



*"To Live, To Love, To Learn, To Leave a Legacy"*

[www.strideacademy.org](http://www.strideacademy.org)

320.230.5340

# Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

## *Mission*

*STRIDE Academy nurtures individuals while fostering leadership and empowering students to attain their highest potential in a family-centered environment.*

## *Contact Information*

**STRIDE Academy**  
3241 Oakham Lane  
St. Cloud, MN 56301

**Phone Number: (320) 230-5340**

**Fax Number: (320) 217-6318**

Web Site: [www.strideacademy.org](http://www.strideacademy.org)

Email: first initial & last name @strideacademy.org (example: jsmith@strideacademy.org)

**Normal school office hours are from 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

STRIDE Academy is a charter school authorized by the Minnesota Department of Education. As a charter school, we are a public, non-profit entity and receive funding through the Minnesota Department of Education. We must comply with all state and federal mandates that govern public schools in the State of Minnesota. We must also comply with requirements established by our sponsor, Friends of Education. Students are not assessed tuition fees to attend STRIDE Academy.

Eric Williams, Ed.D.,  
Executive Director  
Ext: 6943

Diane Moeller  
Principal  
Ext: 6322

### **STRIDE Academy School Board of Education**

#### **Members**

Sara Fromm – Parent Representative  
Aaron Lundblad – Community Representative  
Sylvester Alamin, Parent Representative  
Natalie Ringsmuth - Parent Representative  
Nathan Schwieters – Teacher Representative  
Asha Aden – Parent Representative,  
Cortney Ryan – Teacher Representative  
Eric Williams - Ex-Officio

Board Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Middle School, except before intersession breaks. Meetings are open to the public. Board minutes are available on the STRIDE Academy website or upon request. See Board meeting postings on STRIDE Academy website or within each school building.

#### **Proposed School Board meeting dates for the 2017-2018 School Year**

August 24, 2017	September 28, 2017	October 26, 2017	November 30, 2017
December 21, 2017	January 25, 2018	February 22, 2018	March 22, 2018
April 26, 2018	May 24, 2018	June 28, 2018	

#### ***Staff***

Douglas Millaway, Psychologist/SPED Director  
Nadine Martin, Special Education Admin. Asst.  
Steve Swenson, Technology Manager  
Dan Henry, Building & Grounds Coordinator  
Shonda Nohner, Kindergarten  
Joanne Stoermann, Kindergarten  
Jennifer Feigum, Kindergarten  
Abby Moenning, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Molly Cardeneas, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Courtney Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Laura Seeley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Kimberly Burrows, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

Stephanie Leedahl, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Jennifer Geisler, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
Amber Voigt, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Alex Rootes, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Sara Voss, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Christopher Kirchner 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Laura Maiers, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Nathan Schwieters, Dean, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade,  
Studies/Activities  
Jason Fleege, Physical Education  
Josh Smith, Choir/Music  
Kassandra Michael, Art

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

Susie McIntyre, EL Coordinator/EL Teacher  
Susan Janey, EL Teacher  
Michele Kockler, Special Education Teacher  
Malinda O'Brien Special Education Teacher  
Leanne Sudlarek, Title Teacher  
Dahir Hassan, Cultural Liaison  
Fartun Mohamed, ELL Paraprofessional  
Heather Peterson, Media Center/Lunch  
Cathy Lindstrom, Paraprofessional  
Sue Dingmann, Paraprofessional  
Linda Theisen, Paraprofessional  
Melissa Ritter, Paraprofessional  
Maria Kremer, Paraprofessional  
Tessa Soltis, Paraprofessional  
Nancy Kalla, Paraprofessional

Amy Opatz, Paraprofessional  
Noelle Kirchner, Paraprofessional  
Rachel Carlson, Paraprofessional  
Katy Meyer, Paraprofessional  
Emily Williams, School Nurse  
Kelly Meyer, Health Services Assistant  
Mandy Sadlo, Administrative Assistant  
Judy Theisen, Human Resource Assistant  
Rochelle Berger, Receptionist  
Katie Muhlenpoh, Principal's Secretary  
Terry Baxter, Custodian  
Fardosa Bile, Monitor  
Asha Abdirahman, Lunch Monitor  
Barb Von Hellwig, Lunch/Recess

### ***Arrival and Dismissal Procedures***

In the best interest of the safety and wellbeing of all students we are asking our families to follow the STRIDE arrival and dismissal procedures.

#### Before School:

- All students will enter in main door (Door 20-S)
- Breakfast will be served from 7:45 to 8:30. Students who will be eating breakfast must go to the lunchroom for breakfast before going to their classroom.
- School day begins at 8:15.
- Students should NOT arrive at school prior to 7:45 a.m. Students arriving before 7:45 a.m. will be required to wait in the front entry, unless they are attending KIDSTOP.
- Students who arrive between 7:45 and 8:15 will be supervised in the west gym.
- For parents with children who may need to be dropped off earlier than 7:45, KIDSTOP is available beginning at 6:30 a.m.
- If you are dropping your child off in the morning without walking into the building, please respect other drivers and keep the flow of traffic moving. If you need additional time, please park your car. **Please DO NOT stop or park your car in any of the traffic lanes.**

#### After School:

- The instructional day ends at 3:05.
- All students must be picked up no later than 3:15.
- Parent Pick-up: All families will be provided a Parent-Pickup-number that must be visible from the car for the staff member to see. Once the staff recognizes the number and deems it safe, the student(s) will be released to that car. This will require all parents using this system to remain in single file for the flow of traffic to be continuous. Staff will only release children if and when cars are not moving and when number is clearly visible.
- **If you need to walk in the building, you must park your car.**

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- Parent pick-up will be on the east side parking lot and buses will be on the west side. No parents should park in the bus lanes at any time.
- **Please DO NOT stop or park your car in any of the traffic lanes.**

For the safety of your child, if you are making a change to the end of the day transportation, a note must be provided to the office or homeroom teacher. Please call the office (320.230.5340) **BEFORE 2:00 p.m.** in order to allow enough time for delivery to homeroom teacher.

If you plan to pick-up your children prior to the 3:05 dismissal, it is necessary for you to come to the office and sign them out. They will be dismissed from the office only.

### **Attendance**

MN Compulsory School Attendance Law (Minn. Stat. § 120A.22) states that children between the ages 7 - 18, and ages 5 and 6 if they are enrolled, must attend school every day on time unless lawfully excused by the school. STRIDE Academy believes regular school attendance is vital for the child to experience optimum success at school and throughout life. Attendance habits developed in childhood often carry over into later school years and influence attitudes about work responsibility in later life. It is important that parents consider carefully any condition or activity that will keep the child out of school. Routine visits to doctor, dentists, etc., should be made at an after school hour if possible. Parents are urged to consider the school calendar carefully when planning family vacations, especially during summer session.

