



THOMAS
MACLAREN
SCHOOL

Parent-Student Handbook 2017-2018

Revised as of July 14, 2017

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1. OUR VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

A. Vision Statement

We believe all students should be immersed in the best our tradition has to offer. We believe all students can be active and useful participants in the ongoing and enduring conversation that is a vibrant civilization. We believe all students can be formed in a habitual vision of greatness that makes lifelong learners of the doctor and the mechanic, the housewife and the professor. Thomas MacLaren School strives to build a lasting community of learners in which each student is the agent of his or her education.

We at Thomas MacLaren School believe that all young men and women deserve the same quality education, regardless of their ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background. All students, not only those wealthy enough to attend private schools or to earn places in specialized public schools, deserve to study the best that the Western tradition has to offer.

B. Mission Statement

From the seminar to the science lab, from the music room to the playing field, Thomas MacLaren School begins with the conviction that *all human beings can know truth, create beauty, and practice goodness*. To that end, we expect students to develop basic tools of learning, ordered basic knowledge, moral seriousness, breadth and depth of imagination, artistic ability and sensitivity, and a sense of wonder.

II. EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The educational goal of Thomas MacLaren School is the cultivation of the intellect, which includes both true knowledge and sound habits of mind. The MacLaren curriculum is structured by the three essentials of all education: ordered basic knowledge, basic skills or tools of learning and the habitual vision of greatness.

The cultivation of the intellect – or “learning” – is the engagement of the mind and imagination with reality. It is an activity that is essential to a fully human life. As one modern philosopher described it, education is the process of a human awakening. That is our goal: to awaken our students’ desire to engage their minds and imaginations with reality and become more fully human in the process. Our curriculum and teaching methods, then, are not intended to introduce our students to “school” or “schooling,” but to a culture where ideas and the expression of the human mind and spirit matter.

Learning begins with acquiring knowledge in an ordered way. We believe there are things which all educated adults ought to know, so MacLaren students follow a common academic core curriculum which includes seven years of mathematics, history, science, writing, literature and foreign language (four years of Latin, three years of modern language). All educated adults should also be able to appreciate and, to some extent, create works of beauty, so MacLaren students also take seven years of music, four years of drawing and painting, and two years of drama.

While *what* a student learns is important, *how* a student learns is just as important. We believe, in fact, that education is not simply a matter of acquiring important facts and skills, but also of acquiring habits of mind that enable a student to become a learner in every environment. Thus, we constantly emphasize that the student is the main agent in his or her education. Students who fail to see for themselves fail to learn. Rather than receiving knowledge passively, each student must actively apprehend concepts, perceive relationships and express knowledge in written and spoken forms. This is why we envision MacLaren as a community of learners. Each member of this community, faculty and student alike, is called to pursue his or her own education, with the understanding that we learn far more together than we could on our own. Thoughtful and imaginative participation is, then, required of every student.

This emphasis on active learning lies behind many of the distinctive features of MacLaren. We aim to separate boys and girls in the classroom, we almost always read original texts and documents rather than textbooks, and we use seminars, frequent writing exercises, studios and laboratories to make the courses performance-based. All these strategies keep students actively engaged in learning and help them become truly educated human beings, that is, people who can learn and think on their own.

III. THE MACLAREN CURRICULUM

A. Graduation Requirements (Revised Feb 2017)

As a guiding principle, we want every student to complete the entire academic program at MacLaren. The program is a unified whole which expresses our vision of education. Reasonable adjustments and special arrangements for specific students are made only for serious reasons. For example, in rare occasions students have had the language requirement waived to allow extra time for ELL services. Seniors who fail a course in their last semester may be required to register for summer school for credit recovery to receive a MacLaren diploma. One semester credit is awarded for a class that meets 5 times weekly for 55 minutes per meeting. One-half semester credit is earned for a class that meets 2 or 3 times a week. Below is a table of MacLaren’s graduation requirements for the high school. We have also listed for comparison the requirements from the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR), which are the requirements set forth by Colorado as standards for college entrance beginning in the year 2010. As one can see, MacLaren clearly exceeds all Colorado admission requirements:

| Subject Area | MacLaren | HEAR |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| English Language Arts | 8 | 8 |
| Social Studies/History | 8 | 6 |
| Mathematics | 8 | 8 |
| Science | 8 | 6 |
| Physical Education | 2 | |
| Humanities | 4 | |
| Foreign Language | 6 | 2 |
| Fine Arts | 10 | |
| Academic Electives | | 4 |
| TOTAL | 54 | |

Thomas MacLaren’s Division of Credit Hours:

- Students will obtain their Physical Education requirements by documenting at least 24 hours of athletic activity per year; this could include participation in a team sport. This is required in the 6th through 10th grades. Students will receive one credit per year.
- Humane Letters seminars are counted at two and one-half (2 ½) units per semester. The ninth and tenth grade Humane Letters seminars are distributed as one unit of history, one unit of literature, and one-half unit of composition. The eleventh grade Humane Letters course is distributed as one unit of history, one unit of literature, and one-half unit of philosophy. The twelfth grade Humane Letters course is distributed as one unit of history, one unit of literature, and one-half unit of economics.
- The 9th grade American Studies Humane Letters includes civics and government.
- Science: 6 of the 8 credits with lab
- Fine arts credits: 6 credits music, 2 credits art, 2 credits drama

Grading Scale

The school issues a grade for each course. The grade is a cursory but accurate summary of the written evaluation. Below is the grading scale used for all grades:

| | | | |
|--------|----|----------|----|
| 100-94 | A | 76-73 | C |
| 93-90 | A- | 72-70 | C- |
| 89-87 | B+ | 69-67 | D+ |
| 86-83 | B | 66-63 | D |
| 82-80 | B- | 62-60 | D- |
| 79-77 | C+ | Below 60 | F |

The following high school courses are weighted +1 in a student’s cumulative GPA to reflect the rigor of the program:

- Humane Letters: 9-12
- Mathematics: 9-12
- Science: 9-12
- Language: Latin IV and Greek
- Fine Arts: Orchestra IV and above

Compliance with College and Career Readiness (HB 07-1118)

Beginning with the 2017-2018 freshman class (scheduled to graduate in 2021), for a student to graduate from Thomas MacLaren School, the following must be achieved:

- A. Completion of an Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP).
Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) - a multi-year process that intentionally guides students and families in the exploration of career, academic and postsecondary opportunities (see 1 CCR 301-81, 2.00(2)).

B. Demonstration of one of the following: Below are the minimum scores required in both Math and English Language Arts assessments taken during high school from the Colorado Board of Education approved menu of College and Career Ready Demonstrations:

| Demonstration | English | Math |
|--|--|---|
| ACT | 18 | 19 |
| SAT | 430 | 460 |
| Accuplacer or other state-approved equivalent* | 62 | 61 |
| Capstone project | Collection of student portfolio including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • performance in 11th and 12th grade Humane Letters (with portfolio of assessments and essays as demonstration of performance) • performance in 10th & 11th grade project for Project Week (rubrics available to assess performance) • performance in 11th and 12th grade Oral Exams (Humane Letters) | Collection of student portfolio including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • performance in 11th and 12th grade Math and Science (with portfolio of assessments as demonstration of performance) • performance in 12th grade physics project for Project Week (rubrics available to assess performance) |

*MacLaren does not offer the Accuplacer test, but students can take this test on their own and submit scores if they do not want to use their ACT or SAT scores.

- C. Completion of the requirements and goals as listed on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), which may include a modified course of study. Special education students will be provided multiple pathways to demonstrate competency and earn a diploma through the use and attainment of one or more of the following:
- a. As appropriate, use the same competency measures and demonstrations that provide meaningful and rigorous options for non-special education students.
 - b. Individualized, standards-based Transition Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) that move the students toward identified postsecondary goals and competencies.
 - c. Extended Evidenced Outcomes (EEOs), when appropriate. Apply, as appropriate, workforce readiness competencies and industry standards to provide opportunities and experiences for special education students that lead to successful post-school outcomes. Allow for flexibility with transfer of special education students to demonstrate competency toward diploma attainment.

Other eligibility considerations to meet graduation requirements

1. Credit from other institutions and home based programs
 - a. All students entering from outside Thomas MacLaren School must meet with the College Counselor to discuss the impact of the transfer on their transcript.
 - i. The College Counselor, in consultation with the Head of School, shall determine whether credit toward graduation requirements shall be granted for courses taken outside of MacLaren.
 - ii. MacLaren will expect students to complete the course of study offered upon enrollment, but understands that as we only offer one course of study that some students may be missing certain courses. For example, many transfers coming in past 9th grade are missing Biology and American History. The College Counselor will explain the expectations of selective colleges and universities: in general, students will be required to make up credit expected according the HEAR standards and highly encouraged to make up MacLaren credit from outside institutions.
 - iii. However, all credit from outside institutions or through online programs must have prior approval from the school principal/designee. Exceptions to this policy must include permission from the College Counselor and the Head of School.
 - b. Thomas MacLaren School shall accept the transcripts from a home-based educational program. In order to determine whether the courses and grades earned are consistent with MacLaren requirements, MacLaren shall require submission of the student's work or other proof of academic

performance for each course for which credit toward graduation is sought. In addition, transfers into our high school must take diagnostic testing to verify the accuracy of the student's transcripts.

- c. Credits from outside institutions will be placed on the MacLaren transcript but will not be part of the cumulative MacLaren GPA.
2. Online/Correspondence Courses: Online and correspondence courses may be taken with the approval of the Head of School or College Counselor for make-up credit and for credit towards graduation requirements.
3. Credit Recovery: MacLaren does not offer credit recovery. It will accept credit recovery and reflect it as such on a student's transcript. The Head of School or College Counselor must approve all credit recovery courses.
4. Early Graduation: MacLaren does not offer early graduation due to the unique nature of our sequenced program.

Disclosure Policy

Student discipline at Thomas MacLaren is predicated on the fact that learning takes place best in a safe and orderly environment. On those occasions when school rules are violated, the school administration acts in a manner that balances the needs of the learning community with that of the individual. Nevertheless, certain choices that students make can have consequences that extend into their future. Specifically, colleges are becoming increasingly concerned about student behavior on their own campuses and now routinely ask both the student and the school about an applicant's high school discipline record.

Students who have had disciplinary or honor infractions (i.e. plagiarism) *prior* to the senior year are expected to respond honestly on any college application that asks questions such as "Are you currently or have you ever been charged with or subject to disciplinary action for scholastic or any other type of misconduct at any educational institution?" or "Have you ever been dismissed, placed on probation or suspended from an educational institution?" In those instances when the question is answered in the affirmative, the College Counselor will assist the student in developing a personal statement that will help contextualize the situation. Students and families need to be aware that many college applications require a counselor or administrator to complete a form that asks those same questions to confirm a student's discipline record.

In regards to the college application process, Thomas MacLaren's policy is to report any significant *change* in a candidates' academic status or qualifications, including conduct record, *between the time of recommendation and graduation*. These include but are not limited to a significant drop in grades, honor violations, probation, suspension and dismissal. Seniors who are guilty of violations during their senior year will be expected to notify their college(s) of the situation and a school representative will follow up with a letter. The student should work closely with the College Counselor to ensure that both accounts are communicated in a consistent and thoughtful manner.

While disciplinary matters are of a concern to colleges, our experience is that they understand that young people make mistakes. Admission committees are typically more

concerned with the manner in which students respond to disciplinary sanctions than the actual event leading to the sanctions. A mature and thoughtful response to a discipline infraction can illustrate a student's growth and development as a young adult.

