerate bullying, harassment and/or hazing of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying, harassment and/or hazing is prohibited. Students who engage in bullying, harassment and/or hazing are subject to disciplinary action, which may include counseling, suspension or expulsion from school.

Bullying, harassment and/or hazing is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. It is important to change the social climate of schools and the social norms with regard to bullying, harassment and/or hazing. This requires the efforts of everyone in the school environment - Principals, educators, staff, parents or legal guardians, and students. The purpose of the "Bullying, Harassment and Hazing Policy" ("the policy") is to assist in the prevention and to respond to acts of bullying, harassment and/or hazing.

This policy applies not only to students, Principal(s), educators, and staff who directly engage in an act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing, but also to students or school Principal(s), educators, and staff who, by their conduct, condone or support another student's act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing.

The misuse of technology to tease, intimidate, defame, threaten, or terrorize a student, Principal, educator, staff, volunteer, or visitor by sending or posting e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs, also may constitute an act of bullying and/or harassment regardless of whether such acts are committed on or off school property and/or with or without the use of school resources.

This policy applies to any student or school Principal, educator or staff whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying, harassment and/or hazing that interferes with, or obstructs, the mission or operations of the school or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or Principal(s), educators or staff subject of the conduct.

Statement of Policy

The school prohibits bullying, harassment and/or hazing of any type directed at a student, Principal, educator, or staff by either a student or a group of students, Principal, educator, staff, volunteer or visitor. Bullying, harassment and/or hazing are expressly prohibited on school property or at school related functions.

1. No Principal, educator, staff, volunteer or visitor shall permit, condone or tolerate bullying, harassment and/or hazing.
2. Consent or permission by the student being bullied, harassed or hazed does not change the prohibitions contained in this policy.
3. Reprisal or retaliation against a victim, an individual who reports the conduct in good faith, or a witness of bullying, harassment and/or hazing is prohibited.
4. False accusations or reports of bullying, harassment and/or hazing against another student is prohibited.
5. A person who engages in an act of reprisal or false reporting of bullying, harassment and/or hazing, or permits, condones or tolerates bullying, harassment and/or hazing shall be subject to discipline for that act in accordance with school policy.
6. The school will act to investigate all complaints of bullying, harassment and/or hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, Principal, educator, staff, volunteer, or visitor of the school who is found to have violated this policy.
7. The submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying, harassment and/or hazing will not affect the grades or employment of the individual reporting the conduct.

Definitions

Bullying means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or school Principal(s), educators or staff. It is further defined as unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an individual including students, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation; that may involve, but is not limited to:

1. Teasing
2. Social exclusion
3. Threat(s)
4. Intimidation
5. Stalking
6. Physical violence
7. Theft
8. Sexual, religious, or racial/ethnic harassment
9. Public humiliation
10. Damage to or destruction of property
11. Placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or property
12. Cyberbullying, as defined herein.
13. Cyber-stalking as defined herein.

Course of conduct means a pattern of conduct composed of a series of acts over a period of time, however short, evidencing a continuity of purpose. Constitutionally protected activity is not included within the meaning of "course of conduct." Such constitutionally protected activity includes picketing or other organized protests.

Cyberbullying means the use of electronic communication or technology devices, including, but not limited to, e-mail messages, instant messaging, text messaging, cellular telephone communications, internet blogs, social websites (e. g. MySpace, Facebook, etc.), internet chat rooms, internet postings, digital pictures or images, and defamatory websites to engage in acts of bullying and/or harassment regardless of whether such acts are committed on or off school property and/or with or without the use of school resources. Cyberbullying includes off-campus conduct, when the off-campus conduct causes, or threatens to cause, a substantial disruption at school or interference with the rights of students to be safe and secure.

Cyberstalking means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

Harass means to engage in conduct directed at a student, Principal(s), educator or staff that causes substantial emotional distress in such person and serves no legitimate purpose.

Harassment means any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written or verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

1. Places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;
2. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or
3. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Hazing means any action or situation that recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for purposes including, but not limited to, initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating under the sanction of the school. "Hazing" includes, but is not limited to, pressuring or coercing the student into violating state or federal law, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or other forced physical activity that would subject the student to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, forced conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment, or other forced activity that could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the student. Hazing does not include customary athletic events or other similar contests or competitions or any activity or conduct that furthers a legal and legitimate objective.

Bullying and Harassment also include:

Any act of retaliation by a student, Principal, educator or staff against another student, Principal, educator, or staff member who alleges, asserts or reports a violation of this policy or participates in the investigation of a bullying, harassment and/or hazing complaint. A report of an act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing that is not made in good faith is considered retaliation.