### **Important Notes Regarding Attendance**

- Attendance is taken in every classroom at approximately 8:35 a.m.
- Please call the office before 9:00 a.m. when your child is absent.
- Calls will be made home throughout the day in order to verify absences.
- Parents must send a note to the office in order to excuse absences.
- Students are expected to be in their assigned area at designated times. Failure to do so constitutes tardiness.

***Excused Absences:*** Regular attendance in school is a critical factor in student progress. The burden of a child being excused from school is placed on the parent/guardian. The school has the right to accept or not accept an excused absence. The school can reject invalid or unacceptable excuses from school. If it appears a parent/guardian is requesting that the school excuse excessive absences or keeping a child home for unacceptable reasons, the school has the responsibility to collect data and report excessive absences as truant and report to the proper authorities.

### ***Examples of Acceptable Reasons for Absenteeism***

- Illness (The school may request medical verification.)
- Doctor, dentist, mental health or other medical appointment. We encourage parents to make appointments before or after school. (Medical note is required for medical excuse)
- Religious holidays
- Extreme family emergencies (house fire, serious accident)
- Death in the immediate family

***Unexcused absences*** may result in a truancy petition. We will monitor attendance closely and report truancy as mandated by state law. We will work collaboratively with County agencies to assist in resolving issues that result in truancy petitions.

***Examples of Unacceptable Reasons for Absenteeism***

- Staying home to baby-sit, “needed at home”
- Missed the bus, no way to get the student to school
- Student overslept or is “having a bad day”
- Travel, family vacations without prior approval
- Weather is too cold, too hot, too stormy
- Student has nothing to wear

***Family Vacations/Camps:*** Children attending Stride Academy are expected to plan family vacations around the school calendar. Family vacations are not routinely accepted as excused absences. The Prior Approval form must be completed and pre-approved by the building principal in order to receive an excused absence to attend Summer Camp or family vacations during Academy school attendance days. Please be aware that these absences will count towards the child’s total absences allowed per quarter. The form is available at the main office.

**Students will be allowed the following excused absences:**

- 5 total absences by the end of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.
- 8 total absences by the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter.
- 10 total absences by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter.
- 13 total absences by the end of 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.

**If excused absences exceed the totals above, additional absences will be marked unexcused, unless a doctor’s note is received.**

Parents will receive a letter home reminding them of the attendance policy. If the excessive absences continue, parents will be required to hand in a doctor’s excuse for each absence. Letters are sent out according to the following schedule:

- When a student reaches the following **unexcused** absences the following steps will be taken:
  - At 2 unexcused absences an Attendance Alert letter will be sent to parents.
  - At 5 full day unexcused absences we will send an Initial truancy Referral form to the county in which the student resides. This letter is sent directly to the county and they sent a notice to the parents.
  - At 7 unexcused absences an Educational Neglect Referral form is sent to the county.

***Backpacks/Bags***

Backpacks and bags are not allowed to be worn in the building during the school hours except with the approval of the building administrator. Backpacks and bags are to remain in cubbies/lockers.

***Before and After School Care***

STRIDE Academy is proud to work with KIDSTOP to offer parents an opportunity to have their children in a before and after school care at school. Please be aware of the times students can be in the building prior to school and after the day ends. KIDSTOP is available for childcare outside of the school hours.

***Behavior Plan and Expectations***

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

Research has proven that the foundation of an effective school begins with a safe and secure environment. The STRIDE Academy Behavior Plan is intended to promote a safe and secure environment for ALL students. In order to establish a culture of safety and security, we will:

- Develop positive relationships with ALL students.
- Clearly define behavior expectations for students.
- Communicate the expectations to students, parents and staff members.
- Reward students for appropriate behavior and effort.
- Hold students accountable if they do not meet the behavior expectations.
- Supervision of ALL students is the responsibility of ALL staff.

**STRIDE Academy's vision is to Live, Love, Learn, and Leave a Legacy. What will be your Legacy?**

Habit 1: Be Proactive

Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

Habit 3: Put First things First

Habit 4: Think Win-Win

Habit 5: Seek First to Understand then to be Understood

Habit 6: Synergize

Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw

“Become a Leader”

### **Lead by Example**

- I make good choices. I understand that I am in control of my own thoughts, words, and actions.
- I am a good friend to others.
- I am a person of integrity. I do what I say I am going to do.
- I work first and play later. I have a good work ethic and am a hard worker.
- I keep my desk neat and orderly. I strive to stay organized and use my student planner.

### **Enthusiasm**

- I keep an open mind and do things without whining, complaining, or pouting even when they are new, hard, or not interesting to me.
- I participate appropriately with positive energy in class discussions and group work. I do not talk or distract others.
- I follow directions correctly the first time, and I give every task my best effort.
- I participate actively in class by immediately doing all work to my best ability, and I answer and ask questions and share my thoughts.
- I love to learn and come to school. With a great education, I can make a positive impact on the world, and I can become whoever I want to become.

### **Attitude**

- I come to school every day in control of my behavior and with a positive outlook.
- I use the words “I can” and will search for answers to questions that I do not yet know.
- I take pride in my performance, appearance, and behavior.
- I am proud of who I am. I represent my family, school, and myself in everything that I do.
- I cheer on my classmates and teammates.

### **Do My Best**

- I come to class ready to learn with all the necessary books, materials, and completed homework.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- I commit two eyes, ears, and one big brain to learning. I stay focused on what I need to learn without disturbing others or letting others distract me.
- When I am given an assignment or asked a question, I try my best and do not give up. I ask my teachers for help and, if necessary, I sacrifice my free time to get help.
- I do my absolute best on all assignments. I do my absolute best on all class work, homework, and tests. I check over my tests to make sure they are great.
- I make up all missed assignments.

### Embrace Citizenship

- I show honesty and integrity in my actions. I always tell the truth. I do my own work and only get help for others when it is appropriate.
- I take responsibility for my actions. I accept consequences without making excuses, blaming others, or worrying about what consequences others may receive.
- I care about my teammates. Without being asked, I help others without expecting anything in return.
- I work well with my teammates to complete an assigned task.
- I work to keep my classroom and the school clean by always picking up after myself and other trash without being asked.