B. Overview of the MacLaren Curriculum

The table below lays out the MacLaren curriculum for grades six through twelve. “Hours” denotes how many times weekly a course meets. There is one exception: “2.5 hours” indicates that a course will meet 5 times weekly but for only one semester.

| 6 th | 7 th | 8 th | 9 th | 10 th | 11 th | 12 th |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Literature & Composition 5 hours | Literature & Composition 5 hours | Literature & Composition 5 hours | Humane Letters American Studies 10 hours | Humane Letters Modern European Studies 10 hours | Humane Letters Ancient Greek Studies 10 hours | Humane Letters Medieval to Modern Studies 10 hours |
| Ancient History 5 hours | Medieval History 5 hours | Geography 5 hours | | | | |
| 6th Math 5 hours | Prealgebra 5 hours | Algebra 5 hours | Geometry/ Precalculus 5 hours | Precalculus 5 hours | Calculus 5 hours | Calculus/ Group Theory 5 hours |
| Life Science 2.5 hours | Earth Science 2.5 hours | Physical Science 2.5 hours | Biology 5 hours | Chemistry 5 hours | Computer Science/ Physics I 5 hours | Physics II 5 hours |
| Latin I 5 hours | Latin II 5 hours | Latin III 5 hours | Latin IV 5 hours | Modern Language I* 5 hours | Modern Language IIA* 2.5 hours | Modern Language IIB* 2.5 hours |
| Orchestra I 5 hours | Orchestra II 5 hours | Orchestra III 5 hours | Orchestra IV 5 hours | Orchestra V 5 hours | Orchestra VI 2.5 hours | Orchestra VII 2.5 hours |
| Public Performance 2.5 hours | Studio Art 2.5 hours | Studio Art 2.5 hours | | | Studio Art/ Art History 2.5 hours Drama 2.5 hours | Studio Art/ Art History 2.5 hours Drama 2.5 hours |

*Students may opt for a Classics Track in which they would study ancient Greek

IV. THE LIFE OF MACLAREN SCHOOL

A. Communication

Good communication is the lifeblood of any social entity. MacLaren depends upon good communication: school to parents and students; parents and students to the school; parents to parents; parents to students; students to parents; students to students; internal communication among the faculty and administration.

We are committed to practicing and encouraging good communication throughout the entire MacLaren family. Good communication builds community, trust, confidence and school spirit. It involves openness to reasonable discussion about any topic and from any member of the MacLaren family. It assures effective consultation, collaboration and participation in the enterprise of MacLaren. Because the life of the school is so complex, it involves the timely and useful flow of information.

We are committed to do a good job of communicating with parents and students. We welcome communication with you and from you.

- We want to know how things are going for you and your child.
- We want to respond to your needs and concerns.
- We want you to be well informed.
- We want you to know that, as far as we are concerned, anything and everything is open for discussion.
- We encourage you to talk with us at any time about any concerns you might have.

In order to encourage communication, we publish the email addresses of the faculty on our website. We encourage students to contact them with their questions and concerns. We encourage you to feel free to contact them, too.

All members of the MacLaren family want to adhere to the following principles to assure good communication: thinking and saying the best about one another; avoiding gossip, slander, rumor, pressure tactics, etc.; respecting students, other parents, families and teachers; and talking directly to the responsible person.

B. Academics

The heart of the life at MacLaren is the academic program and the heart of the academic life is the curriculum. Four essentials to effective learning at MacLaren are attendance, homework, evaluation and discipline.

1. Attendance

Consistent attendance is essential for academic progress and absences should be kept to a minimum. School doors open at 7:25 a.m. and will close at 3:45 p.m. All students must be picked up by 3:45 p.m. unless the student is in a school-sponsored activity supervised by a member of the staff.

All students will be scheduled for final projects and oral exams to take place the week after the last day of classes. This week is considered part of the school year for attendance purposes. Students are expected to be available for final labs and oral exams at any time during school hours on those days. Attendance at Honors Night (in the spring)

is also required of all students. In the past, we have needed the week of Oral Exams to make up for snow days, as we consider it a part of the school year. Again, students are expected to be in town during this week.

Absences

Students are expected to be in attendance at school every school day. Morning Assembly begins at 7:45. The first bell for Morning Assembly is at 7:40. Students need to be in their places when Assembly begins.

Excused Absences

Excused absences are normally those resulting from illnesses, injury, family emergencies, family funerals, and court responsibilities. **Family vacations or other recreational absences must be approved by the Head of School in advance to be counted as an excused absence.** An excused absence gives the student the opportunity to make up work that has been missed during the absence. Students are expected to make up missed work promptly after an absence; in general, one day's absence will be allotted one day to make it up.

Whenever possible, medical/dental appointments should be scheduled after school, on school holidays or during vacation periods. If a student must be released early from school for medical/dental appointments, the student must bring a written note from a parent/guardian stating the reason and time of the early dismissal. The note is to be handed in to the front desk at the beginning of the day. The student will receive a pass which he or she must bring to the teacher at the beginning of the class period; then the student must bring the pass to the office before signing out or being signed out.

For anticipated absences other than emergencies (e.g. vacations, extended holidays, some school activities, etc.), the administration must approve such absences in advance. In general, 3-5 school days' notice is required. **It is the student's responsibility to obtain all homework assignments in advance from his or her teachers.** The administration will determine, based on the circumstances of the case, whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

Unexcused Absences

Unexcused absences are those due to reasons not mentioned above. Suspensions are considered unexcused. Students will not receive credit for work missed as a result of an unexcused absence. Exams and major projects must be made up; however, the student will earn a maximum of 75% of the grade received on the work. Exceptions to these rules may be made at the discretion of the Head of School. Students who have two (2) unexcused absences will receive an automatic 30-minute detention. After three (3) or more unexcused absences a conference will be held with the parents and the student becomes eligible for In-School Suspension (ISS).

Notification of Absence

If the absence is foreseeable, a note should be sent in advance. Parents should call the school office between 7:20 and 8:10 a.m. on any day their student will be absent. If they

do not call the school, the staff must telephone them to determine the student's whereabouts. **A note from the parent explaining a student's absence does not necessarily excuse that student. In all cases administration reserves the right to determine whether or not an absence is excused.**

If MacLaren is not notified that morning, a parent/guardian will be contacted. If the parent/guardian cannot be contacted and does not report the absence within 24 hours, it may be counted as an unexcused absence.

Students are responsible for making up missed work and for scheduling missed exams.

Truancies

A student is truant if he/she is absent without parental or school permission, is not in class or another location approved by the teacher or leaves school grounds. State statute defines **truancy** as four or more unexcused absences in a month or ten or more unexcused absences in a year. (CRS 22-33-107,107.5, 108). Truancy is reported to the state; Thomas MacLaren School will involve its authorizer, the Charter School Institute, in truancy matters including truancy court.

Number of Absences Permitted

When a student has more than eight (8) absences, **excused or unexcused**, from any class during a semester, the student's parents/guardians will receive a letter, which will become a part of the student's permanent file. Extended illness may be a mitigating circumstance and will be taken into consideration, however, after eight (8) absences a doctor's note will be required if a student is ill. **If a student acquires fifteen (15) absences in a class, excused or unexcused, from any class during a semester, MacLaren reserves the right to withhold semester credit, and the student may become eligible for retention.**

Tardiness

The school day begins at 7:45 with Morning Assembly. This is a critical part of our school day, not only because of the many announcements that happen there, but also because it is usually the only time of day the entire student body is present. Often students perform pieces practiced in Public Performance and Orchestra. These Assembly performances are part of a student's assessment in class; therefore, there can be academic consequences to missing these performances. Moreover, it hinders a group performance when any one student is missing.

If a student misses eight (8) Morning Assemblies, a note will be sent home; at fifteen (15) missed Assemblies, a student is eligible for In-School Suspension (ISS).

A tardy may be excused for good reason (such as sickness in the family, car trouble, or inclement weather). If a parent would like the tardy excused, the parent is required to come to the school office with a written excuse to give to the appropriate dean. A request to excuse a tardy does not guarantee that it will be excused. **Nonetheless parents must come into the building and sign in students before the student can be admitted to school.** The office secretary will give students a pass before going into class. Students

who are late while Morning Assembly is still taking place must be signed in, but must proceed directly to Assembly without going to their lockers.

If a student is tardy for more than half of class, attendance will reflect an absence. The absence will be excused or unexcused as determined by the tardy.

After 10 minutes an unexcused tardy will be documented as an unexcused absence. After three (3) unexcused tardies, a student will automatically have a 20-minute detention. After six (6), the student will automatically have a 30-minute detention. After eight (8) unexcused tardies, a conference will be held with the parents and the student becomes eligible for In-School Suspension (ISS).

Leaving Campus During the Day

Thomas MacLaren School is a closed campus. Students may not leave campus during school hours unless a parent or guardian accompanies them. Students are allowed to leave campus with written permission from a parent or guardian. At the time of departure, the parent must sign out the student the front office prior to leaving. Failure to do so will constitute an unauthorized absence. Students who become ill during the day must report to the office so that the parent/guardian can be contacted.

2. Homework

Homework is an essential element in a MacLaren education. While homework is often assigned in order to review, test and improve student skills, it also lays the groundwork for the following day's instruction. Homework assignments are crucial to the progress of the student and to the teaching of each course.

MacLaren students are to do their homework diligently and intelligently. They should apply their full mental powers to the task at hand, avoiding distractions and distracting environments (e.g., students should not do homework in front of the television). Further, they should use their time and energy wisely in order to complete assignments in a timely manner, with care and precision.

As parents, you can help by asking your child about the assignments and reviewing some of their work. You can also see to it that they have a quiet location in which to do productive homework.

Having discussions about your child's homework is also extremely helpful. Even if you are only somewhat familiar with the material your child is studying, you can ask intelligent questions about your child's understanding of that material. These may be general ("Why is the First Amendment so important?" "What are you learning about weather prediction?") or specific ("When was the Peloponnesian War?"). As students mature, they will be able to bring their knowledge of history and philosophy into a discussion of current events and ethical issues. You can also help your child by planning ahead. If you know that an upcoming event (such as a family trip or a travel team soccer game) may interfere with your child's homework, please ask us in advance for the assignments.

What are the consequences of not doing homework? The most important consequence is that students lose ground in the course, which impedes their intellectual growth. This is particularly true in the high school, where instruction and seminar discussion depend directly on the homework assignment. If students do not prepare the homework assignment, they cannot participate in the class. Thus, not only do they fail to benefit from the homework assignment itself, they also miss much of what goes on in class. Since the material in most courses builds incrementally on previous assignments, a student who fails to keep up with the homework may fall behind. In addition to the personal consequences of not coming prepared to class, this also affects the entire community of learners: each student's participation is part of everyone's learning and so to the extent that someone is not prepared, the entire class suffers.

Parents may want to send the school notes asking us to excuse a child for not completing the homework assignment. We know that there are many good reasons for such a request, such as unexpected illness or stress in the family, the child's own sickness or need for sleep. However, these requests cannot erase the consequences of losing ground and being unable to participate effectively in the class. We cannot excuse the students from their obligation to learn course material.

MacLaren homework is assigned according to this schedule of maximums:

- Sixth-eighth grade students receive 20 minutes of homework for every hour of class;
- Ninth-twelfth grade students receive 30 minutes of homework for every hour of class, with the exception of junior and senior mathematics and science, which are assigned 45 minutes of homework per hour of class.

Thus, a sixth, seventh or eighth grade student should receive a maximum of two hours of homework per night, a freshman or sophomore three hours, juniors and seniors three to three and a half hours. These figures are, of course, targets; they might not be hit precisely every night. Assignments will vary from these norms, but they should not vary a great deal.

3. Evaluations

At MacLaren, we evaluate student performance in several phases. The process is designed to assist the student and to keep parents informed about their child's progress.

Checklist Evaluations

In middle school, most teachers have students take major assignments home to be signed and returned. In the high school, students are given their assignments to put in their binders. Parents are encouraged to ask their children to see their work on a regular basis. In the middle of each semester, each teacher completes a Checklist Evaluation for each student in his or her course, and these forms are delivered to the email address(es) on file via Secure Document Delivery. The Checklist Evaluation form is designed to give a quick overview, not a detailed evaluation, and in particular it is intended to alert parents to problems before it is too late. It is not designed to call attention to excellence.