Perpetuation of conduct listed in the definition of bullying, harassment and/or hazing by an individual or group with intent to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional or physical harm to a student, Principal, educator, or staff by:

1. Incitement or coercion;
2. Accessing or knowingly and willingly causing or providing access to data or computer software through a computer, computer system, or computer network within the scope of the school's system;
3. Acting in a manner that has an effect substantially similar to the effect of bullying and/or harassment;
4. Cyberstalking as defined herein; or
5. Hazing.

Unwanted harm means conduct directed towards a student with regard to his/her actual or perceived traits or characteristics, including, but not limited to, age, gender, race, creed, national origin, handicap, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression and/or identity, physical attributes, physical, mental or educational ability or disability, ancestry, socio-economic background, political beliefs, linguistic preferences, or familial status.

Immediately means as soon as reasonably possible but within 24 hours or the next school day.

On school property or at school-related functions means all school buildings, school grounds, and property adjacent to school grounds, bus stops where students enter/exit public transit, public transit buses used by students to travel to and from school, and the grounds where school related functions, school-sponsored activities, events or trips. School property includes a student's route to or from school by foot travel for purposes of attending school or school related functions, activities or events. Notwithstanding the school prohibiting bullying, harassment and/or hazing, the school is not responsible for providing supervision, nor does the school, or the educational service provider, assume any responsibility or liability for the conduct at the referenced locations and/or school related functions, activities or events.

Please refer to the Parent Guide & Code of Conduct for Students 2014-2015 (Grades 6-12) of The School District of Lee County for additional information specifically related to “Sexual Harassment”, “Bullying or Harassment because of Race or Color”, “Bullying or Harassment based upon National Origin or Ethnicity” and “Bullying or Harassment because of Disability”.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND HARASSMENT BASED ON RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN AND DISABILITY ARE AGAINST THE LAW. DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, COLOR AND NATIONAL ORIGIN IS AGAINST THE LAW.

Expected Conduct on School Property or at School Related Functions

The school expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, Principal(s), educators and staff and the care of school facilities and equipment. In addition to conducting themselves in an appropriate and professional manner with supervisors, colleagues, and students, the school Principal(s), educators, staff, volunteers and visitors will treat others with civility and respect, and will refuse to tolerate bullying, harassment and/or hazing. The school finds that bullying, harassment and/or hazing, in an active or passive form, of any student or school Principal, educator or staff, volunteer or visitor is prohibited:

The school believes that standards for student behavior must be set cooperatively through interaction among the students, parent(s) or legal guardian(s), Principals, educators, staff and community members, to create an atmosphere that encourages students to grow in self-discipline. The development of this atmosphere requires respect for self and others, as well as for school property on the part of students, the Principal(s), educators and staff.

All Principals, educators, and staff will collaborate with students, parents, guardians, and community members to incorporate methods to recognize and promote, through positive reinforcement, good conduct, conformance to reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior by respecting the person, property, and rights of others, obedience to authority, responsiveness to those who hold that authority, self-discipline, and good citizenship.

Students are encouraged to support other students, refrain from acts of bullying, harassment and/or hazing, and report such acts to the school Principal or his/her designee.

Students are expected to conform to reasonable standards of socially acceptable behavior; respect other persons, property and rights; obey authority; and respond to the Principal, educators and staff at the school.

Prohibited Conduct

During school and any school related program, function or activity, bullying, harassment and/or hazing is prohibited;

1. During school and any school-related or school-sponsored program, function or activity;
2. While on school property as defined by this policy; or
3. Through the use of any electronic device, computer, or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network of the School. The physical location or time of access of a computer-related incident cannot be raised as a defense in any disciplinary action.

Investigation of Complaints

The school shall cause to be investigated any complaint filed or otherwise complained of which, if legally sufficient, would be cause to substantiate a violation(s) of the policy.

When it is alleged that a school Principal(s), educator, or staff has violated this policy, and if the conduct affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, the school will immediately suspend the Principal(s), educator, or staff from regularly assigned duties, with pay, and reassign the suspended Principal(s), educators, or staff to a position that does not require direct contact with students. Said suspension shall continue until the completion of the investigation and the determination of sanctions, if appropriate.