### Respect

- I treat all students as I would like to be treated. I say nice things about everyone. I make eye contact with people and say “please” and “thank you.”
- I listen actively when someone else is speaking. I raise my hand when I wish to speak, and I wait to be called on by my teacher. I speak in a positive tone.
- I keep my hands, feet, and the rest of my body to myself, even when in line.
- I show respect for property. I ask to borrow other people’s things, and I will freely let others borrow my things. I show pride in my school by keeping it clean and neat.
- I always use a positive tone and body language when talking with others.

### Recognizing and Rewarding Appropriate Behavior

1. “Paws”itives: Students displaying appropriate behavior can earn “Paws”itives slips and rewards.
2. LEADER of the Month: Students from each grade level will be recognized at a LEADER Assembly. Students will receive a certificate and recognition at a school-wide assembly.

STRIDE Academy will use a positive behavior system and students will be recognized for positive behavior throughout the school year. To encourage positive behavior and growth in our students, the STRIDE Academy staff has developed the following matrix called the ***“The Panther R.O.A.R.”*** in order to ***provide guidelines for students to follow and meet our expectations.***

STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

<i>Get the Panther ...</i>	Responsibility	Organization	Attitude
<b>Classroom</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be prepared</li> <li>● Follow directions</li> <li>● Be honest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keep table/desk &amp; area neat.</li> <li>● Arrive on time.</li> <li>● Have all necessary tools for learning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Participate</li> <li>● Do your best</li> <li>● Listen</li> <li>● Believe in yourself</li> <li>● Be positive</li> </ul>
<b>Hallways</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Keep hallways clean</li> <li>● Walk on the right side</li> <li>● Help others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use passes during class time</li> <li>● Get all supplies on first trip</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Greet peers &amp; adults appropriately (quietly during class time)</li> <li>● Use appropriate language volume, and tone</li> </ul>
<b>Cafeteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wash hands before entering.</li> <li>● Use quiet voices.</li> <li>● Be responsible for trays, utensils, and table.</li> <li>● Don't waste food.</li> <li>● Eat only food on your tray.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Have your lunch code ready</li> <li>● Raise hand for assistance</li> <li>● Use time wisely</li> <li>● Leave area clean</li> <li>● Use proper table manners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wait in line patiently.</li> <li>● Enter and sit quietly.</li> <li>● Use positive statements and body language.</li> </ul>
<b>Bathrooms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Get planner pass signed</li> <li>● Wash your hands</li> <li>● Leave bathroom clean</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Only use two paper towels &amp; dispose of them in trash can</li> <li>● Go directly back to class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use appropriate volume and language</li> <li>● Use silent greetings (smile hallway while passing others)</li> </ul>
<b>Assembly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Arrive &amp; exit w/o disruptions</li> <li>● Wait to be dismissed</li> <li>● Encourage others positively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sit in assigned area with your class</li> <li>● Take care of personal needs before program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Actively participate</li> <li>● Keep comments positive</li> <li>● Use appropriate language volume, and tone</li> </ul>
<b>Bus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Listen &amp; Follow rules</li> <li>● Stay seated until destination is reached</li> <li>● Leave bus promptly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stay in bus room until dismissed</li> <li>● Sit in assigned (preferred) seating area</li> <li>● Keep all items inside bus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use kind words</li> <li>● T.H.I.N.K.</li> </ul>
<b>Recess</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use equipment properly</li> <li>● Follow playground rules</li> <li>● Make safe choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dress for weather</li> <li>● Put away equipment properly</li> <li>● Line up when whistle blows</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Include others</li> <li>● Share equipment</li> <li>● Cooperate</li> </ul>

**Student Accountability**

**From time to time**, students do make mistakes. When students do not meet the expectations, a staff member will provide an opportunity for the student to correct the behavior. This may require the need for additional documentation, reminders, and assistance from our behavioral interventionist and administration. Below is a listing of violations that range from minor to major.



STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

Level 1 (Green) Incidental Violations (Non-Referred/Non-Recorded)	Level 2 (Yellow) Minor Violations (Non-Referred/Recorded)	Level 3 (Red) Major Violations (Referred/Recorded)	Level 4 (Red) Illegal Violations (Referred/Recorded)
Classroom-Managed Behavior	Classroom-Managed Behavior	Office-Managed Behavior	Office-Managed Behavior
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brief disruption</li> <li>▪ Blurting, noise-making</li> <li>▪ Brief disrespectful tone and attitude</li> <li>▪ Not following directions</li> <li>▪ Off-task</li> <li>▪ Out of seat</li> <li>▪ Minor student arguments, name-calling</li> <li>▪ Unprepared for class</li> <li>▪ Missing homework</li> <li>▪ Running</li> <li>▪ Loud voices, yelling</li> <li>▪ Horse play</li> <li>▪ Other:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prolonged disruptive behavior</li> <li>▪ Prolonged disrespectful tone and attitude</li> <li>▪ Refusal to follow directions</li> <li>▪ Breaking of school policy</li> <li>▪ Leaving assigned area without permission.</li> <li>▪ Minor teasing</li> <li>▪ Inappropriate Language/Conduct</li> <li>▪ Minor Dishonesty</li> <li>▪ Third Level 1 Violation</li> <li>▪ Other</li> <li>▪ Cell Phone / Electronics – follow specific policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Excessive Disruption</li> <li>▪ Disrespect</li> <li>▪ Defiance</li> <li>▪ Verbal Aggression</li> <li>▪ Physical aggression</li> <li>▪ Threats</li> <li>▪ Harassment</li> <li>▪ Bullying</li> <li>▪ Major dishonesty</li> <li>▪ Vandalism, minor property damage</li> <li>▪ Stealing</li> <li>▪ Leaving school grounds without permission.</li> <li>▪ Third Level 2 Violation</li> <li>▪ Other:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Truancy</li> <li>▪ Theft</li> <li>▪ Extreme property damage</li> <li>▪ Assault</li> <li>▪ Drug use/possession</li> <li>▪ Possession of matches, cigarettes or lighters</li> <li>▪ Weapon use/possession</li> <li>▪ Arson</li> <li>▪ Bomb threat</li> <li>▪ Other:</li> </ul>
Teacher/Staff Procedures			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remove attention, wait for desired behavior and positively reinforce</li> <li>▪ Positively reinforce other student displays of desired behaviors.</li> <li>▪ Prompt expected behavior and positively reinforce change in behavior.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inform the student of violation and model/ describe expected behavior.</li> <li>▪ Provide the student a short break (up to 10 minutes) in another classroom/learning environment when appropriate.</li> <li>▪ Positively reinforce change in behavior.</li> <li>▪ Document violation</li> <li>▪ Communicate with parent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Send or take student to office immediately.</li> <li>▪ Notify office.</li> <li>▪ Document Office Referral (office may complete)</li> <li>▪ Participate in follow up activities as discussed with administrator.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Send or take student to office immediately.</li> <li>▪ Notify office.</li> <li>▪ Document Office Referral (office may complete)</li> <li>▪ Participate in follow up activities as discussed with administrator.</li> </ul>

**Breakfast**

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

A “grab and go” style breakfast will be available for all students, beginning at 7:45 and ending at 8:30. All students must go to breakfast first, prior to going to their classroom. Families may qualify for free student breakfast based on verification of income. These forms are available in the Office.