Deficiency Notices

A Deficiency Notice is mailed to notify parents that a child is earning a D or F in a class. These notices are not mailed at a particular time in the semester but as soon as a serious academic problem has been identified – early enough, at least, to give the student time to change direction. Parents are to sign these notices and return one copy to the school. Once a Deficiency Notice has been sent, the teacher need not send out further notices for the student in that particular course. Parents are urged to confer with the teacher if they are not sure what the problem is, what their child needs to do about it, or whether the situation has improved.

Semester Evaluations

The written semester evaluation is part of the formal evaluation of the student at the end of each semester. Evaluations are delivered to the email address(es) on file, via Secure Document Delivery, at least the evening before the scheduled conference for the student; parents should access and read the evaluation before attending the conference. This evaluation is written for the parents, not the student. We suggest, in fact, that parents judiciously convey what they learn from the entire evaluation process to the child. The written evaluation is part of the student's record. However, the official student transcript sent to colleges or potential employers contains only the letter grade, not the teachers' comments.

Evaluation Meetings

In addition to the written account, an evaluation meeting takes place at the end of the first semester between the parents and all the teachers of each student. This is an opportunity for teachers and parents to talk about the evaluation in order to answer questions and to develop specific strategies for improvement. The focus is on the individual student's academic performance. It is not a meeting about the character or leadership qualities of the student or about the class in general. Eleventh and twelfth grade students attend with their parents, make an assessment of their own work in each course, and talk with their teachers about it. In these evaluation meetings, the parents mostly listen.

At the end of second semester, conferences are held only on an as-needed basis.

Honors Night

The annual Honors Night takes place after the conclusion of the second semester, after Oral Examinations have been completed. We want to honor those students who have achieved a standard of excellence in a particular field of study or performance. Since academic honors are based on an objective standard of excellence, it is possible that many students are honored or that no one is honored. At MacLaren, we want to make a strong distinction between honors and rewards. During the course of the school year, students and teachers are busy about the task of learning, not in order to achieve rewards, but to understand the complexity of human beings and the world so that they can better the place in which they live. Learning is a cooperative and purposeful endeavor, not an Olympic sport. We honor achievement, but we do not use rewards as motivation for learning.

Project Week

Each year students spend one week working on specific projects. Project Week occurs in January, the same week when parents and faculty meet for Semester Evaluations. Although the students are not usually at school for their work, this week is counted as a school week. Completion of the project is necessary in order for students to pass the course to which the project is linked. Faculty members evaluate these projects.

Oral Examinations and Final Labs

At the end of the academic year, students take an oral examination. The questions and topics covered are taken from the subjects studied that year. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students have a general examination that ranges across most of their subjects. Ninth through twelfth grade students participate in both the humanities oral and a math/science lab project. For math/science, ninth graders do a biology project, tenth graders do a chemistry project, eleventh graders do a physics project, and twelfth graders work on integrated mathematical solutions to a topic in chemistry or physics. Most oral examinations last 30 minutes. The high school math/science lab projects typically take three to four hours. The humanities oral for each student in grades nine through twelve covers material from the Humane Letters Seminar. Students are expected to prepare well for oral exams. They are given directions such as study questions or discussion starters to help them. The examinations are an essential part of the semester evaluation in the course. Performance in the oral exam during the high school years will be a factor in the final grade for the corresponding course. For juniors and seniors, they become a factor in the awarding of graduation honors.

Standardized Tests:

MacLaren works to avoid a “teach to the test” mentality and the restriction of constructing a curriculum to accommodate a test. However, as a public school we are mandated to use standardized tests as one measure of external accountability. Please see our complete list of assessments on our [Assessments tab](#). This tab also contains our policy and procedures regarding parental refusals.

Diagnostic Tests

We have developed diagnostic tests in algebra and grammar for our eighth grade students. Because the writing program in grades nine through twelve is built upon correct knowledge of English grammar and because the corresponding mathematics and science programs are built upon knowledge of algebra, these are crucial tests in judging a student’s ability to learn in the higher grades. Students who do not demonstrate that they know basic grammar and basic algebra may be required to take Summer School in order to proceed to the ninth grade. The tests are also used to diagnose areas that need further work by a student.

Promotion

Due to the cumulative nature of the MacLaren curriculum, students need to master the material at hand each year before being promoted to the next grade. As MacLaren does not have general tracking, students need mastery in all of their courses before being promoted. The exception to this is music: students may have the opportunity to be placed in an orchestra class organized by ability, not grade level. Often a student’s orchestra

placement affects his or her Latin placement as well. *If not retained, some students may be required to take summer school to move to the next grade level, particularly if they fail a cumulative course such as Latin.*

Promotion of students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is dependent on that student's individual goals and not this policy.

Students in grades 6-8 may be retained if they receive

- Three (3) or more D's in any subject
- Two (2) or more F's in any subjects
- An F in Literature and Composition *or* Mathematics

Students in grades 9-12 may be retained if they receive

- One or more F's in any subject
- Three (3) or more D's in any subject

4. Discipline

Discipline at Thomas MacLaren School serves our educational mission. The establishment of the culture of Thomas MacLaren School is a necessary condition for our educational success. Our intention is to create a certain kind of culture so that learning and teaching can proceed optimally. The foundation of discipline and order at Thomas MacLaren School is the realization that a civilized learning community demands certain fundamental norms of courtesy, morality and orderly behavior in order to fulfill its mission. Having met these fundamentals, students are allowed as much freedom as they can reasonably handle.

We accept children into the MacLaren program with the understanding that they will be on time for class, will adhere to the dress code, will complete their assignments, will follow rules of good classroom order, will be honest, and will follow the spirit and letter of this *Handbook*.

Unless there are clear mitigating circumstances, we hold that students freely choose to behave as they do. They are responsible and accountable for their actions. It is our conviction that students in the sixth through twelfth grades are entirely capable of living appropriately in the MacLaren culture.

MacLaren should be a place characterized by kindness, friendliness and peace. We place a high premium on the teacher's personal investment in the student and we resist the practices that depersonalize so many schools. We do not relate to the students principally under the rubrics of rules and regulations; rather, we emphasize the dignity of the teachers and students in a culture marked by truthfulness, goodness, patience, justice, and mercy. Within that framework, rules, regulations and punishments are merely means to an end. Just as we expect teachers to expend considerable energy coaching and directing the students to take on the educational goals of the school, we also expect teachers to encourage students in the face of difficult tasks and to praise them for work well done.

Students who do not live up to these fundamental expectations need to be corrected. In many cases, a verbal correction is sufficient. Faculty expect this correction to suffice. If it does not, consequences may be required.

The normal punishment for routine nonacademic misbehavior is a detention. More severe or repeated misbehavior may also result in loss of certain privileges (e.g., field trips, playing on a school team, etc.), sanctions, suspensions, probations or expulsion. In all cases of punishment, we strive to be fair and timely.

When we discipline a student, we understand ourselves as addressing behavior, not attitudes. Thus, while a change in the attitudes and future behavior of the student is to be hoped for, punishment is not a strategy for rehabilitation.

Finally, we recognize that by sending your children to Thomas MacLaren School you are entrusting them to our care while at school. It is our right and responsibility to administer correction as we deem appropriate while students are at school. Should you ever have a concern about how discipline is administered, please refer to the Grievance Policy (found on page 38).

Summary of Consequences

These groups provide an illustrative set of examples of a **flexible** sequence of consequences and remediation for unacceptable student behavior. **Repeated misbehavior will result in progressively more serious consequences based on the seriousness of the offense. The administration is provided latitude in assigning consequences.** The administration need not employ all the consequences in a given group before selecting one from another group in disciplining any given student. Definitions for these consequences are given below.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Level 1 | Staff warning Teacher or administrator warning Verbal reprimand (teacher or administrator) Confiscation |
| Level 2 | Notification of parent or guardian Detention: at lunch or during 7 th hour Administrator/student conference (“Office Referral”) Behavior contract Assignment of work detail at the school Billing of parent for damages to property Probation |
| Level 3 | Conference with parent/guardian Behavior contract First time or Minor Suspension (.5-2 days) <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In-school suspension○ Out-of-School suspension○ Alternative to suspension: |

- Parental attendance at school or
- Some activity aimed at restorative justice (CRS 22-32-144)

Level 4 Major or Repeated Suspension

Alternative to suspension:

- Parental attendance at school or
- Some activity aimed at restorative justice (CRS 22-32-144)

Remedial discipline plan

Charges filed or report made to law enforcement officials

Level 5 Expulsion (*see Expulsion procedures, below*)

A parent/guardian will receive notice of student discipline problems and the consequences administered for any infraction in a consequence from Levels 2-5. Records shall be maintained at the school for any infraction resulting in a consequence from Levels 2-5. Every effort will be made to notify parents within 24 hours of a suspension. If any students have been involved in an investigation, the school will notify parents within a reasonable timeframe, but reserves the right to talk to students as necessary in the interest of gathering information as quickly as possible.

Within each Group, consequences may include detention, probation, suspension, and expulsion. These consequences are defined as follows:

Detention – Any member of the staff including a teacher, Dean, or the Head of School may assign detention. Detention is sometimes served after school, but is usually served at lunch or during 7th hour Tutorial on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The duration of detention may be between 10 and 30 minutes, depending on the offense. If a student misses detention without being excused by the Dean, an extra 10 minutes may be added onto the original detention. If a student has multiple detentions in a short period of time, the Dean may recommend an Office Referral. If a student accumulates 1.5 hours of detention in a semester, that student will receive an Office Referral and may become ineligible for extracurriculars, including athletics.

Office Referral – Any member of the staff may issue an Office Referral. A Referral is usually given for repeated misbehavior, a major disruption, dishonest or disrespectful behavior. Students issued a Referral will wait at the front desk until a Dean or the Head of School (or his or her designee) can address the issue. A teacher may also refer a situation to the Dean for a Referral after class/after the incident has occurred. A Referral is more serious than a detention: three Office Referrals can result in suspension. Some Referrals may result in a Behavior Contract. A Referral can also be “downgraded” to a detention if deemed appropriate.

Behavior Contract – The Head of school (or his or her designee) may put a student on a Behavior Contract. This contract outlines specific consequences that will follow specific behavior. Parents will be sent a copy of the Behavior Contract.

Probation – Only the Head of School may place a student on probation. A probation is an automatic 3-day suspension from attending a specific class or from attending lunch with his or her peers. The student will be allowed to reenter the class only after a consultation meeting including the student, parent/guardian, teacher and Dean (and possibly Head of School). Depending on the results of the consultation meeting, the probation may become permanent for the remainder of the semester or school year.

Suspension – Only the Head of School may suspend a student. Generally, suspensions last from one to five days in length, but for more serious infractions suspensions may be extended up to a maximum of twenty-five days. Suspensions may become recommendations for expulsion.

- In-School Suspension: If the Head of School gives a student an ISS, the student will be allowed to make up school work while suspended, but may not receive credit for this work.
- Out-of-School Suspension: If the suspension is an Out-of-School suspension, the student will not be allowed on campus for the duration of the suspension. The student will only be allowed to return to school after a consultation meeting including the student, parent/guardian, Dean, and Head of School.
- Generally, for school work done during suspension no credit will be given, although a student may receive up to 75% of credit for tests and quizzes missed and made up. The Head of School may make exceptions to this policy depending on how the student serves the suspension.
- The Head of School may suspend a student for .5-2 days for a minor or first time infraction and from 3-10 days for repeat or major infractions including the following:
 - Continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority;
 - Willful destruction or defacing of school property;
 - Behavior on or off school property which is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or of school personnel, including behavior creating a threat of physical harm to the child or to other children; and
 - Repeated interference with MacLaren’s ability to provide educational opportunities to other students.