Consequences for Prohibited Conduct, False Reporting and Reprisal or Retaliation

To determine that conduct constitutes a violation of this policy requires that an investigation be conducted to determine the facts and circumstances of the alleged conduct. The location or time of access of a computer-related incident cannot be raised as a defense in any disciplinary action. When an act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing, false reporting, reprisal or retaliation is committed, the following consequences shall be applicable:

1. Students who commit an act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing shall be disciplined up to and including suspension or expulsion.
2. Principals, educators or staff who commit an act shall be disciplined in accordance with the CPCHS policies. Additionally, an act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing by certified educators may result in a sanction against an educator's state issued certificate.
3. Parent(s), guardian(s), visitor(s) or volunteer(s) who commit an act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing shall be addressed as determined by the Principal.
4. Consequences for a student, Principal, educator, staff, parent, guardian, volunteer, or visitor may include reporting the conduct to a law enforcement agency or the district.
5. The Principal is responsible for the imposition of any disciplinary sanction.

Reporting of Prohibited Acts

The school Principal or designee shall be responsible for receiving a complaint alleging violations of this policy.

1. Any person who believes he or she has been subject of bullying, harassment and/or hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying, harassment and/or hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to the school Principal or designee.
2. All educators and staff who receive a report of, observe, or have other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying, harassment and/or hazing shall inform the school Principal or designee immediately.
3. The school Principal shall establish and prominently publicize to students, educators, staff, volunteers, visitors, parents, and guardians how a report of bullying, harassment and/or hazing may be filed and how the report will be addressed.

4. A student, parent or guardian, volunteer or visitor may report bullying, harassment and/or hazing incidents anonymously, on a designated complaint form, or in-person to the school Principal or designee. However, a student may make a report of bullying, harassment and/or hazing to any school employee. The school employee will assist the student in reporting the conduct to the school Principal or designee.
5. The school Principal or designee will develop a procedure for the anonymous filing of a report of bullying, harassment and/or hazing by a student, parent, guardian, volunteer or visitor. Such formats may include electronic, drop-box, or telephone techniques for reporting, but the chosen format must promote safety and privacy. Although a report may be made anonymously by a student, parent, guardian, volunteer or visitor, formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on an anonymous report. Independent evidence corroborating the anonymous report will be necessary in order for any disciplinary action to be imposed.
6. Any written or oral reporting of an act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing will be considered an official report of said conduct.

Investigation of Complaints

1. The investigation of a reported act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing is deemed to be a school related activity and begins with a report of said conduct.
2. The school Principal or designee will conduct a prompt investigation of the reported incident, but such investigation shall be commenced no later than the following school day. The individual investigating the conduct may not be the accused perpetrator or the individual subject to the conduct. The investigation will be conducted during the subsequent ten (10) school days. The investigation will be completed on or before the tenth school day, unless good cause is present to extend the period for a reasonable time period.
3. The investigation will include interviews of the individual subject to the conduct, alleged perpetrator, and witnesses. Interviews will be conducted individually, in private, and will be confidential. Each individual (subject to the conduct), alleged perpetrator, and witnesses will be interviewed separately. At no time will the alleged perpetrator and individual subject to the conduct be interviewed together. The individual conducting the interview will document the interview(s) by preparing a written document to memorialize the interview.

The individual investigating the conduct will collect and evaluate the following, including, but not limited to:

1. Description of conduct, including the nature of the behavior;
2. Context in which the alleged conduct(s) occurred;
3. How often the conduct occurs;
4. Whether there were past incidents or a continuing pattern of behavior;
5. The relationship between the parties involved;
6. The characteristics of parties involved, i.e. age, gender, physical or mental status of the individuals involved, etc.
7. The identity and number of individuals who participated in bullying, harassing and/or hazing behavior;
8. Where the alleged incident(s) occurred;
9. Whether the conduct adversely affected the student, subject of the conduct, education or educational environment;
10. Whether the student, subject of the conduct, felt or perceived an imbalance of power as a result of the reported conduct; and
11. The date, time and method in which parents or guardians of all parties involved were contacted.
12. Whether a particular action or conduct constitutes a violation of this policy shall require a determination based on the facts and circumstances. The determination shall include:

13. Recommended remedial steps necessary to stop the bullying, harassing and/or hazing behavior;
14. The individual investigating the conduct will prepare a written report that includes the above referenced information to memorialize the investigation, including the findings; and
15. A written final report by the school Principal will be prepared if the Principal did not conduct the investigation.
16. If the school Principal or designee is directly involved with a complaint, either as an alleged perpetrator, witness or victim or has a close relationship with the party involved in the complaint, the school Principal shall excuse himself/herself from the process. In response, the management company will be responsible for conducting the investigation.