- Breakfast is \$1.50
- Lunch is \$3.25
- Adult Lunch is \$4.00
- Milk is 50 cents.
- 

The breakfast serving times are 7:45 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. or when the last bus arrives.

### ***Bullying***

The Board of STRIDE Academy supports a secure school climate, conducive to teaching and learning that is free from threat, harassment and any type of bullying behavior. The staff is expected to create a climate in which all types of bullying are not acceptable.

Bullying is defined as any written or verbal expression, physical act or gesture, or a pattern of those behaviors, that is intended to cause distress upon one or more students in the school environment, including the school building, grounds, vehicles, bus stops, and all school-sponsored activities and events.

A student who engages in any act of bullying is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities. The severity and pattern of the bullying behavior shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made.

Anti-bullying efforts shall be aimed toward accomplishing the following goals:

- To teach students that bullying is not acceptable behavior at STRIDE Academy and will not be tolerated.
- To train staff and students in taking pro-active steps to prevent bullying from occurring.
- To implement procedures for immediate intervention, investigation, and confrontation of students engaged in bullying behavior.
- To initiate efforts to change the behavior of students engaged in bullying behaviors through re-education on acceptable behavior, discussions, counseling, and appropriate negative consequences.
- To foster a productive partnership with parents and community members in order to help maintain a bully-free environment.
- To support victims of bullying with individual, group and/or peer counseling.
- To help develop peer support networks, social skills and confidence for all students.
- To recognize and praise positive, supportive behaviors of students toward one another on a regular basis.

### ***Communication between Families and Teachers***

Communication is essential for efficient functioning of the school and delivering quality education to all students. Our primary mode of communication with families will be written.

- ALL students will be sent home with a **Thursday Folder**. The Thursday Folder will contain newsletters, assignments, student projects and information sent from the office and teacher(s).
- All teachers are expected to communicate with families as needed via e-mail, written notes or telephone calls.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- Teachers will send home mid quarter reports to communicate the academic progress of children.
- Please like us on Facebook as we will communicate events on Facebook as well.

### **Custody**

In cases where parents are separated or divorced and only one parent/legal guardian has legal custody of a child, the school **must** be given a copy of the court order that determines custody and visitation rights. The school must have legal documentation in order to comply with any limiting court order. The school is unable to keep a non-custodial parent/legal guardian from picking up a child unless a valid restraining order or other appropriate legal documents are supplied to the school. State and federal data privacy laws recognize the right of a natural parent/legal guardian, regardless of child custody, to have access to the school records of his or her child. A non-custodial, natural parent/legal guardian may arrange to review the school record of his or her child as well as arrange to have materials from school, such as newsletters, mailed to them.

### **Discrimination**

STRIDE Academy Board of Education has adopted the following policy regarding discrimination.

***“No person shall, on the grounds of race, creed, sex, marital status, national origin, age, color, religion, ancestry, status with regard to public assistance, sexual or affectional orientation, familial status or disability be subjected to discrimination in any program operated by STRIDE Academy or in recruitment, consideration, selection, employment or rate of compensation by the Academy.”***

### **Dress Code**

STRIDE Academy requires students to adhere to our district-wide dress code. A dress code is conducive to positive learning outcomes in that students are not distracted by what clothing items are worn by other students. Our dress code consists of any solid colored polo shirt and tan or dark blue bottom.

- A polo shirt is defined as a collared shirt (no prints or stripes). It may consist of buttons, preferably no more than five, but it can be without buttons. The children may wear long, short, or sleeveless polo shirts. Students may wear a solid colored sweater or sweatshirt over the polo shirt (collar showing).
- The uniform bottoms must be tan-colored pants, skirts, skorts, shorts or capris. Any shade of tan or dark blue is acceptable. Any style is also acceptable (ex. cargo, relaxed, straight leg). All skirts and shorts must come to at least the lower thigh or 2 inches from knee in length.

STRIDE apparel, purchased through the school or PAC (Panther Activities Club), may also be worn at school. STRIDE Academy staff will monitor the uniform and will notify students and parents if the child is not meeting the qualifications for the dress code. If a student is not wearing the correct uniform, they will be asked to change clothes into the correct uniform at school. We do have limited extra clothes. Parents will then be called to ensure that that the uniform policy is followed.

STRIDE accommodates students' free exercise of a sincerely held religious belief by allowing religious attire to be worn in place of a uniform bottom, and requests that it be of a solid color. The dress code is not intended to and shall not be implemented in a way that promotes a particular religion or particular religious programs.

### ***Electronic Devices***

Cell phones and electronic devices are not to be used by students during our school day, unless given permission by a staff member. Students are highly encouraged to leave electronic devices home. If a cell phone or electronic device is being used without permission the following steps will be taken:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense: The devices will be confiscated by the classroom teacher and held for the remainder of the school day. The student may pick up their electronic device at the end of the day.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Brought up to the office and the parent must pick up.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Additional detention or suspension will take place.

A school phone is available in every classroom and office for any emergency communication. Our office phone is answered during all hours of school operation and we are happy to facilitate your incoming messages to your children until 2:00 p.m. every day. If possible, please make after school arrangements prior to the start of the school day. STRIDE Academy cannot accept responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices.

### ***Emergency Drills***

- Fire: Minnesota schools are required to conduct a minimum of five fire drills each year. At least one of these drills must be an obstructed exit fire drill. Fire drills will be conducted on a regular basis as per the State Fire Marshall regulations. In each room, an emergency escape plan is posted.
- Tornado: Minnesota schools are required to conduct a minimum of one tornado drill each year. In each room, an emergency escape plan is posted.
- Lockdown: Minnesota schools are required to conduct a minimum of five lockdown drills each year.
- All personnel within the building at the time of the drill are required to participate in the drill, unless given prior approval from the principal.