Expulsion – Only the Head of School may recommend a student for expulsion. In making such recommendation, the Head of School shall provide parents and the student with a written notice concisely stating the reasons for expulsion and outlining the process parents can follow to dispute the

recommendation. If parents elect to dispute a recommendation for expulsion, the matter will be referred to an Independent Hearing Officer (IHO). The IHO will be responsible for conducting a prompt hearing affording the student “due process,” and producing a written report summarizing the evidence and containing the IHO’s decision to uphold or overrule the recommendation of expulsion. The decision of the Hearing Officer may be appealed to the Board of Directors of the School by the Head of School or the student. A person wishing to appeal an IHO decision must provide written notice to the other party and the Board President within three (3) business days of receipt of the decision. Upon receipt of notice, the Board will promptly schedule a special meeting, unless the matter can be timely considered in a regular meeting. The IHO’s written decision will be provided to the Board at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting. Consideration of the appeal shall be in executive session. The Head of School and the parents shall each be allowed to present fifteen (15) minutes of argument concerning why the IHO decision should be approved or disapproved. New evidence will not be received on an appeal. The decision of the Board shall be by vote to uphold or overturn the IHO’s decision, taken in public session, and without use of the student’s or parents’ names. The decision of the Board is final.

Colorado law allows for expulsion for a single act of certain serious misconduct, including carrying, bringing, using or possessing a dangerous weapon on school grounds without the authorization of the Head of School; sale of a drug or controlled substance; and commission of an act which if committed by an adult would constitute robbery or first or second degree assault. Expulsion may be imposed for continued willful disobedience or open and persistent defiance of proper authority, willful destruction or defacing of school property, and behavior on or off school property that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other pupils or of school personnel, or declaration as a habitually disruptive student.

In making expulsion recommendations and decisions the School shall consider (1) whether the student has exhibited behavior that is detrimental to the safety, welfare, and morals of the other students or of school personnel in the school; (2) whether educating the student in the school may disrupt the learning environment in the school, provide a negative example for other students, or create a dangerous and unsafe environment for students, teachers, and other school personnel, or is otherwise a severe offense; (3) the student’s age, disciplinary history, and any disability; and (4) whether interventions less disruptive of education of the student were attempted or could be used effectively while protecting the rights of others and the integrity of the educational process.

A student’s out-of-school suspension may be extended by the Head of School to accommodate the time needed to conduct and conclude a “due process” hearing. The School must schedule such a hearing so as to permit a final decision within no more than 25 school days of the initial out-of-school suspension. Expulsion may not extend past one full calendar year. The School

will provide the parents of an expelled student with notice of their obligations and rights to education during the period of expulsion.

Summary of Infractions

Below are lists of infractions according to Level. These lists are not exhaustive.

Level 1 Offense: the following are examples of offenses which can receive warnings up to three times before the offense turns into a detention.

1. Tardy – Student is not in class, ready to work when the start-of-class bell rings
2. Chewing gum or note-writing during school hours. Eating or drinking in class or the computer lab (unless directed otherwise).
3. Uniform violation.
4. Minor disrespect.

Chronic behavior may result in a Level 2 offense.

Level 2 Offense:

1. Disruptive Conduct – Conduct that interferes with the educational process or demonstrates a lack of respect for teachers, staff or other students.
2. Cursing – Abusive/obscene language during classes, anywhere on the school campus or at school activities.
3. Gambling – Gambling during classes, anywhere on the school campus or at school activities.
4. Misbehavior – Continued willful disobedience or open resistance of proper authority.
5. Petty vandalism or petty theft
6. Discussing substance abuse in the school setting.
7. Behavior that is unfavorable or hostile to the welfare, safety or morals of other students or members of the school community.
8. Public display of affection.
9. Lying/Cheating – Conduct that includes withholding the truth, or telling a partial truth. Cheating results in a “zero” grade in addition to disciplinary consequences (see *Plagiarism*, below).
10. Continual dress code violations.
11. Cell Phone/Electronic Device Violation. Cell phones/electronic devices should be turned into the school office at the beginning of the day.

Chronic behavior may result in a Level 3 offense.

Level 3 Offense

1. Extortion, Bribery or Coercion – Extortion, bribery and/or coercion in any form.
2. Insubordination – Continued disrespect or use of abusive language to coaches, faculty or staff.
3. False Fire/911 Alarms – Tampering with a fire alarm, fire extinguisher, or turning in a false alarm of any kind.
4. Obscene literature – Possession of books, or writing notes, containing obscene language or pictures.
5. Tobacco – Possession of tobacco or drug paraphernalia on campus
6. Leaving Campus – Going off campus without permission from the Head of School and/or parent/guardian.

7. Fighting – Physical or verbal fights between students at school or any school sponsored event.
8. Threats – Any threat (implied, spoken, or written) to a staff member and/or student.
9. Retaliation – Any retaliation (implied, spoken, written or physical) against a victim of a threat, bullying harassment or assault.
10. Bullying or intimidation of any staff member and/or student (see *Bullying* below).
11. Truancy – Absence from school or class, including all school assemblies, without permission of parents and school administration.

Chronic behavior may result in a Level 4 offense.

Level 4 Offense

1. Stealing – Unlawfully taking the property of any member of the school community or the school itself.
2. Vandalism – Willful defacement or damage of school property (see *Vandalism* below).
3. Alteration of Records – The falsifying or altering of any school record or communication between home and school, or the forgery of a parent’s signature.
4. Illegal Drugs/Controlled Substances – Possession, transmission of, use of any illegal drug or controlled substance at school or any school-sponsored events.
5. Alcoholic Beverages – The use, transmission, or state of being under the influence of alcoholic beverages during school hours, on school grounds, or at any school-sponsored events.
6. Tobacco – Use of tobacco (smoking, chewing, sniffing) at any time on campus or at school-sponsored activities.
7. Weapons/Dangerous Instruments – Possession of, carrying, or transmitting any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon on school grounds at any time or at any school function.
8. Unlawful Activity – Participation either on or off campus; potentially criminal offenses are subject to being reported to the police.
9. Bomb Threats or Threats of Community Violence– This can be a criminal offense and is subject to being reported to the police with the possible result of a fine, a jail sentence or both.
10. Discrimination or Intimidation – Initiating or participating in derogatory humor or conversations that exhibit insensitivity toward a member of a protected legal class (e.g., offensive words clearly designed to be racist) may constitute illegal discrimination. If bullying is accompanied by a specific intent to intimidate or harass the victim based on his or her actual or perceived race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation, such behavior may constitute illegal intimidation.
11. Harassment or assault – It is a class 3 criminal misdemeanor for anyone, with intent to harass, annoy or alarm, to strike, shove, kick or otherwise subject another to physical contact; or repeatedly insult, taunt, challenge or use offensively coarse language to communicate with another in a manner likely to provoke a violent or disorderly response. “Repeatedly” means more than one time. The likelihood of a violent or disorderly response must be immediate, and is judged by an objective “average person” standard.
12. Sexual Harassment (*See below*).

Level 5 Offense

1. Behavior that is “habitually disruptive” as defined by law.
2. Arson
3. Sexual Assault
4. Sale of controlled substances or alcohol on camps
5. Firearm or knife of expellable length

Below, we more clearly define certain areas of offense:

Plagiarism

Since academics is at the heart of MacLaren, students are expected to pursue their work in a serious and deliberate manner, under the guidance of their teachers. Cheating in any form – plagiarism, sharing work, copying commentaries (including Cliffs Notes or Internet sources) – will not be tolerated. Copying the words or paraphrasing the ideas of another without giving him or her credit is not only a form of cheating, but a way of negating one of the main purposes of education: the ability of an individual to think and write for him or herself. A zero that results from an incident of cheating or plagiarism will not be dropped from the student’s grade, *even if* a teacher chooses to drop the lowest grade.

Bullying

Bullying is defined as “any written or verbal expression, or physical or electronic act or gesture, or pattern thereof, that is intended to coerce, intimidate, or cause any physical, mental, or emotional harm to one or more students in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated school bus stop, or at school activities or sanctioned events” (*See* C.R.S. Section 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(X)(B)). Bullying in any form is prohibited and will be dealt with at an administrative level. Students who feel that they are being bullied should inform a faculty member and/or the Dean of Boys or Dean of Girls immediately.

Behavior that is mutually antagonistic will be dealt with in light of what is best given the dynamic of all of the students involved. Thomas MacLaren School is not a zero-tolerance school. As stated earlier, MacLaren reserves the right to administer consequences ranging from Behavior Contracts to suspension to restorative justice. Please remember that The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) forbids us from disclosing any information about any other students to you (see page 34 for more information on FERPA).

At least every two years, MacLaren shall conduct a student survey which shall include questions about the students’ impressions of the severity of bullying at the School. The survey shall (i) ask each student how frequently the student witnesses bullying at the School, (ii) ask each student how frequently the student perceives himself or herself to be a victim of bullying, (iii) ensure the confidentiality of each student’s answers, and (iv) clarify that the completion of the survey shall be voluntary.

MacLaren shall designate a team of persons to advise administration concerning the severity and frequency of bullying incidents that occur in the School. That team shall

include, at minimum, the Dean of Boys and the Dean of Girls. It may include others, such as law enforcement officials, social workers, prosecutors, health professionals, mental health professionals, counselors, teachers, administrators, parents, and students. The Head of School, in consultation with the Deans, shall determine who shall serve on this bullying prevention and education team.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is unwanted, unwelcome sexual behavior and/or comments of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment interferes with school community life.

Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:

- Verbal or written harassment or abuse of a sexual nature
- Any pressure for sexual activity
- Any unwelcome contact of a sexual nature, which includes things like unwanted backrubs or “accidentally” brushing against another’s body
- Unwelcome sexual comments or jokes
- Spreading gossip related to sex or gender
- Sexually offensive or suggestive comments

Any person who believes another student or employee of MacLaren has sexually harassed him/her should report the alleged acts immediately to the Head of School. Upon receipt of a report, the Head of School will take appropriate and immediate action that is consistent with MacLaren’s legal obligations and necessary to investigate the allegations of harassment. Such situations will be handled discretely; strict confidentiality cannot be guaranteed in every situation.

The school will discipline any individual who retaliates against any person who reports alleged sexual harassment or who retaliates against any person who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation relating to the complaint. The school will take the disciplinary action it deems necessary and appropriate to end the sexual harassment and prevent its recurrence.

Personal Searches

The administration or designee may authorize the search of any student or any student’s property, if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will uncover evidence that the person has or is violating the law, or the rules of the school. The school may also do school-wide searches of school property, such as lockers and desks, for general checks, such as determining if students have cell phones in their lockers. Lockers and desks are school property, not student property. **STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE A REASONABLE EXPECTATION THAT THEIR LOCKER IS A PRIVATE SPACE THAT SCHOOL OFFICIALS WILL NOT ENTER.** Any search of a student him/herself will be conducted in the presence of another school official. The parent/guardian of any student searched under this latter provision shall be informed of the search as soon as reasonably possible. Searches of a student may include searches of the student and accessories, including clothing, purse, briefcase, backpack, locker or car.

False Alarms & Vandalism

Any false alarms triggered by students are subject to a \$25 fine in addition to further consequences. Intentional false alarms on the part of a student constitute a Level 3 infraction. Any vandalism committed by a student will result in a minimum \$50 fine to cover labor costs for repair.

This *Handbook* details the rules that each student is expected to follow. The following are worthy of special attention here:

Pranks

Pranks of any kind are neither permitted nor tolerated. Offenders will be liable to serious disciplinary action. In the cases of willful vandalism and destruction of property, the student will be disciplined and the parents will be held financially liable for the cost of repair or replacement of the property.

Relationship Difficulties Among Students

The appropriate Dean will typically deal with relationship difficulties among students. Relationship difficulties a student may be having with a teacher should first be addressed to the teacher. If such problems require further attention, they should be addressed to the Head of School and not to the Dean. Non-routine issues should be addressed directly to the Head of School.

Cell Phones and the Internet

Cell phone use is prohibited in the school building. If a student brings a cell phone, laptop, Mp3 player or any electronic device, it will remain at the front office until the end of the day. Since students may not receive calls or messages on their cell phones, we would appreciate it if you would not try to contact them that way, but rather by calling the school and leaving a message. A phone is always available for students to use free-of-charge.