Notification to Law Enforcement

The Principal may, as a result of the allegations made, submit the complaint concerning bullying, harassment and/or hazing to a law enforcement agency or the district for investigation.

Notification to Parents or Guardians

The Principal or designee shall promptly report to the parent or guardian of a student who has been reported as an individual subject to bullying, harassment and/or hazing, and the custodial parent or guardian of the alleged perpetrator of the act of bullying, harassment and/or hazing. Said notification will occur at the start of an investigation, and may be made by telephone, electronic mail, U.S. mail, or personal conference. All notifications shall be consistent with the student privacy rights.

If the incident results in the perpetrator(s) being charged with a crime, the school Principal or designee shall by telephone, electronic mail, U.S. mail or personal conference, inform the parent or guardian of the student subject of the investigation.

Publication, Training and Education

This policy shall be referenced in the Board Manual Policy and the Parent/Student Handbook, and other means as determined by the school Principal.

The school may implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, harassment and/or hazing to respond to bullying, harassment and/or hazing in a manner that does not stigmatize the individual subject of the conduct, and to make resources or referrals to resources available to victims of bullying, harassment and/or hazing.

Reporting of Bullying and Harassment

Incidents of bullying or harassment shall be reported in the school's report of data concerning school safety and discipline required under Section 1006.09(6), Florida Statutes. The school Principal or designee will report each incident of bullying and harassment, and the resulting consequences, including discipline and referrals, in the Safety Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data. The report shall also include bullying/harassment as an incident code, as well as the "bullying-related" element code to situations that meet the definition of bullying along with an accompanying behavior, i.e. "Battery, Bullying-related," as required by state laws.

On-going Reporting to Target's Parents/Guardians

Following an appropriate investigation, the school Principal or designees will report to the parent or guardian of the student subject of the conduct what steps have been taken to protect the student. Follow-up reports will be designed based on the interventions and will continue in a manner that is deemed necessary by the school Principal. Notification will be consistent with the student's privacy rights.

Privacy and Confidentiality

To the greatest extent possible, all complaints will be treated as confidential and in accordance with Fla. Stat. § 1002.22(3) (d); the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"); and any other applicable laws.

Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation as described above. The school's obligation to investigate and take corrective action to ensure the health, welfare and safety of the students may supersede an individual's right to privacy.

The complainant's identity shall be protected, but absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

Constitutional Safeguard

This policy shall not be interpreted to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of students (i.e., to prohibit a reasoned and civil exchange of opinions or debate that is conducted at appropriate times and places during the school day and is protected by federal and state laws).

I. Safe School Policy

Florida law established a zero-tolerance policy concerning crime and victimization on school grounds or at school activities, events and functions. The goal is to allow students to learn in a safe environment.

In conjunction with the City of Palms Charter High School, Inc.'s rules for a "Drug Free School", a "Weapons Free School", the "Administrative Search Policy" and other City of Palms Charter High School policies, the "Safe School Policy" is established. The policy is adopted to place all students who attend school, as well as their respective parents and guardians, on notice that the school will have "zero-tolerance" for:

- Crime and substance abuse, including the failure to report delinquent acts and crimes occurring at school and school related activities, events and functions, whether on school premises or off the premises where the school related activity, event or function is conducted.
- Dating violence and abuse by any student on school property, during a school sponsored activity, or during school sponsored transportation; and
- Victimization of students, including the failure to take appropriate steps to protect the victim off any violent crime from further victimization at school or at school related activities, events and functions on the school premises or off the premises at school related activities, events or functions.

Definitions

1. **"Firearm"** means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapon; any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; any destructive device; or any machine gun. The term "firearm" does not include an antique firearm unless the antique firearm is used in the commission of a crime.
2. **"Weapon"** means any dirk, metallic knuckles, slingshot, billie, tear gas gun, stun gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapon carried on or about a person in such a manner as to conceal the weapon from the ordinary sight of another person.
3. **"Controlled substance"** means any substance named or described in Schedule IV of s. 893.03, Florida Statutes. Controlled substances are deemed to be contraband.

4. **“Drug paraphernalia”** means all equipment, products, and materials of any kind which are used, intended for use, or designed for use in planting, propagating, cultivating, growing, harvesting, manufacturing, compounding, converting, producing, processing, preparing, testing, analyzing, packaging, repackaging, storing, containing, concealing, transporting, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance in violation of s. 877.111, Florida Statutes. Drug paraphernalia is deemed to be contraband.
5. **“False report”** means willfully providing, orally or in writing, false information or a report regarding the possession of a firearm or weapon or the threat to use a firearm or weapon.
6. **“Possess”** means to have personal charge of or exercise the right of ownership, management, or control over the firearm or weapon.
7. **“School”** means City of Palms Charter High School facility and/or grounds.