### ***Emergency School Closings***

In case of inclement weather, it is advised for families to watch for STRIDE Academy's response on school closings, late starts, or early release announcements. We will post these announcements on:

- STRIDE Academy Website
- Facebook
- Local Radio/Television Stations
- REMIND App: See office for information

### ***Extra-Curricular Activities***

STRIDE Academy offers both enrichment and athletic extra-curricular offerings for students. Information and registration forms for fall activities will be available at open house. Information and registration forms for winter and spring activities will be sent home with students. Please see the Activities Handbook for more information.

### ***Field Trips***

Students in all grades participate in field trips. These trips may require bus transportation. The field trips are carefully selected by the instructional staff to enhance and enrich students' learning. Some of the field trip expense may be covered by a special subsidy provided by our STRIDE Academy Fundraisers. Parents may be asked to help cover the field trip cost. In special cases, arrangements may be made to help reduce costs to parents. Field trip scholarships are available upon request through the school

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

administrator. No child will be denied participation because of finances. STRIDE Academy uniforms will be worn during field trips.

### **Food Allergies:**

If your child has food allergies please call Emily Williams, our school nurse, to develop an appropriate lunch plan for your child.

### **Harassment**

STRIDE Academy has a commitment to confront behaviors that are considered to be harassment. Prompt reporting and investigation by administration is mandated by the STRIDE Academy Board of Education. The following definitions of harassment apply:

**Harassment** is participating in, or conspiring for others to engage in badgering acts that injure, degrade, disgrace or threaten other individuals (examples include religious persecution or cruelty directed toward an individual with a disability).

**Sexual Harassment** is defined as, but not limited to:

- words or actions relating to sex that are derogatory, offensive, exploitative and/or degrading; or
- a display or circulation of materials and/or pictures, which are sexually explicit or demeaning (including web-based or electronically transmitted information).

**Racial Harassment** and racial bias is defined, but not limited to:

- words or actions relating to another individual's or group's race that is derogatory, offensive, exploitative and/or degrading; or
- a display or circulation of materials and/or pictures, which are derogatory to an individual's race (including web-based or electronically transmitted information).

### **Health Services**

The mission of the STRIDE Academy Health Service Department is to "promote and support optimal health in staff and students for an optimal learning experience."

Student school health support services are coordinated by a Licensed School Nurse and a team of trained unlicensed Health Service Assistants (HSA's).

**Immunizations:** Kids Need Shots for School! It's the Law in Minnesota. To go to school in Minnesota, students must show they've had these immunizations or provide a Medical Exemption or Notarized Conscientious Exemption.

**Medication Management in School Guidelines:** Whenever possible, the parent or legal guardian should make arrangements so that it is not necessary for school personnel to administer a medication to a student. However, there are cases when a student's health could be compromised by not getting medication during school hours. When sending any **prescription** or **nonprescription** medication to school each year, parents must send:

1. Written parent permission (Medication Administration Form) authorizing school personnel to administer medication during school hours.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

2. A written order from the physician (Medication Administration Form) indicating the necessity of any (prescription or over-the counter) medication, including dose and how often it can be given. The physician may fax the order to the school.
3. Only Medication supplied in the original labeled bottle/package will be administered. For prescription medication, the pharmacist can supply a duplicate labeled container so one can be kept at home and one can be kept at school. Each container should have the phone number of the pharmacy, student's name, physician's name, medication's name, dosage, time to be given, and route (oral, inhaled, etc.).
4. For the safety of all students and required school bus protocol; parents are required to bring their child's medication to the school office directly.
5. Medications are stored and will be administered within the Health Service Office.  
\*\*\*Exceptions: are students who may carry an asthma inhaler or an epi-pen and the following is then required:
  - a. A written doctor's order and written parental permission for student to "self-carry".
  - b. The student must demonstrate to the school nurse competency in administration. Other special requests may be discussed with the School Nurse.
6. **Half Tablets.** Health Service staff are NOT responsible for breaking tablets in half. This will not be done at school. When there is a physician order to give one-half of a tablet, please talk with your pharmacist.
7. **Field Trips.** If your child takes daily or as-needed medication, you will be receiving a form to complete indicating whether or not there is a need for this medication on field trips. A designated teacher will be administering necessary medication. Health Services staff do not routinely accompany students on field trips.

**Students with Special Health Support Needs:** Parents are asked to contact the school nurse prior to the school year to discuss the support needs of their child during the school day. This includes students with medical support needs, such as: severe allergies, asthma, seizures, diabetes, toileting support, etc. The School Nurse will work with the family and the student's health care provider to develop an "Individual Health Care Plan", as deemed necessary.

### **Homework**

Homework is an essential part of a student's education. It is an extension of learning that occurs in the classroom. It engages family members in the student's learning. The purpose of homework is to:

- Share the learning process with family members,
- Reinforce what is learned in class,
- Develop good study habits,
- Prepare for activities that will occur in the classroom, and
- Provide additional time to complete assignments given during class.

We want STRIDE Academy students to develop a responsible attitude towards their school work. Well-designed homework assignments are age-appropriate and within the skill-range of the students.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

Homework will be directly related to class work and expectations will be explained. The amount of homework will vary from grade to grade and subject to subject. It will also differ according to the learning needs of individual students. Not all students require the same amount of homework. Students should have a quiet place to work and a regular “homework time” that allows them to complete all homework assignments. Study Hall will not be integrated into our schedule this year.

### ***Lockers and Cubbies***

School lockers and cubbies are the property of Stride Academy. At no time does the school relinquish its exclusive control of lockers/cubbies provided for the convenience of students. School authorities may conduct inspection of the interior of lockers/cubbies at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. Lockers/cubbies should not be written on, damaged, or used to house obscene or illegal items. No pictures, stickers, etc. will be placed on the outside of the lockers/cubbies. For health and sanitary reasons, food or liquids must be stored in appropriate containers. Students are not allowed to eat or drink at their lockers. If so, the item will be confiscated until the end of the day. Students are expected to use their assigned lockers/cubbies for the duration of the school year. Students are not allowed to switch or share lockers with another student. The school will not be held responsible for missing property. Never keep money or valuable property in lockers/cubbies.

All students furnished with a locker may wish to have a lock on their locker. If so, they must purchase a lock from the Office. Only locks purchased from the office are allowed on lockers. Any unapproved locks will be removed. Remember to never share combinations with others. Please note that you are purchasing a lock, not renting. Students may use their purchased lock each year they attend STRIDE. Locks are \$5. Also, if your locker is not functioning properly; please report this to the office staff/custodian.

### ***Lost & Found***

Parents are strongly encouraged to check the lost and found often and to write student’s name on clothing. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity on a monthly basis and at the end of the school year.

### ***Lunch Prices***

Lunch and milk is available on site at STRIDE Academy. Please send money to the office for lunch/milk in a sealed envelope with student’s name and class or electronically through Skyward. Please see office for details. You will receive an electronic balance alert via email when the lunch account is low.