Also, like many schools and businesses, we take the position that using internet-based communications – email, chat rooms, IM, social networks (e.g., Instagram, Facebook, Twitter), etc. – for the following activities is a serious breach of MacLaren culture and may, indeed, be illegal:

- communicating verbally abusive, obscene, profane, lewd, vulgar, rude, inflammatory, disrespectful or threatening electronic messages and images toward the school or any member of the MacLaren community;
- communicating personal attacks, including prejudicial, discriminatory, or harassing attacks or knowingly or recklessly communicating false or defamatory information about members of the MacLaren community or Thomas MacLaren School.

We consider such activities to be serious disciplinary matters and they may result in disciplinary action by the school. Such behavior may also break laws which protect one from hate speech, harassment and slander and thus, criminal and civil penalties might also apply.

Cyber Image Policy

Any identifiable image, photo or video which implicates a student to have been in possession or presence of drugs or portrays actual use, or out of character behavior or crime, shall be confirmation of a violation of our code of conduct. Since there is no way to establish a timeframe for when or location of where the image was taken, it shall be a responsibility that the student must assume. Thus it is the responsibility of students not to place themselves in such environment.

C. Extracurricular Activities

See Appendix A for our Student Activities Handbook which includes policies and procedures for Athletic and Extracurricular activities.

D. Social Life

Social events are an important part of our students' lives. While many school events have a social component to them, social events as such have a distinct place in the life of the school. We hope and expect MacLaren students to show the same dignity and respect that they show for their peers and for those in authority at school to be likewise shown at any MacLaren social event.

The MacLaren community—parents, students and faculty—is committed to the highest ideals. We form our students intellectually by bringing them into contact with the best in human culture and thought. In keeping with these ideals, we want to provide a social atmosphere that calls forth the best in our children and provides an environment that will foster deep and lasting friendships.

If we are to be successful in this sort of education, all of us have to work together with the best interest of the students in mind. In every way, the social events of MacLaren students should reflect and embody the ideals of the school. Every social event or occasion should be a time of good, clean fun and mutual courtesy.

Guidelines for Social Events

There are different kinds of MacLaren social events: first, those sponsored by or held under the auspices of the school; second, class events hosted by the parents for their children's classmates; third, informal get-togethers with friends.

- Events under the auspices of the school or class events hosted by parents should be open only to current MacLaren students. Our students need to have a social life which is directly related to their life at MacLaren.
- Social events sponsored by the school and class events hosted by parents are meant to be inclusive and to build friendships among students. At a class party, for example, everyone in the class is invited and students are encouraged to relate to one another with kindness and courtesy, avoiding circumstances that might hurt feelings or leave others out. We adults should be eager to help students in creating such an atmosphere.
- Experience has shown that at every age level there is value in social events that are held for just boys or just girls. Friendships need to be built among the

members of one's own sex as well as with those of the opposite sex. We strongly suggest that mixed parties be held only at the high-school level. At the high-school level, before invitations are sent out, parent hosts and students should carefully weigh the appropriateness of inviting both boys and girls to a particular event. Parents should help students to avoid the pressure of mixed gatherings for the sake of mixed gatherings.

- Parents should be actively involved in the planning and hosting of class gatherings. As students grow and mature, they are in a position to provide more and more input into their social events. Parents should eagerly encourage measured growth in social maturity.
- Parent hosts should always be a *visible* presence at student parties. There is an art to being present without becoming a monitor. Parents are encouraged to establish friendly, supportive relationships with the students.
- *No guests should leave the site of the party unchaperoned.* Every parent should enforce this guideline. Going off alone or in small groups away from the chaperoned party can be deterred more effectively by focusing on well-planned activities than by policing the doorways.
- *Clear starting and ending times* for gatherings should be communicated and respected.
- *Parent hosts have the responsibility of making sure that no alcohol or drugs of any kind are present or being used.*
- If there are serious breaches of conduct, students and their parents need to be informed. The students deserve to be told politely but unequivocally that their behavior is unacceptable. Parent hosts are encouraged to correct students who violate the standards of their home or those of the school. Very serious misconduct should be reported to the student's parents for their action and counsel.
- Parents and students are urged not to publicize a smaller, more exclusive party. We want to avoid hurt feelings.
- Parent hosts are responsible at every social event for setting consistent ideals for what is allowed in behavior, entertainment and activity. Parents are encouraged to call hosts to offer assistance and bring up any questions and concerns they have about a social gathering.
- *Please have your child RSVP to hosts in a timely manner and tell them to be prepared to pay their share or contribute to the costs of the gathering as requested.*
- When planning an event, please consult the school calendar in order to avoid conflicts with school activities.

E. Parent Service Association

Because you have a student at MacLaren, you are a member of the Parent Service Association (PSA). Helping the school carry out its many activities is the mission of the PSA. All this service is overseen by the Head of School, working through liaisons to the PSA committees. The PSA may have several standing committees to take care of these many needs.

While we as a school do not have “mandatory volunteer hours,” every parent is expected to be involved in the life of the school. As a MacLaren parent, you have the opportunity to serve in many ways; the following are some of the many ways parents can be involved at MacLaren:

- Assistance in the office with filing, typing, and other administrative tasks
- Parent advisors to after-school clubs such as Yearbook and Chess
- Fundraising
- Monitor study halls or tutor students during Tutorial
- Organize PSA events
- Chaperone field trips
- Assistance with Used Uniform Sales
- Organize and contribute to Staff Appreciation Meals

In addition, Thomas MacLaren will encourage parents to visit the school and be involved in day-to-day activities. Parents will always be welcome in the school and in classrooms.

F. Student Health

Health

The School Health Office is available to students who are ill, injured, or have a health concern. Students must obtain permission from a teacher to come to the office except in the case of an emergency.

Guidelines for keeping the student home/calling home

Illness guidelines are used to help you decide when to keep your child home from school. Of course, it is important for children to attend school, but when children are truly sick, they need to stay home in the care of an adult in order to get well and to prevent spreading illness to others. The following link is provided to help you decide when to keep your child at home: [MacLaren Illness Guidelines](#)

Medication

All medications administered at school, whether over-the-counter or prescription must be kept in the school health office. Before a health room delegate can administer medicine at school, two criteria must be met:

- 1) [Authorization to Administer Medication form](#) signed by the student’s guardian and physician (with prescriptive authority) is on file; and

2) the medicine to be administered must be delivered in its original container or in the labeled prescription bottle to the front desk.

One form per medication is required. The form must be completed in full with:

- 1) the child's name,
- 2) name of medication,
- 3) Exact amount of medication to be administered,
- 4) beginning and ending date of medication, and
- 5) parent/guardian and health care professional signatures authorizing the school to administer the medicine on behalf of the parent/guardian.

In fairness to those responsible for administering medication and for the safety of your child, these policies must be strictly adhered to. This is not meant to inconvenience you, but to ensure the health and well-being of all students. **NO MEDICATION** will be accepted for administration if it is not accompanied by the completed Authorization form **OR** if it comes to school in a baggie, plain bottle, envelope, etc. (i.e., not in the original container).

Also, for safety reasons, medication will never be sent home with the student; all medications kept at school must be retrieved by the parent or guardian no later than the last day of classes.

Health concerns

The school office should be notified of any health diagnoses or concerns (including allergies, diabetes, ADD/ADHD, asthma, seizures, etc.) in order to better accommodate the student and to be prepared for emergencies. This information should be documented on the student's Annual Health Update and will be kept in the student's health file along with any necessary documents, including a health care plan.

Immunizations

Immunizations must be current and the information given to the student's school according to Colorado State Law. Please note that beginning July 1, 2016, Colorado State Law requires all personal and religious exemptions for immunizations be signed electronically on an annual basis. The most current immunization information can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B780P7IZRsVvalhOTGdyc2xIR2s/view>

Forms

All health forms can be found on the [Health Information tab](#) on the school website.

G. School Counselors

Provision of Services

The school counseling program at Thomas MacLaren School is a comprehensive, preventative, developmental program that serves the academic, social/personal, and career needs of all students in the community. The school counselors may utilize assessment, individual counseling, group counseling, crisis intervention, and/or referrals to outside providers (therapists, psychiatrists, social workers, community organizations,

and others) in order to best serve the needs of students. School counseling is not intended as a substitute for psychological counseling, diagnosis, and/or medication; rather, it is intended to provide supportive and short-term counseling support for students, typically in conjunction with additional services and supports established outside of the school environment.

Communication

The school counselors recognize that providing such services to students in the school setting requires collaboration with students' parents and/or guardians as appropriate, as is outlined in the American School Counseling Association (ASCA) Ethical Standards for School Counselors. As such, the school counselors make every effort to communicate and collaborate with parents as appropriate. The school counselors may also communicate with the student's teachers and/or administrators on an as-needed basis to better support the student within the school environment.

Confidentiality

In order to establish trust with the student, the school counselors may opt to keep some information confidential, with some possible exceptions. The school counselors are required by law to communicate with parents and/or other entities in the following circumstances:

- Presenting serious danger to self and/or others
- Evidence or disclosure of abuse (physical, emotional, and/or sexual) and/or neglect
- Threats to school security
- The school counselors will notify students of confidentiality and the limits therein at the time of the initial counseling intervention.

H. General Policies

Staff

A complete list of current board members, staff and faculty, along with their contact information, is available on the school's website. If you need to leave a phone message for a faculty member, please do so at the school office.

Telephone

Messages and deliveries from parents are to be left in the office to respect the educational opportunity of all students. Students will not be called to the telephone except in emergencies. Students may use the school phone in an emergency with the permission of a MacLaren staff member.

Lost and Found

The school cannot be responsible for lost or stolen property, but an effort is made to assist students in the recovery of lost or stolen property. Any valuables should be turned in and claimed in the office. Students are strongly encouraged to leave valuable items—including electronics, expensive jewelry and large amounts of cash—at home.

Since we are a large school population housed within a limited physical space, our Lost and Found policy reflects that we have minimal space to store lost and found items. This policy will be implemented with the understanding that middle school students may need more help with organization than high school students; the front desk staff has discretion in determining accountability for chronic offenders.

On the 2nd and 4th **Thursday of the month at 4 p.m.** the Lost and Found pile will be reviewed and dealt with as follows:

1. All lunch boxes, water bottles, hats, coats, etc., that are not labeled will be bagged and donated to a charitable organization. MacLaren fleeces or sweaters that are not labeled will be given to the PSA to be resold. **Please label all student items.**
2. Items that are labeled will be returned to students. If a student has an item in lost and found more than twice, he/she may receive items back with a detention. Items left in lost and found repeatedly will be donated. The front desk staff will do its best to notify parents if a student is a repeat-offender.
3. All textbooks will be retrieved, tagged with a detention, and delivered to the classroom teacher to return to the student. This may/may not include binders, notebooks, etc.

Any items found on Friday will be saved over the weekend and be the beginning of the next week's lost and found pile.

The lost and found is located in the lobby during school hours. Front desk staff will do their best to set up a table with lost and found items at the end of the week so that students can claim their items before they leave for the day.

Lockers

Student lockers are assigned individually at the beginning of the school year. **It is a student's responsibility to keep the locker clean and free of excess paper and waste.** Students may personalize the inside of their lockers using magnets. No tape is allowed in lockers. Nothing may be posted on the outside of the locker. Posters and/or pictures that are inappropriate or offensive will be removed. The student is cautioned to keep only those materials necessary for schoolwork in the lockers. Students may go to their lockers only during passing periods and may not loiter near lockers while classes are in session. Students may not transfer their assigned locker to another without permission from the office, nor should they share locker combination information with other students.

Costs to repair damaged and defaced lockers are billed to the student to whom the locker was assigned. School lockers are the property of the school and for use by the student. All lockers are subject to search by school officials at any time without prior notice. Students must keep their books, notebooks, etc. inside their lockers when not in use, and should lock their lockers at the end of the school day.