Prohibited Acts

There is zero-tolerance for a student who commits the following acts.

The student shall not:

1. have within his/her possession a firearm or weapon at school, on school grounds or at any school activity, event or function;
2. make a threat concerning the use or discharge of any firearm or weapon with intent to do bodily harm to any person or with intent to do damage to any property;
3. make a false report, with intent to deceive, mislead or otherwise misinform concerning the possession or use of any firearm or weapon; and
4. victimize a student who has been subject previously to any act or conduct that violates school policy and/or the laws of this state.

Sanctions

A student who commits a zero-tolerance offense is subject to expulsion by the school for one (1) year from the date of the expulsion.

J. Internet Safety Policy

The use of technology is a privilege and an important part of the School’s overall curriculum. The School will, from time to time, make determinations on whether specific uses of technology are consistent with School policies for students and employees of the School but does not warrant that the technology resources will meet any specific requirements of the student or other users, or that it will be error free or uninterrupted. The School always reserves the right to monitor and log technology use, to monitor file server space utilization by users, and examine specific network usage (as may be deemed necessary) for maintenance, safety or security of the technology resources or the safety of the user.

It is the policy of the School to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity and damage to school resources; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) [Publ. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)].

Access to Inappropriate Material

To the extent practicable, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) are used to block or filter Internet access to, or other forms of electronic communications containing, inappropriate information. Filtering, or blocking, is applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene, child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors, as defined by the Children’s Internet Protection Act. The filter serves to block minors from accessing inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web.

The technology protection measures may be disabled only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes. Disabling technology protection shall only be performed by a member of the Information Technology Team or its designated representatives.

Additionally, it shall be the responsibility of all members of the staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet and ensure that the same is in accordance with this policy. By using the filter program as well as staff monitoring student use, the School is attempting to provide a safe and secure medium by which students can use the Internet, World Wide Web, electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications.

To the extent reasonable, steps are taken to promote the safety and security of users of the School online computer network. Other inappropriate network usage that the School intends to eliminate includes:

1. Unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and
2. Unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Please refer to the Parent Guide & Code of Conduct for Students 2015-2016 (Grades 6-12) of The School District of Lee County for additional information.

Parent/Student Contract

By signing the Parent/Student Contract Page at the end of the Parent/Student Handbook, the parent and student agree:

1. To abide by all School policies relating to the use of technology;
2. To release all School employees from any and all claims of any nature arising from the use or inability to use the technology;
3. That the use of technology is a privilege; and
4. That use of the technology will be monitored and there is no expectation of privacy whatsoever in any use of the technology.

Disciplinary Actions

1. The parent/student further agrees and understands that the user may have his/her privileges revoked or other disciplinary actions taken against them for actions and/or misuse such as, but not limited to, the following:
2. Altering system technology, including but not limited to, software or hardware;
3. Placing unauthorized information, computer viruses or harmful programs on or through the computer system in either public or private files or messages;
4. Obtaining, viewing, downloading, transmitting, disseminating or otherwise gaining access to or disclosing materials the School believes may be unlawful, obscene, pornographic, abusive, or otherwise objectionable.
5. Using technology resources for commercial, political, or other unauthorized purposes since the School technology resources are intended only for educational use;
6. Intentionally seeking information on, obtaining copies of, or modifying files, other data, or passwords belonging to other users;
7. Disrupting technology through abuse of the technology, including but not limited to, hardware or software;
8. Malicious uses of technology through hate mail, harassment, profanity, vulgar statements, or discriminating remarks;
9. Interfering with others' use of technology;
10. Installation of software without consent of the School;
11. Allowing anyone else to use an account other than the account holder; and
12. Other unlawful or inappropriate behavior.

Loss of Access Privileges and/ or Appropriate Legal Action

The user also acknowledges and agrees that he/she is solely responsible for the use of his/her accounts, passwords, and/or access privileges, and that misuse of such may result in appropriate disciplinary actions (including but not limited to suspension or expulsion), loss of access privileges, and/or appropriate legal action.