Families may qualify for free or reduced lunch based on verification of income. These forms are available in the Office. STRIDE follows federal guidelines and supports healthy lunch choices.

If your child has a negative lunch account balance exceeding \$40.00, he/she will not receive a regular hot lunch, until the account is reconciled. Students with a negative balance exceeding \$40.00 will receive a limited bag lunch and milk.

Lunch prices:

- Student in K-3 - \$3.25
- Student in 4-6 \$3.85
- Adults - \$4.00
- Milk prices are \$.45 per carton

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

### **Menus**

Monthly hot lunch menus are sent home with children or will be posted to our website.

### **Parent Involvement Opportunities**

- **P.A.C. (Panther Activities Club)**
  - The STRIDE Academy Activities Club is an organization composed of parents, staff, and friends of STRIDE Academy. The Activities club will provide additional support to all extra-curricular activity programs at STRIDE Academy through volunteerism and financial support. The Activities Club will help purchase supplies, equipment, provide scholarships, help with team events, as well as recognize students' participation beyond what the activity fees provide.
- **P.A.T.H.S. (Parents and Teachers Helping Students)**
  - All Parents, Guardians, and Teachers of STRIDE Academy are members of PATHS and are invited to attend the meetings. PATHS is a volunteer organization of parents and guardians who want to assist our teachers and staff in making STRIDE Academy the best school it can be! The meeting agenda will be posted on the PATHS bulletin board.
- **Volunteers**
  - We anticipate having many volunteers working in the building.
  - We need to complete background checks on anyone directly interacting with our students in school and register them for safety purposes.
  - Volunteers will be expected to comply with school policies and procedures and maintain expectations of the school and classroom.
  - When a volunteer comes to school to work, s/he must sign in at the office and obtain a visitor's badge which will visibly identify them to staff and students.
  - Please watch the newsletters and volunteer emails for opportunities.
  - Please contact your child's school office if you would like more details on getting involved.
  - We ask each family volunteer at least 30 hours per school year. Volunteers under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult.
    - Hours can be logged on the school website or in front office. It is the volunteer's responsibility to log their own hours.
- **Fundraising** - We appreciate any fundraising support or ideas you may have to offer. Please contact the office or a representative from PATHS for additional information on fundraising procedures. The ability to raise additional funds greatly increases the opportunities for academic enrichment at STRIDE Academy. STRIDE Academy also collects Food Club Points, Box Tops, and participates in Target's Red Card program.

### **Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences**

Parent/Teacher conference dates and times are as following:

- October 19, 2017 from 9:00am – 7:00pm
- January 16, 2018 from 9:00am – 7:00pm

### **Pets**

Pets are only to be brought to school with principal permission and in a kennel or other restrained housing. Please communicate with your child's teacher prior to bringing pets to school to ensure proper procedures are being followed.



## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

### **Photographs**

Photographs are taken in the fall of the year. Individual and class composite photographs are available for purchase.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

The school board encourages all people in the building to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Anyone who does not wish to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for any personal reason may elect not to do so. Students and staff must respect another person's right to make that choice.

### **Recess**

STRIDE Academy believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in recess. Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> will have approximately 25 minutes and 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have a 20 minute daily recess. Recess will be supervised by Stride Academy staff. Students will have recess both inside and outside year round, depending on weather conditions. Please make sure your student is dressed appropriately. If the outside temperature is below 5 degrees with or without wind chill or raining, students will be inside.

### **Safety Issues**

The overall safety of STRIDE students and personnel is the number one priority. Decisions made regarding safety are made in the greatest interest to the safety and security of all persons in the building.

- All school doors will be locked during the school day except for the front door.
- All staff, visitors, and volunteers will wear name tags or guest identification.
- Parents, visitors, and volunteers need to check in at the office and wear identification when visiting or working at school. Adults without identification will be asked to check in at the office.
- Students need to be checked in and out from the office. Parents checking out children during the day should come to the office to check their child out of school.
- A note or phone call is required for the school to release a child to anyone other than a parent.
- All students and staff will participate in regularly scheduled fire, lockdown, and tornado drills.
- Please notify office by no later than 2:00 pm if there a change in afternoon transportation.
- NO parking along the front curb, fire lanes or bus areas.
- All students must be picked up from school by 3:15.

### **School Bus Procedures - Riding a school bus is a privilege.**

#### **Bus Guidelines**

Students must ride on their assigned bus only. According to District 742 transportation guidelines, students are not allowed to ride a bus other than the one they are assigned. They may not switch busses nor ride to a friend's home on a different bus. This policy is an issue of safety. Contact District 742 and STRIDE if any changes are needed in your transportation needs.

#### **Transportation Bus Phone Numbers**

**District 742: 253-9370**

**Spanier Bus: 251-3313**

#### **Bus Safety Training**

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

Bus Safety Training will be provided to all STRIDE Academy students soon after the beginning of school. Training verification slips are required for all students. Free bus safety curriculum and resources are available from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

### School Bus Safety Expectations

- Respect Self
  - Stay out of the bus danger zone.
  - When riding the bus, remain seated at all times.
- Respect Others
  - Keep hands, feet, and belongings to yourself.
  - Use quiet voices and be courteous.
  - Follow the driver's instructions.
- Respect Property
  - Bring only school-approved items on the bus.
  - Be respectful of bus space and equipment.

### Bus Discipline Policies

STRIDE Academy will follow District 742's Bus Discipline Policies, Guidelines and Consequences. If a student does not follow the district rules on a bus, the following steps will be taken:

1. The driver will attempt to resolve the problem. Bus rules will be reviewed with students.
2. A seat may be assigned in an attempt to better manage the student's behavior.
3. When the driver is unable to manage a student's behavior, an incident report will be written. This report is used to inform parents and the school of unacceptable behavior.