Calculators

Students in the following grades should have the following calculator:

Grade 8 (Semester 2) TI-84

Grades 9 - Grade 12 TI-84 (TI-83+ allowed if already purchased)

Guidelines:

Calculator use is a privilege, not a right. This privilege may be revoked if a student uses his or her calculator inappropriately at school, including:

- Bringing calculator to school without teacher approval. Students must wait until the teacher asks students to bring calculators to school; the first time calculators are brought to school they will be engraved with the student's name (if not already engraved). Student's name written in permanent marker is not sufficient.
- Leaving calculators unattended
- Downloading and/or distributing games or programs
- Playing games or running non-approved programs

Notes of explanation/exceptions:

- The TI-84 is expensive but is a one-time investment in the student's studies of mathematics. Prices range from \$85-\$120; look for deep discounts with back-to-school sales.
- If purchasing a calculator is a financial burden, please discuss with the Head of School.

Internet Acceptable Use

At Thomas MacLaren students have supervised access to the Internet for research and projects. For example, students in Public Performance may research a historical figure so that they can write a speech. Students in math may be directed to go to a website that will allow differentiated study for that hour of instruction.

The MacLaren administration has put many filters on our system to try to ensure that students cannot access offensive or highly controversial material.

- The use of computers and Internet access at Thomas MacLaren is a privilege and not a right. Inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of privileges.
- The use of computers and Internet access at MacLaren is for educational purposes only. No private communications are acceptable using school property.
- Services provided at MacLaren may never be used to access, download, distribute or store any material classified as defamatory, abusive, profane, threatening or sexually explicit.
- The property of Thomas MacLaren may never be used in any way that violates city, county, state or federal law. All information accessible via the Internet should be considered copyright protected unless otherwise stated.
- No MacLaren computer or network may be used for advertisement, personal websites or political lobbying.
- Security is a high priority. If you see a threat to network security, please see the Head of School; do not publicize the threat to anyone else.

- Vandalism will result in loss of privileges as well as possible suspension or expulsion. Vandalism includes any malicious attempt to destroy data or equipment of Thomas MacLaren, as well as any attempt to infect MacLaren networks with a virus.

Flash Drive Policy

Thomas MacLaren School distributes flash drives to all students in grades 7-12. These are to be used to store student work related to course work at Thomas MacLaren School, such as essays begun in class or MATLAB assignments.

- Only work directly related to Thomas MacLaren coursework may be stored on these flash drives. Flash drives will be regularly collected and checked for content. Inappropriate content will be erased if found.
- Only MacLaren flash drives may be used in MacLaren computers; i.e., students may not use alternate flash drives from home. This protects the school network from programs or viruses from outside the network.
- Student names will be on each flash drive. Students should not borrow another student's flash drive.
- Students should keep their flash drive from year to year. If a student loses a flash drive, he or she will need to purchase a new one for \$5.00.

Student Valuables

At all times, students are to keep track of glasses, watches, retainers, and other valuables. Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. In the exceptional circumstance that it is necessary to bring a valuable item to school, please bring it to the office for safekeeping.

Cell Phones and Pagers

Cell phone use is prohibited on campus. If a student brings a cell phone, it will remain at the front office until the end of the day. A student in an extracurricular that takes place at the school cannot check out his or her cell phone until ready to leave the building.

Electronics

Cameras, radios, electronic games, CD/tape players and MP3 players are not allowed at school. This includes watches that receive data such as Apple watches. If a student brings one of these listed items, it will remain at the front desk until the end of the day.

Signs and Posters

All signs and posters announcing events must be approved by the administration, and should be removed by the end of the school day following the event or activity. These announcements may only be placed in approved locations.

Solicitation

Students are not allowed to sell any items on campus without prior approval of the administration. Any collection of money for any purpose must be approved by the administration and processed through the business office.

Field Trips

Field trips are privileges afforded to students; no student has an absolute right to take part in a field trip. Students can be denied participation if they fail to meet academic and/or behavioral requirements. A form provided by the school is to be completed by the parent/guardian granting permission to the student. Students who fail to submit the proper form will not be allowed to participate in the field trip. Unless otherwise permitted, students on field trips must be in uniform.

Props for Student Performance

Students are authorized to carry, bring, use, or possess a firearm facsimile on school property for a school-related activity (C.R.S. 22-33-106(1)(f)). Any activity requiring a prop that looks like a weapon must receive permission from the Head of School. Any such prop must be stored securely by a staff member, and not in a student locker. Students should not bring in such props until they receive permission from their teacher.

Movies

The Head of School must approve all movies above the PG rating and students must have a parental permission form signed prior to viewing. Movies are used sparingly in class to educate, complement, or relate to the academic subject at hand.

After School Study Hall (ASSH)

We are pleased to offer this program to accommodate working and busy parents. This is an extended study hall; all standards and expectations of the school day are applicable.

Days and Times Available: Monday - Thursday from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

Study Hall NOT Available: Fridays, Fine Arts Nights, and days preceding extended breaks (Fall, Thanksgiving, Winter and Spring breaks).

Student Sign-In: Students must sign in by 3:45p. Any student remaining on premises after 4:00 p.m. will be registered in Study Hall and parents will be billed for applicable fees.

Pick up time: 4:45 p.m. or sooner

Tardiness: If you are tardy picking up your child more than 3 times, then Study Hall privileges will be revoked. No student can be left unattended on school property. With *permission* by the Head of School, high school students may sign themselves out of Study Hall; permission for middle school students, though not encouraged, may be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

Fees:

Regular lunch status

(1) Child: \$10.00/day; (2) Children or more: \$15.00/day flat rate

Reduced lunch status

(1) Child: \$5.00/day; (2) Children or more: \$7.50/day flat rate

Free lunch status

(1) Child: \$2.50/day; (2) Children or more: \$3.75/day flat rate

Late fee: \$1/minute will be charged for any child picked up after 4:45 p.m. Because of our lease, this is a non-negotiable pick-up time. In case of an emergency, please call the school to discuss other arrangements.

Fees Due: All charges are payable by Thursday of each week. If a balance becomes more than 2 weeks past due, a \$5.00 /week late fee will be assessed. Any unused fees will roll over as a credit for the following month.

Study Hall Behavior: Students are expected to use this time to work quietly or read a book. If a student is disruptive or distracting then a warning will be issued. After three warnings, Study Hall privileges will be revoked and may only be reinstated by the Head of School.

Study Hall Electronics: Electronics are not permitted during Study Hall. All cell phones, cameras, laptops, tablets, ebooks, electronic games, iPads/iPods or mp3 players will be held at the front desk until the student is signed out and picked up by a parent or guardian. Students may request computer lab use for homework only. Lab use will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Parent Right to Know Act

As a parent of a student at Thomas MacLaren, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teacher who instructs your child. This is a requirement for all CSI schools. Federal law allows you to request certain information about your student's classroom teacher. The law also requires the district to give you this information in a timely manner upon request. Listed below is the information about which you have the right to ask for regarding each of your student's classroom teachers.

- Whether the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has licensed or endorsed your student's teacher for the grades and subjects taught.
- Whether CDE has decided that your student's teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teachers' aides or similar Para educators provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

Please contact the Head of School if you would like to receive any of this information.

Notification of Rights under FERPA and PPRA & Directory Information Consent

FERPA NOTICE — GENERAL

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and those students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights include:

1. ***The right to inspect and review the student's "education records."*** Under Colorado law, the time for a response to a request for records is generally three business days. Parents or eligible students who wish to inspect their child's or their education records should submit a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect to the Head of School.

2. ***The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.*** Parents or eligible students who wish to ask to amend their child's or their education record should write the Head of School, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

3. ***The right not to have records disclosed without consent if the record includes personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except in those cases in which FERPA permits disclosure without consent.*** School officials with legitimate educational interests may access the records as needed, without consent. Such officials include school employees, board members, volunteers, contractors or consultants and, certain officials of the school's authorizer, the Charter School Institute (CSI). In the case of volunteers, contractors, or consultants this must be a person who performs a service or function for which the school could use its own employees and who is under control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records. This may include a professional employed by the schools (such as an attorney or therapist) or a person who is assisting a school employee in fulfilling their responsibilities. A school official typically has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her assigned responsibility.

The School may also disclose educational records without consent in over a dozen other specific circumstances identified in the regulations implementing FERPA. These include, with certain requirements, such cases as health and safety emergencies and responding to judicial subpoenas. For more details refer to section 99.31 of the regulations. See: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/pdf/2012-final-regs.pdf>

Please see below regarding the right to and method for reporting violations of FERPA.

PPRA NOTICE

The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) and Colorado law afford parents of elementary and secondary students certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These include, but are not limited to, the right to:

Consent before students are required to submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of others with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility, or social security number.

Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of such surveys and —

1. Any non-emergency, invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of attendance, administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, except for hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law; and
2. Activities involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others. (This does not apply to the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.)

Inspect, upon request and in a timely manner –

1. Surveys of students covered by the PPRA;
2. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
3. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or an emancipated minor under State law.

Should the School undertake a survey or activity covered by PPRA, it will provide appropriate advance notice and opportunity to opt out, as required by law, at that time.

The School may unilaterally undertake formal threat assessments or suicide assessments, report suspected child abuse or neglect, perform routine health screening required by law, administer educational exams, and allow journalism students to conduct surveys under teacher supervision.

VIOLATIONS OF FERPA OR PPRA

If you believe FERPA or PPRA have been violated you are, of course, welcome to bring this to the School's attention. You also have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA and PPRA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

FERPA Notice and Consent for Directory Information

FERPA also permits the School to disclose appropriately designated "directory information" unless a parent objects to just disclosure. Colorado law, however, requires consent to disclosure of "directory information." **Your information will be included in the school directory, if and only if you sign the Image Release on the *Handbook Signature Page* giving your permission.** The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the School to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications available to the public. Examples include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- An annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as those showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released and can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, for students who are in seventh or higher grades the School can be required to provide military recruiters, upon request, with the following information – names, addresses and telephone listings – unless parents have advised the School that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

I. Weather & Emergency Information

School Closures

Thomas MacLaren School will broadcast weather-related closures and delays by 5:30 a.m. on the major news networks and radio stations and periodically thereafter until 9:00 a.m. Closures and delays will also be posted on the school's website, www.maclarenschool.org, and sent to parents via SchoolMessenger Communicate. SMS (text) message will be the default. Parents may change their personal preferences in the SchoolMessenger InfoCenter to receive notifications by email or phone call.

If the school is closed, all school-sponsored activities are canceled. In the case of a two-hour delay, school begins at 9:45 a.m. and students should arrive between 9:25-9:40 a.m.

Building Safety Plan

Thomas MacLaren School has developed a Building Safety Plan that has procedures to protect students and staff during emergencies. We have coordinated this plan with members of Pulpit Rock Church, the Colorado Springs Fire Department, and the Colorado Springs Police Department.

In the case of an emergency requiring evacuation, students must follow the emergency procedures and instructions for each class. Teachers will instruct students regarding the posted exit procedures including specific instructions for rapid/safe primary and secondary exits. Full cooperation is necessary for the proper execution of these drills. When an alarm sounds, every person in the building will evacuate according to directions they have been given. Response to the alarm is to be prompt, quiet, orderly and disciplined. Teachers are to take class emergency folders and instruct all students to walk in single file to the nearest assigned exit. After exiting the building, teachers will lead students to a safe distance from the building and take attendance immediately. Each group will quietly remain standing until school officials give further instructions.

During an emergency, MacLaren will work to keep in timely communication with you, but until local officials have given permission for student release, please do not come to school to pick up your child. When permission for reunification is granted, you must bring a photo ID to have your child released to you. Any child who normally leaves campus on his or her own (e.g., walks, bikes, or rides the bus) will only be released to a parent/guardian with a photo ID.