The user must also know and further agrees that:

1. Should the user transfer a file, shareware, or software that infects the technology resources with a virus and causes damage, the user will be liable for any and all repair costs;
2. The user will be liable to pay the cost or fee of any file, shareware, or software transferred or downloaded, whether intentional or accidental;
3. Should the user intentionally destroy information or equipment that causes damage to technology resources, the user(s) will be liable for any and all costs; and
4. Violation of this Internet Safety Policy is also a violation of the School Code of Conduct and may result in any in other scholastic disciplinary action, other than those specifically set forth above, including but not limited to suspension or expulsion.

Definitions

1. CIPA defines the above referenced terms as follows:
2. A minor is anyone under the age of 17.
3. “Technology Protection Measure” means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:
4. Obscene, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;
5. Child Pornography, as that term is defined in section 1226 of title 18, United States Code; or
6. “Harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file or other visual depiction that:
7. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex or excretion;
8. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
9. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
10. “Sexual act” and “sexual contact” have the meanings given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

K. Search Policy

City of Palms Charter High School, Inc. (“CPCHS, Inc.”) hereby establishes a zero-tolerance policy concerning school violence, crime, and the possession or use of firearms and weapons on school grounds or at school functions. The zero-tolerance policy is part of a comprehensive approach to reduce violence in schools. Federal Law also allows schools to take reasonable steps in an effort to provide a safe, drug-free environment for students. The goal is to allow students to learn, in a safe environment, while their respective civil rights are protected.

In conjunction with the policies of CPCHS, Inc., an “Administrative Search Policy” (“the policy”) is hereby established. The Administrative Search Policy permits a search of any student and/or visitor who enter the school facility or grounds, or any student who attends any school activity, function, or event regardless of whether the activity, function, or event is at the school. The administrative search authorized, pursuant to this policy, provides for the search and seizure of any firearm(s), weapon(s) and/or contraband found in possession or controlled by the individual searched, and/or in his or her possession which may include a

persons automobile if parked on school property and the appropriate search parameters are met. Illegal firearm(s), weapon(s) and contraband include any item(s) that are in violation of local, state or federal law, and/or in violation of any School Code of Conduct rule, policy, or guideline.

The Administrative Search Policy is supplemented by the “Procedures for School Officials” that outlines how searches will be conducted. While this is a comprehensive policy, nothing outlined in this policy restricts or limits school officials, school police officers, school security officers, or law enforcement from searching students or visitors where reasonable suspicion or probable cause, independent of an administrative search, exists. If a metal detecting device alerts to the presence of metal during the course of an administrative search, it gives rise to reasonable suspicion. This policy also outlines searches performed when reasonable suspicion exists where an administrative search has not been conducted.

Administrative Searches

Introduction to Administrative Searches and General Considerations

1. The primary purpose of the metal detector searches authorized, pursuant to this policy, is to locate any firearm(s), weapon(s) and/or contraband in order to provide a safe school environment for students, teachers, staff, and Principals. The primary purpose of the searches is not to collect evidence for criminal prosecution or to penalize students. However, law enforcement authorities will be summoned and may arrest the individual while seeking criminal prosecution against an individual if a search reveals that the individual is in possession of any firearms (s), weapon(s) or contraband.
2. Administrative searches using a metal detector may be conducted randomly or may be at a set location at locations at the school facility, on the school grounds, or at locations where a school activity, function or event is held.
3. The searches will be conducted in the least intrusive manner so that individuals’ rights are balanced with the requirements of this policy. Administrative searches using a metal detector may be conducted by any member of the Search Team, regardless of gender, if the Search Team member has been trained to properly conduct searches using an approved metal detector. Pat-down searches will be conducted by an individual of the same gender as the individual being searched. Under no circumstances will a “strip search” be conducted by school officials pursuant to this policy. (Security personnel and law enforcement officials shall not be limited by this paragraph and shall follow appropriate training).
4. The Search Team, including the school Principal or designee(s), will oversee any and all metal detector searches. The school Principal or designee(s) will be required to follow the policy with regard to administrative searches and will be required to address the discovery of firearm(s), weapon(s) or contraband as set forth within the search policy procedures.
5. The Search Team will be trained to conduct administrative and reasonable suspicion searches.
6. Nothing in the Administrative Search Policy shall limit the authority of the school Principal, or designee(s), law enforcement, or school security officers to search an individual or an individual’s possessions when reasonable suspicion or probable cause exists that the individual is in possession of an illegal firearm(s), weapon(s) or contraband.
7. All students and legal guardians are required to sign a written acknowledgement, prior to attending school, concerning this policy in addition to the Student/Parent Contract. The acknowledgement will provide written notice to the student(s), parent(s) and legal guardian(s).
8. Signs will be posted at the school facility notifying students and visitors that any student or visitor is subject to random administrative searches.

Administrative Search Procedure

1. All students and visitors entering the school facility or grounds or any student in attendance at any school activity, function, or event regardless of whether the activity, function, or event is at the school facility or grounds are subject to a walk-through and/or hand-held metal detector search for firearms, weapons, and/or contraband. The determination as to the random searches of students and visitors will be made pursuant to the procedures for conducting metal detector searches. The search will be random, use an even-handed criteria for determining individuals subject to the search.
2. No student or visitor shall be selected to be searched based solely upon his/her gender, race, ethnicity, physical appearance, manner of dress, or association with any particular group of persons.
3. Pursuant to the administrative search policy, school officials are prohibited from selecting a specific individual(s) to be searched without reasonable suspicion that the individual is in possession of a firearm, weapon, and/or contraband. This policy may not be used as a pretext to “single out” a particular individual or group of individuals.
4. Searches will be performed on random days, times, and locations. Advance notice of a search will not be provided.
5. Students and visitors to be searched will be advised that an administrative search is being conducted; will be advised of the procedures; and will have the opportunity to ask questions prior to the search.
6. Students and visitors may refuse to submit to the search.
7. No student/visitor selected to be searched will be allowed to enter or remain in the facility or on the grounds if the individual does not submit to the search. School officials should immediately advise the school police officer or security officer and contact law enforcement when an individual objects to an administrative search.
8. The individual to be searched will be asked to remove any firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband from his/her person or personal possessions before the search. These items will be placed in a designated container or space, in public view, until the search is completed. Any firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband removed for the search will be confiscated and seized by the school police officer or security officer.
9. Subsequent to the removal of items referenced above, students and visitors will be searched with a hand-held metal detecting device. For each individual searched, there will be a body scan for any firearms, weapons, and/or contraband. Any personal possessions (i.e., backpacks, briefcases, bags and containers) of the individual will also be scanned for firearms, weapons, and/or contraband.
10. Every effort will be made to avoid bodily contact between the person being searched and the device.
11. If the hand-held metal detector alerts during the body scan, the school official conducting the scan will direct the individual being searched to remove any remaining metal objects from his or her person or possessions and place the item(s) in the designated container. Any firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband removed will be confiscated and seized by the school police officer or security officer. The school official will then conduct a second scan.
12. If the metal detector alerts to the presence of metal during the second scan, the individual will be subject to a pat-down search. This expanded search will be based on reasonable suspicion and include a limited pat-down of the area for which the device was activated. The search will be further expanded should the pat-down, or some other grounds for reasonable suspicion, indicate a concealed firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband may be in the possession of the individual. Expanded or more intrusive searches will be conducted as outlined pursuant to the Reasonable Suspicion Searches section of this policy.
13. Any weapon(s) and/or contraband will be confiscated and seized by the school police officer or security officer. Any item(s) confiscated during the search will subject the individual possessing the item(s) to discipline pursuant to school policy. Additionally, the student and/or visitor will be subject to criminal prosecution, including arrest, detention, and incarceration.

14. Any item(s) that is not prohibited such as a firearm(s), weapon(s) and/or contraband will be returned to the individual at the conclusion of the search. A school official shall have the sole discretion with regard to making the determination that the item(s) does not pose any threat to the health and/or safety of individuals within the facility and/or grounds.
15. If a student or visitor is subject to a medical condition, or pregnancy, that prevents or inhibits the use of a metal detector, the individual will be required to present proper documentation to the school Principal or designee(s) when enrolling at the charter school or prior to an administrative search. If a student who is subject to an administrative search fails to provide proper documentation, the student will not be excused from an administrative search. This documentation will be verified and kept on file by the school Administration. Documentation will be valid for the current academic year, for the duration of the medical condition or pregnancy, or if the student or visitor has a terminal or permanent condition, until the end of the current academic year. For individuals providing proper documentation for a valid medical reason, administrative searches will be conducted pursuant to a pat-down search.