MacLaren has regular emergency evacuation and lockdown drills. For further information about our Building Safety Plan, please contact the Head of School.

V. THE ORGANIZATION OF MACLAREN

Thomas MacLaren School is a public charter school, chartered through the Colorado Charter School Institute. The following outlines our governance and grievance policies:

A. The Board of Directors of Thomas MacLaren School

The purpose of the Board is to set the general direction and policy of the school, not to manage it on a daily basis. Rather, the Head of School and other administrators manage the school by implementing the policies the Board has enacted. Furthermore, Directors are charged with fostering a positive relationship with MacLaren faculty and staff,

parents, students, the Charter School Institute, and the community at large in Colorado Springs. The Board selects and evaluates the Head of School, oversees the finances of the school, recruits and orients high-quality candidates to serve on the Board, and ensures effective long-range planning. All Board decisions should be made within the parameters of the school's Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and previously enacted policies.

As with all charter schools, Thomas MacLaren School is a separate entity from its authorizer, the Charter School Institute, and the school district in which it is located, Colorado Springs School District 11. By its decisions, the Board shall guard and steward this separateness, both for its own sake and for the sake of the charter school movement.

B. Grievance Policy

Thomas MacLaren School values open and proactive communication among and between the members of the school community, including parents, students, faculty, staff, administration, and the Board. Issues that are not dealt with directly can become destructive to the school community and, therefore, detrimental to the learning process of our students. As adults we must model for our students a willingness to address conflict directly. As such, Thomas MacLaren School's procedures (outlined below) for settling differences are designed to support prompt and equitable resolution of disagreements at the lowest possible faculty or administrative level.

These procedures guide how faculty, staff, parents and students are expected to express grievances about other members of the school community. The administration and Board both expect that conflict will be addressed and proactively dealt with following the fewest steps of the procedures below. However, if the conflict is not resolved at the lowest faculty or administrative level, the guidelines below provide a process for resolving the conflict.

Grievance Procedures: Thomas MacLaren School is committed to ensuring that the following procedures are followed:

1. Address Issue With Those Directly Involved

The grievant brings the situation or concern to the attention of those directly involved. Should a student or parent fail to begin the process at the lowest possible level, and instead go directly to the Head of School with a concern about a teacher or go to a Board member with a concern about a Head of School (for example), the person at the higher level in the policy shall re-direct the grievant to the appropriate level in the process.

2. Address Issue With Appropriate Supervising School Director

If satisfactory resolution is not realized after a direct conversation between the conflicted parties, the situation must be brought to the attention of the Head of School within ten days of the above meeting. The Head of School and the conflicted parties will address the situation, facilitate communication, and develop goals for conflict resolution. The Head of School will monitor this process until resolution is realized or until an impasse is reached.

If the concern is regarding the Head of School, the Chair of the Board will facilitate the complaint at this level.

3. Prepare a Written Grievance for the Board of Directors

If the grievant is not satisfied with the response received via steps one and two, the grievant shall prepare a formal written grievance with the assistance of the facilitator in Step 2. This written grievance should:

- 1) describe the incident, decision or practice that gave rise to the complaint;
- 2) cite the contract, policy, or procedure that has been violated and/or rationale for concern;
- 3) describe what conflict resolution strategies were attempted via steps 1 and 2; and
- 4) explain what corrective action is being requested.

If the concern is regarding the Head of School, the Chair of the Board will oversee this process.

It is the Head of School's responsibility to manage the ultimate resolution of conflicts among parents, students, faculty, and staff, excepting those that pertain to the Head of School him/herself or to a Head of School's execution of a school-wide policy or procedure.

4. Provide Written Grievance to the Board

The grievant may request that the matter be brought to the attention of the Board only if the matter has not been satisfactorily resolved. Upon request by the grievant, the Head of School will forward the written grievance to the Chair of the Board at least one week prior to the next scheduled Board meeting. The Chair, or designee, will review the above process with the grievant and ensure that the proper initial steps were taken.

If the first three steps were properly followed, then the Chair, or designee, will review the written grievance to determine if it merits review by the full Board. If the Chair, or designee, determines that it does not merit Board review, then he or she will explain the reason(s) for this determination in a brief written statement to the grievant. The grievant may not appeal this determination.

If the Chair, or designee, determines that the grievance should be reviewed by the Board, then it shall be added to the next Board meeting agenda. The written grievance shall be submitted to all Board members as far in advance of the Board meeting as practicable to permit the Board to consider the matter carefully. Grievances shall not be brought to the Board without first being submitted in writing, *e.g.*, as a matter of Public Comment, as this does not give the Board sufficient time to consider the issue(s) and address them through this grievance process. The Board will not hear matters that do not follow this grievance process.

The final forum for conflict resolution, after a grievant has followed the steps outlined above, will be at the level of the Board of Directors.

VI. UNIFORMS

MacLaren students wear a simple uniform and follow a conservative dress code, both to eliminate distraction and to create a school identity.

A. Dress Code

Jewelry: An object that has a purpose other than jewelry cannot be worn as jewelry (i.e. animal chains or collars, specialized ear jewelry, safety pins or tacks). Spikes are not allowed on shoes or clothing.

Boys- Bracelets, earrings, neck chains and other jewelry are not allowed for boys. Wearing a wristwatch is acceptable. Students may appeal to the Dean of Boys for permission to wear items of religious significance, but if physically possible, such items should be worn underneath the clothing.

Girls- Girls may wear jewelry that is conservative; jewelry should not be a distraction. Girls may wear one pair of short earrings in each earlobe. Girls should not wear only one earring. Large hoops or other dangling or distracting earrings are not permitted. No body-piercing jewelry except earrings will be permitted. Girls may wear one wrist bracelet and one small necklace. Bracelet may not be a rubber wristband. Pendants should not be large or elaborate; they should be not much larger than an inch or so in length, width, or diameter. No chokers, shells, or large or elaborate chain-link may be worn. No anklets may be worn.

Make up:

- Boys- No makeup is allowed for boys. Nail polish is not allowed for boys. As all students play a stringed instrument, nails should be kept short.
- Girls- Middle school girls may not wear makeup. Make up worn by high school girls must look natural. Fingernails should not be excessively long or painted garishly. Nail polish should be painted in a manner that is tasteful and appropriate for school. Polish should not be neon-bright, overtly sparkly, black, or patterned or decorated (e.g. polka-dotted, flowers, stripes, etc.). Moreover, fingernails all need to have the same color. The judgment of the appropriateness of nail polish color will be determined by the Dean of Girls. As all students play a stringed instrument, nails should be kept short.

Hair:

- Boys- Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color. Radical changes in hair color during the school year are unacceptable. Hair must be cut so that it does not hang down into the eyes. Hair cannot extend over the shirt collar in the back or over the ears on the sides. The difference in lengths of hair may be no more than 2 inches. Sideburns can come to the bottom of the ear or shorter. No part of the head may be shaved, including undercuts or severe fades. Shaggy hair is prohibited. Boys must be clean shaven every day.

- Girls- Hair must be natural looking and conservative in its color; hair may not have extreme highlights, including hombre highlights. Radical changes in hair color during the school year are unacceptable. Students considering dyeing their hair are highly encouraged to discuss with the Dean. Shaved heads are not permitted; moreover, hair cannot be shaved or short on one side of the head and longer on the other. No hair extensions such as feathers or streaks of color are allowed. Barrettes, bows, and headbands cannot be too large or distracting. Bows, flowers and other hair ornaments should not be larger than three inches in any dimension. Headbands also should not be wider than three inches. No bandanas may be worn, even as headbands.

Sunglasses and Hats:

Sunglasses are not to be worn within the school building during school hours, with the exception of prescription glasses that change in the light. Hats (caps, visors, beanies, bandanas, etc.) may not be worn except on designated days.

Body Piercings/Tattoos:

Visible body piercing, tongue rings/barbells or “gauging” of the ears are not allowed and must be removed during school. No tattoos, temporary or permanent. This prohibition includes pen and ink drawings on the skin.

When in doubt, a student should seek the counsel of the appropriate Dean for guidance regarding the dress code. A Dean may seek the Head of School’s decision regarding a judgment in dress; the Head of School’s decision is considered final.

Outerwear:

Students must purchase either a MacLaren sweater from French Toast or a MacLaren fleece through the PSA. These are also available at a substantial discount from the retail prices at used uniform sales. Students may not wear non-MacLaren outerwear at school, and the building is sometimes too cold to go without layers.

B. Uniform

Uniform Vendor:

- 1) French Toast 1-800-FRENCHTOAST www.frenchtoast.com
- 2) Land’s End 1-800-963-4816 www.landsend.com

The items that may only be purchased through French Toast are listed below with an asterisk. The other items listed may be purchased through French Toast if you desire, or you may purchase them through another vendor/store of your choice, as long as they adhere to the guidelines set forth below. Many items may be purchased at Land’s End, but please note that shirts, skirts, sweaters and fleeces may not be purchased there.

To access our school page at French Toast, go to www.frenchtoast.com. In the box on the right side of the page where it says “enter school source code”, type in “QS5SFIW” and press enter. This will take you to our school’s page. Whenever you order from French

Toast, please use this code and French Toast will donate a percentage of our sales back to the school.

To access our school page at Land's End, go to www.landsend.com, click on "School Uniforms", go to the lower left hand box to "Look Up Your School" and use the following code number to see the approved items list: Code 900148131.

Girl's Uniform

***Shirt: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- **Grades 6-8: maroon** pique polo shirt with "Thomas MacLaren" stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved
- **Grades 9-12: white** pique polo shirt with "Thomas MacLaren" stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved

Undershirts:

- Plain, white t-shirts may be worn underneath the uniform shirts in cold weather. (No turtlenecks or long-sleeved shirts under short-sleeved polos.)

Pants:

- All girls' pants must be khaki straight-leg pants, flat-front or pleated. No logo.
- Pant length must be just below the ankle with a simple hem, no cuff.
- No cargo pants. No decorations, no brass buttons, no jean-like material. No external/patch pockets.
- Pants must fit modestly, with a 1-2" ease around the hips; not too tight—not too loose.

Shorts:

- All girls' shorts must be khaki, flat front or pleated Bermuda shorts, no cuffs, no logo.
- Shorts Hem: should be no more than 2 inches from the top of the knee cap and should not go past the knee cap.

Belt:

- Plain, simple dark brown or black leather or leather-like belt (flat or braided) with plain buckle;
- Belts are NOT optional with pants and shorts

***Skirt: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- Burgundy Plaid skirt
- Skirt Hem: Conservative; ranging from the top of the knee to no more than two inches below the knee.

***Sweater: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- Maroon crew neck button-down sweater with "Thomas MacLaren" stitching
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.

Fleece: Fleece purchased in 2009-2017 are allowed. Fleece options for 2017-2018 will be available in the fall. Grey MacLaren hoodies are spirit wear and are not part of the uniform.

- Maroon fleece with "Thomas MacLaren logo"
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.

Shoes:

- Entirely black, brown or cordovan (soles and laces), ties, flats or slip-ons, leather or leather-like. Closed-toe, closed-heel. No heels over 1” in middle school; no heels over 2” in high school. No logos should appear on the shoes. NO athletic shoes, sandals, including Birkenstocks, Vans, Converse, Nike and Adidas, no cloth shoes or sport boots of any kind, or shoes that look like slippers. No boots or booties.

Socks/Tights:

- **With pants and shorts:** solid white or khaki quarter crew, crew, or knee-high socks (no logo). Short socks must rise above the ankle. No anklets or low sport socks.
- **With Skirt:** solid white or khaki quarter crew, crew or knee-high socks, or tights (no logo); nude nylons also acceptable. No leggings.

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| Boy’s Uniform |
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***Shirt: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- **Grades 6-8:** maroon pique polo shirt with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved
- **Grades 9-12:** white pique polo shirt with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching, short-sleeved or long-sleeved

Undershirts:

- Plain, white t-shirts may be worn underneath the uniform shirts in cold weather. (No turtlenecks or long-sleeved shirts under short-sleeved polos.)

Pants:

- All boys’ pants must be khaki pleated or flat-front, straight-leg pant. No logo.
- Pant length must be just below the ankle with a simple hem, no cuff.
- No cargo pants. No jean-like material. No external/patch pockets.
- Pants must fit modestly, with a 1-2” ease around the hips. Not too tight—not too loose. Pants may not be pulled down below the hips.

Shorts:

- All boys’ shorts must be khaki, pleated or flat front walking shorts, no cuffs, no logo.
- Inseam should not go past the top of the knee.
- No cargo shorts; no jean-like material.

Belt:

- Plain, simple dark brown or black leather belt (flat or braided) with plain buckle.
- Belts are NOT optional.

***Sweater: Must be purchased through French Toast**

- Maroon V-neck button-down sweater with “Thomas MacLaren” stitching
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.

Fleece: Fleeces purchased in 2009-2017 are allowed. Fleece options for 2017-2018 will be available in the fall. Grey MacLaren hoodies are spirit wear and are not part of the uniform.

- Maroon fleece with “Thomas MacLaren logo”
- Non-approved outerwear will not be permitted unless student is outside.

Shoes:

- Entirely black, brown or cordovan (soles and laces) dress shoes, ties, flats or slip-ons, leather or leather-like. Closed-toe, closed-heel. No heels over 1". No logos should appear on the shoes. NO athletic shoes, sandals, including Birkenstocks, Vans, Converse, Nike and Adidas, "skater shoes," cloth shoes or sport boots of any kind, or shoes that look like slippers. No boots or booties.

Socks:

- **With pants:** solid white or khaki quarter crew, crew or dress socks (no logo). Short socks must rise above the ankle. No anklets or low sport socks.
- **With shorts:** solid white quarter crew or crew socks (no logo). Short socks must rise above the ankle. No anklets or low sport socks.

C. Dress for Special Occasions**Orchestra Concerts**

Orchestra performances happen on stage under bright lights. The audience should not be distracted by anything a student is wearing.

Gentlemen:

- White long-sleeved dress shirt
- Long black tie
- Black dress pants (no jeans)
- Black belt, black dress socks
- Black dress shoes (no sneakers)

Ladies:

- White long-sleeved or $\frac{3}{4}$ -sleeved blouse (does not need collar; no sparkles; may not be see-through; may not be low-cut; sweaters not recommended)
- Black floor-length skirt or black dress pants with black belt (no jeans or skinny pants)
- Black stockings
- Black dress shoes (closed toe)
- No necklace; no dangle earrings or accessories that jingle or sparkle

Outdoor Field Day

Field day is a run-around, athletic day. Students should dress appropriately and modestly:

- Dress appropriately for the weather. In Colorado, this means you should bring layers. The mornings are chilly—bring sweatpants or sweatshirt.
- Bottoms: may wear sweats, jeans or shorts. Clothes may not be form fitting. Bottoms may not have a logo or lettering across the seat of the pants. Shorts may not be short-shorts. Pants may not be baggy.
- Tops: Students may wear T-shirts. No logo or wording may be offensive. No tank tops, no sleeveless tops, no halter tops. Tops must not be tight. Tops may not show cleavage.

- No undergarments of any kind may be visible.
- Clothes may not have holes. Clothes may not reveal the midriff.
- Athletic socks and shoes should be worn.
- Hair, jewelry, and accessories must be in line with regular uniform policy with the exception that **students may bring hats and sunglasses.**

Indoor Field Day

Students should dress appropriately and modestly:

- Bottoms: may wear jeans or other casual pants (no sweatpants). Clothes may not be form fitting. Bottoms may not have a logo or lettering across the seat of the pants. Shorts may not be short-shorts. Pants may not be too baggy.
- Tops: Students may wear T-shirts. No logo or wording may be offensive. No tank tops, no sleeveless tops, no halter tops. Tops must not be tight. Tops may not show cleavage.
- No undergarments of any kind may be visible.
- Clothes may not have holes. Clothes may not reveal the midriff.
- Athletic socks and shoes may be worn.
- Hair, jewelry, and accessories must be in line with regular uniform policy. No hats are allowed

Honors Night

For Honors Night, students may wear uniforms or an appropriate, dressy outfit. Jewelry, hair, and make-up should be appropriate according to the MacLaren dress code.

Gentlemen:

- Shirt: Boys must wear a collared long-sleeved dress shirt and a tie. No t-shirts, no shirts with logos. Shirts should be tucked in.
- Pants: Boys must wear dress pants or khakis. No shorts, no corduroy, jeans or jean-like material. Belts are required.
- Shoes: Boys must wear uniform shoes or equivalent. No athletic shoes or sandals.
- Socks: Socks may not be ankle socks.
- Jackets are optional.

Ladies:

- Girls may wear skirts, dresses, or dressy pants. Girls' dress should be modest.
- Skirts and Dresses: Skirts and dresses must be no shorter than one inch above the knee. Skirts and dresses should not be tight. Dresses should not be low-cut; no cleavage may be visible.
- Pants: If girls choose to wear pants, they must be dress pants or khakis. No shorts, no corduroy, jeans or jean-like material.
- Shirts: Girls' shirts should be modest, meaning no low-cut necks, and not overly tight. No t-shirts and no logos. No undergarments may be visible.
- Shoes: No athletic shoes. No heels over two inches tall. No flip-flops.
- Jewelry: Jewelry should conform to usual school dress code.

Spring Formal

The purpose of the Thomas MacLaren Formal Dance Attire Policy is to ensure our students maintain modesty at all times on campus and at school-sponsored events. Students are strongly encouraged to be responsible with the Dress Code and Formal Dance Attire Policy by selecting attire that is modest and displays proper respect for self and others.

Ladies: Ladies may wear dresses or dress suits according to the guidelines below

- Dresses must have straps; straps must be wider than spaghetti straps
- Cleavage may not show at any time. Low cut dresses or tops are not allowed. To check for modesty, use the Palm Pilot Test (see below). No skin may show from beneath the pinky finger to the bottom of the dress for the duration of the dance and while on the property of the dance site.

Palm Pilot Test – Place your palm flat with all your fingers and thumb tightly together. With your thumb hooked onto the shelf (clavicle) at the base of your neck, hold your hand horizontally flat against your chest. There should be no skin showing beneath your pinky finger, only opaque fabric.

- The back of dresses or blouses may not be lower than the bottom of the shoulder blades.
- The highest part of the opaque hemline of a dress or skirt, including any slits, must be no higher than the top of the kneecap. Opaque is defined as not transparent or translucent; not allowing light to pass through.
- See through and/or excessively tight-fitting slacks, dresses or skirts are not allowed.
- Fishnet stockings and extreme hosiery styles may not be worn.
- Dress shoes should be worn; open-toed shoes are acceptable. No heels over three inches tall. No flip-flops.

Gentlemen:

- Tuxedos may be worn but are not required; jackets are required
- Collared, long sleeved dress shirts must be worn. Shirts must be tucked in and buttoned for the duration of the dance and while on the property of the dance site. The top button may be unbuttoned and sleeves may be rolled up, if desired.
- A tie must be worn, properly knotted, for the duration of the dance and while on the property of the dance site. Ties may be loosened to the second shirt button from the top, but may not be taken off.
- Dress pants must be worn. Casual pants with pockets attached to the outside of the pants are not permitted.
- If the dress pants have belt loops, a dress belt must be worn.
- Dress shoes and dress socks only.
- See through and/or excessively tight-fitting clothing are not allowed.

Everybody:

- Hair: hair must conform to normal uniform dress code
- Make-up must look natural; no extreme make-up can be worn. Black fingernail polish is not allowed; no make-up is allowed for boys.
- Jewelry
 - Modest jewelry for females is allowed. An object that has a purpose other than jewelry cannot be worn as jewelry (i.e. animal chains or collars, gauges, safety pins or tacks, etc.).
 - Male students must follow the usual guidelines for jewelry.
 - Female students may only have jewelry for piercings in the ears according to the below rules.
 - Female students may not have more than one earring hole filled per ear.
 - Earrings may not be excessively large (more than 3” diameter hoops).
- Spikes are not allowed on shoes or other clothing.
- Visible body piercings and/or tattoos must be covered at all times.

If students have any question or doubt whether an item of clothing, jewelry, hair style, make-up, etc. is acceptable, they must show it or provide a clear photograph of it to the appropriate Dean or their designee for approval at least two weeks prior to the dance. Selected female faculty/staff members, led by the Deans, will be on site during the dance to ensure only those students who are following this policy are permitted into the dance.

If you are uncertain about this policy or whether your attire conforms to it, you are highly encouraged to speak with the Deans at least two weeks prior to the dance. Violations of the Formal Dance Attire Policy any time during the dance and while on the property of the dance site may result in the student being denied entry to the dance or removed from the dance with no refunds given in either case.

IMPORTANT: Tags and receipts should be kept in case the attire is not approved. Parents and students should familiarize themselves with the store’s return/exchange policy prior to making a purchase. Many stores will not allow for returns, so make sure the attire you wish to obtain conforms to this policy prior to making any purchases. Thomas MacLaren School and its representatives are not financially responsible for any issues related to the non-approval of dresses, clothing, jewelry, hair styles, etc.

Thomas MacLaren School and its representatives reserve the right to deny entrance to the dance due to violations of the dress code which cannot be resolved. The final decision as to the safety and/or suitability of clothing, hair styles, jewelry, etc. will be left up to the discretion of the Head of School and/or the Deans.

D. Exceptions for Reasons of Religious Observance

An exception to the MacLaren School uniform and dress code may be granted in deference to a student's sincerely held religious beliefs when the exception is consistent with the stated purposes of the dress code. To be eligible for an exception the item worn must be such as is commonly worn in public by adherents of a religious community to

which the student belongs as part of their regular, habitual religious observance as such and not as a form of political or proselytizing speech.

Any student may request such an exception from the Head of School by providing 1) a written statement of the reason for the request that gives evidence that the student practices this observance from sincere religious belief; 2) a brief written statement by the student's parents that supports the request; and, if the Head of School is unfamiliar with the religious observance in question, 3) a statement from a member of the clergy of the religious community in question that briefly describes the norms that govern the observance in question and affirms that the item is commonly worn in public by adherents of that community as part of their regular, habitual religious observance.

The final authority to judge whether the requested exception is or is not consistent with the stated purposes of the dress code lies with the Head of School who will grant or deny the request on that basis.

VIII. DAILY SCHEDULE

The following schedule is for Monday-Thursday. There will be no 7th Period on Friday. Dismissal on Friday is 2:40 p.m.

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| Morning Assembly | 7:45 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. |
| Period 1 | 8:05 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. |
| Period 2 | 9:05 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. |
| Period 3 | 10:05 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. |
| Lunch (MS) | 11:05 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. |
| Period 4A HS | 11:05 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. |
| Period 4B (MS) | 11:45 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. |
| Lunch (HS) | 12:05 p.m. – 12:40 p.m. |
| Period 5 | 12:45 p.m. – 1:40 p.m. |
| Period 6 | 1:45 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. |
| Period 7 | 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. |

Classes are 55 minutes long. Passing periods are 5 minutes.

Two-hour delay: Dismissal on a two-hour delay day is 3:30 p.m., even if on a Friday.

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| Morning Assembly | 9:45 a.m. – 9:55 a.m. |
| Period 1 | 10:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. |
| Period 2 | 10:50 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. |
| Period 3 | 11:40 a.m. – 12:25 p.m. |
| Lunch | 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. |
| Period 4 | 1:05 p.m. – 1:50 p.m. |
| Period 5 | 1:55 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. |
| Period 6 | 2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. |

Classes are 45 minutes long. Passing periods are 5 minutes. Two-Hour Delay days will not include the mid-morning break or Period 7.

IX. DROP-OFF, PICK-UP, AND PARKING

REVISED PARKING INSTRUCTIONS TO BE ADDED LATE 2017