Reasonable Suspicion Searches

Introduction to Reasonable Suspicion Searches and General Considerations

1. Reasonable suspicion depends on the information and observations available to the school official in determining whether there is reasonable suspicion to conduct a search. Reasonable suspicion depends on both the content of information possessed by a school official and its degree of reliability. Both factors, the quantity and quality of the information and the degree of reliability, are considered with regard to the totality of the circumstances. All available information must be considered when evaluating whether there is reasonable suspicion to conduct a search. Thus, if the information available has a relatively low degree of reliability, more information will be required than if the information was more reliable.
2. Reasonable suspicion may exist independent of an administrative search. School officials may conduct searches of any student, at any time, if reasonable suspicion exists that the individual is in possession of a firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband. Where reasonable suspicion is developed concerning the possession of a firearm(s), weapon(s) and/or contraband, an expanded or more intrusive search is necessary via a pat-down search.
3. Prior to conducting the search, the school Principal or designee(s), overseeing the search, will request the student sign a Consent to Search Form. If the student refuses to consent, school officials retain the authority to conduct a search even though the student does not execute a consent form. The student is subject to discipline, including expulsion, for the failure to consent to a search. The search will be limited to the basis of reasonable suspicion, i.e., information and/or observations obtained with regard to the individual's possession of a firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband. Failure of a student to consent may result in discipline, pursuant to the policy.
4. When there is reasonable suspicion that an individual is in possession of a firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband, school officials will contact the school police officer or security officer to conduct the search.
5. During the search, if other illegal contraband is found, the item(s) will be confiscated and seized by the school police officer or security officer. The individual possessing a firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband will be subject to the discipline pursuant to school policy.

Reasonable Suspicion Search Procedure

A search based on reasonable suspicion involves a pat-down of an individual and/or a physical inspection of the individual's possessions.

1. The pat-down search will be conducted at the school facility or on school grounds in an area a safe distance from other students. If the search is to be conducted at a school activity, event, or function, the search will be conducted in an area a safe distance from other individuals. The search will be conducted by a school official, school police officer, or security officer of the same gender as the individual being searched, whenever possible. All searches will be witnessed by school official(s), in addition to the school official, school police officer, or security officer conducting the search.
2. Where a reasonable suspicion search is conducted as the result of a metal detector activating, the search shall be conducted only in the area of the body for which the device alerted. The search will include patting-down the exterior of the individual's clothing for the limited purpose of discovering the item(s) which may have caused the metal detector to alert to the presence of metal. If the device alerts to the individual's personal possessions, the possessions will be inspected and opened to determine the presence of a firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband.
3. If the school official, school police officer, or security officer conducting the search observes or feels an object which may have caused the metal detector to alert, and there is a reasonable belief that the object may be a firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband, the school official, school police officer, or security officer conducting the search will ask the individual being searched to remove the item(s). If the individual refuses, the school official, school police officer, or security officer has the authority to remove the item from the individual's person or possessions without consent.
4. If the item(s) removed is determined to be what caused the metal detector to alert the search will cease, unless reasonable suspicion still exists. If reasonable suspicion exists sufficient to continue the search, the search will continue.
5. If the item(s) removed is determined to be what caused the metal detector to alert to the presence of metal, the search will cease. No further reasonable suspicion will exist. The individual and/or his/her possessions will then be re-scanned with the metal detector. If the device alerts again, the individual or his/her possessions will be subject to an additional search. If the device does not alert again, the search is complete.
6. If the removed item is a firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband, it will be confiscated and seized by the school police officer or security officer. Any item(s) confiscated during the search will subject the individual possessing the item(s) to discipline pursuant to school policy. Additionally, the student and/or visitor will be subject to criminal prosecution, including arrest, detention, and/or incarceration.
7. Any item(s) that is not prohibited as an illegal firearm(s), weapon(s), and/or contraband will be returned to the individual at the conclusion of the search. A school official shall have the sole discretion with regard to the determination that the item(s) do not pose any threat to the health or safety of individuals within the facility and/or grounds.



CITY OF PALMS

CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL, INC.

dba

City of Palms CHS / Palm Acres CHS / Northern Palms CHS

**Parent/Student Contract
2016-17**

Student's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____
(If student is under 18 years of age)

I/We have read and understood all of the information contained in the

School Parent/Student Handbook for City of Palms CHS, Inc.
AND
The School District of Lee County Parent Guide & Code of Conduct for Students 2016-17
Grades 6-12

I/We agree to abide by and support the rules and regulations, including the

CODE OF CONDUCT AND ALL OTHER POLICIES
as outlined in the
School Parent/Student Handbook for City of Palms CHS, Inc.
AND
The School District of Lee County Parent Guide & Code of Conduct for Students 2016-17
Grades 6-12

*Although these documents reflect the current policies of the school, it may be necessary to make changes
from time to time to best serve the needs of the School and its students.*

Agreed by:

Student's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature (if student is under 18 years of age)

Date

**This agreement will be placed into the student's file.
Not receiving this signed agreement will be cause for student dismissal. **