### Minor Offenses:

- Standing on the bus
- Yelling, excessive noise
- "Play fighting", horseplay
- Pushing, shoving, teasing, profanity
- Minor forms of insubordination where student complies within a short time
- Eating, drinking, littering on the bus
- Other offenses as reported by the bus driver

1 <sup>st</sup> Offense	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense	4 <sup>th</sup> Offense	5 <sup>th</sup> Offense	6 <sup>th</sup> Offense	7 <sup>th</sup> Offense
Warning by Trans. Dept.	Warning by Principal	1-3 day suspension	3-5 day suspension	5-10 day suspension	10 day suspension	School Year suspension

### Major Offenses:

- Hanging out of the windows
- Throwing of ANY object
- Fighting, physical aggression, assault
- Harassment, threats, bullying behavior

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- Serious insubordination- where student does not comply
- Possession, use/distribution of chemicals or tobacco
- Possession of weapons
- Lighting of matches or other flame/fire items
- Vandalism to the bus
- Unauthorized entrance/exit through emergency door
- Other illegal acts or offenses reported by the driver

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Offense</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Offense</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Offense</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Offense</b>
<b>1-3 day suspension</b>	<b>3-5 day suspension</b>	<b>5-10 day suspension</b>	<b>10 day suspension</b>	<b>School Year suspension</b>

### ***School Calendar***

The school calendar provides for 171 days of student instruction. Our school calendar is available on the website – [www.strideacademy.org](http://www.strideacademy.org).

### ***Snacks and Treats at School***

#### **General Policy:**

- Students are encouraged to drink water during the school day. If they wish to carry water with them, it must be in a clear water bottle and not contain any flavored additives. No carbonated beverages will be allowed during the school day.
- Please be aware certain foods may cause allergic reactions in others, specifically peanut and tree-nuts allergies. Please ask your teacher about peanut or other allergies within the classroom.

#### **Treats:**

- When food is served in the classroom for parties, birthday treats, etc., it must be commercially prepared and wrapped or prepared by a licensed caterer or by the school food service personnel. All treats must be in accordance with the Wellness Policy.
- Students are not allowed to drink soda or juice boxes in the classrooms.

#### **Snacks:**

- All snacks should be nutritious (i.e. fruit, crackers, and cheese, etc.) and in accordance with the Wellness Policy.
- Students are not allowed to drink soda or juice boxes.

### ***Standardized Testing***

STRIDE Academy uses district assessments to monitor student progress and to make programming changes when needed. Students will be assessed multiple times per year and the data will be shared with parents during conferences. The State of Minnesota requires administration of the MCA tests (Minnesota Statewide Comprehensive Assessment) for 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades. We follow the MDE (MN Dept. of Ed.) calendar of testing dates. STRIDE uses the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) computerized test to help improve student achievement. The NWEA (MAP) Tests will be given in the fall, winter and spring for all Kindergarten – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Parents will receive their child's individual progress three times per year. The ACCESS Test is administered to English Language Learners. We will notify parents of specific testing dates.

***Student Assistance Team (SAT)***

The Student Assistance Team (SAT) is a committee made of up teachers and other staff members who are called upon to provide interventions and assistance to students who are struggling, both academically and behaviorally. Teachers who bring their concerns to this team are also expected to communicate to the child's parents about these concerns. After the meeting, teachers will follow the developed plan for 6 to 8 weeks and will provide information in a follow-up meeting, where the team will determine next steps. As always, please communicate with your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

***Student Planners (Grade 2 through 6 only)***

A few of the most important things parents and businesses say they want students to learn while in school is good communication, organization and planning skills. STRIDE Academy wants these things for our students too. Therefore, STRIDE invests in quality student planners designed to help students plan their required class projects, organize their daily assignments and participate in their weekly activities/athletics. We believe the initial investment is well worth the skills being built in using their student planner daily. This can be a great communication tool for parents, teachers and students so we encourage parents to check their child's planner every day and return it with notes to facilitate communication as needed. Also, student planners are used as hallway passes, so staff can see when a student left class and for what reason they are in the hallway. The cost to replace the planner is \$5.00.

***Tobacco Use***

STRIDE Academy is a tobacco free school. No one, including staff, visitors, or parents have the right to pollute the air or endanger the health of others. No one is permitted to smoke, chew, carry or distribute tobacco (cigarettes, cigars, e-cigs, and other) products in school, on school grounds, on school property, at any school sponsored activity at home or away, or on school sponsored transportation. Anyone engaging in these behaviors will be asked to leave school property.

***Visitors***

For the safety and well-being of all children, the following guidelines regarding visitors in the building have been developed:

- All visitors, including parents and volunteers, must check-in at the school office and receive a badge. Anyone not wearing a badge will be escorted to the office to receive one.
- Children visiting (former students, relatives or friends wishing to visit STRIDE Academy) need prior approval from classroom teacher and principal, as these types of visits are a distraction from the learning environment for students. Children must be accompanied by an adult and sponsored by a teacher.

***Weapons – Zero Tolerance***

In accordance with state and federal laws, weapons of any kind are strictly forbidden in all school buildings, on all school grounds and busses. Under this policy, look-alikes (including toy guns, squirt guns, toy knives, etc.) may be considered to be weapons. Students may NOT have paring knives in their school lunches. Students must be instructed not to bring any of these objects on the bus or to school. See Weapons Policy 501 in the back of this handbook.

***Withdrawal or Transfer***

The following procedure is established for students withdrawing from school:

1. As soon as you know that a child is being withdrawn, notify the school office of the last day of attendance.
2. The student must pay for any lost library books, food service and turn in any school books to his/her teacher.
3. Parents will be asked to fill out a withdrawal form and exit survey.
4. The student must remove all personal property from his/her desk.
5. When the school receives formal notification of the student's enrollment in another school, his/her records will be forwarded to that school, providing the parent has signed a statement authorizing transfer of these records.

School Board Policies

**514 BULLYING PROHIBITION POLICY**

*Rev. 2010*

**I. PURPOSE**

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to educate students in a safe environment. The school district cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of the school district and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school district in its normal operations, it is the school district's intent to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond, remediate, and discipline those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, and other similar disruptive behavior.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school district property or at school-related functions. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student, other students, or employees.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate bullying.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a student being bullied does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of bullying against another student are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline for that act in accordance with school district's policies and procedures. The school district may take into account the following factors:
  - 1. The developmental and maturity levels of the parties involved;
  - 2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;
4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate bullying or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of bullying may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge. Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of bullying may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

- G. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of bullying and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

### III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

- A. "Bullying" means any written or verbal expression, physical act or gesture, or pattern thereof, by a student that is intended to cause or is perceived as causing distress to one or more students and which substantially interferes with another student's or students' educational benefits, opportunities, or performance. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, conduct by a student against another student that a reasonable person under the circumstances knows or should know has the effect of:
  1. harming a student;
  2. damaging a student's property;
  3. placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or property; or
  4. creating a hostile educational environment for a student.
- B. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- C. "On school district property or at school-related functions" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting bullying at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

### IV. REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A student may report bullying anonymously. However, the school district's ability to take action against an alleged perpetrator based solely on an anonymous report may be limited.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. The Dean of each building is the person responsible for receiving reports of bullying at the building level. Any person may report bullying directly to a school district human rights officer or the district's director.
- D. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include bullying. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying shall inform the building principal immediately.
- E. Reports of bullying are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying will not affect the complainant's or reporter's future employment, grades, or work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- G. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

### V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of bullying, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.



## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- B. The school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of bullying, consistent with applicable law.
- C. Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; school district policies; and regulations.
- D. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students involved in a bullying incident and the remedial action taken, to the extent permitted by law, based on a confirmed report.

### **VI. REPRISAL**

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment.

### **VII. TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

- A. The school district annually will provide information and any applicable training to school district staff regarding this policy.
- B. The school district annually will provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding this school district policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying.
- C. The administration of the school district is directed to implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, to respond to bullying in a manner that does not stigmatize the victim, and to make resources or referrals to resources available to victims of bullying.

### **VIII. NOTICE**

The school district will give annual notice of this policy to students, parents or guardians, and staff, and this policy shall appear in the student handbook.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.03 (Sexual, Religious and Racial Harassment and Violence)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)

**526 HAZING PROHIBITION POLICY**

*[Note: The Commissioner of the Department of Education approved Model Policy 526 – Hazing Prohibition as the State’s Model Policy.]*

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. This policy applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property and during and after school hours.
- E. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.
- F. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. “Hazing” means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
  2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
  3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
  4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
  5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.
- B. "Student organization" means a group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

### IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school dean or director.
- B. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent.
- C. Teachers, administrators, volunteers, contractors and other employees of the school district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall inform the building principal immediately.
- D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

### V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- A. Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing.
- C. Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, school district policies and regulations.

### VI. REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

### VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

***[Note: Proper reference should be made to the appropriate handbooks in each school district.]***

This policy shall appear in each school's student handbook and in each school's Building and Staff handbooks.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)

## 502 SEARCH OF STUDENT LOCKERS, DESKS, PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, AND STUDENT'S PERSON

***[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]***

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for a safe and healthful educational environment by enforcing the school district's policies against contraband.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

### A. Lockers and Personal Possessions Within a Locker

Pursuant to Minnesota statutes, school lockers are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. As soon as practicable after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school officials must provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.

### B. Desks

School desks are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of desks provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of desks may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

### C. Personal Possessions and Student's Person

The personal possessions of students and/or a student's person may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness. D. It shall be a violation of this policy for students to use lockers and desks for unauthorized purposes or to store contraband. It shall be a violation for students to carry contraband on their person or in their personal possessions.

502-1

## III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Contraband" means any unauthorized item possession of which is prohibited by school district policy and/or law. It includes but is not limited to weapons and "lookalikes," alcoholic beverages, controlled substances and "look-alikes," overdue books and other materials belonging to the school district, and stolen property.
- B. "Personal possessions" includes but is not limited to purses, backpacks, book bags, packages, and clothing.
- C. "Reasonable suspicion" means that a school official has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of school district policy, rules, and/or law. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school official's personal observation, a report from a student, parent or staff member, a student's suspicious behavior, a student's age and past history or record of conduct both in and out of the school context, or other reliable sources of information.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- D. “Reasonable scope” means that the scope and/or intrusiveness of the search is reasonably related to the objectives of the search. Factors to consider in determining what is reasonable include the seriousness of the suspected infraction, the reliability of the information, the necessity of acting without delay, the existence of exigent circumstances necessitating an immediate search and further investigation (e.g. to prevent violence, serious and immediate risk of harm or destruction of evidence), and the age of the student.

### IV. PROCEDURES

- A. School officials may inspect the interiors of lockers and desks for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.
- B. School officials may inspect the personal possessions of a student and/or a student’s person based on a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. A search of personal possessions of a student and/or a student’s person will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.
- C. As soon as practicable after a search of personal possessions within a locker pursuant to this policy, the school officials must provide notice of the search to students whose possessions were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.
- D. Whenever feasible, a search of a person shall be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex. A second school official of the same sex shall be present as an observer during the search of a person whenever feasible.
- E. A strip search is a search involving the removal of coverings or clothing from private areas. Mass strip searches, or body cavity searches, are prohibited. Strip searches will be conducted only in circumstances involving imminent danger.
- F. A school official conducting any other search may determine when it is appropriate to have a second official present as an observer.
- G. A copy of this policy will be printed in the student handbook or disseminated in any other way which school officials deem appropriate. The school district shall provide a copy of this policy to a student when the student is given use of a locker.

### V. DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

School administration may establish reasonable directives and guidelines which address specific needs of the school district, such as use of tape in lockers, standards of cleanliness and care, posting of pin-ups and posters which may constitute sexual harassment, etc.

### VI. SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND

If a search yields contraband, school officials will seize the item and, where appropriate, turn it over to legal officials for ultimate disposition.

### VII. VIOLATIONS

A student found to have violated this policy and/or the directives and guidelines implementing it

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's Student Discipline Policy, which may include suspension, exclusion, or expulsion, and the student may, when appropriate, be referred to legal officials.

**Legal References:** U. S. Const., amend. IV Minn. Const., art. I, § 10 *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325, 105 S.Ct. 733, 83 L.Ed.2d 720 (1985) Minn. Stat. § 121A.72 (School Locker Policy)

**MSBA/MASA Model Policy 503**

Orig. 1995

**Rev. 2002**

**Rev. 2010**

### 503 STUDENT ATTENDANCE

***[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]***

#### I. PURPOSE

- A. The school board believes that regular school attendance is directly related to success in academic work, benefits students socially, provides opportunities for important communications between teachers and students and establishes regular habits of dependability important to the future of the student. The purpose of this policy is to encourage regular school attendance. It is intended to be positive and not punitive.
- B. This policy also recognizes that class attendance is a joint responsibility to be shared by the student, parent or guardian, teacher and administrators. This policy will assist students in attending class.

#### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

##### A. Responsibilities

##### 1. Student's Responsibility

It is the student's right to be in school. It is also the student's responsibility to attend all assigned classes and study halls every day that school is in session and to be aware of and follow the correct procedures when absent from an assigned class or study hall. Finally, it is the student's responsibility to request any missed assignments due to an absence.

##### 2. Parent or Guardian's Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student is attending school, to inform the school in the event of a student absence, and

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

to work cooperatively with the school and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

### 3. Teacher's Responsibility

It is the teacher's responsibility to take daily attendance and to maintain accurate attendance records in each assigned class and study hall. It is also the teacher's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly. It is also the teacher's responsibility to provide any student who has been absent with any missed assignments upon request and/or upon return. Finally, it is the teacher's responsibility to work cooperatively with the student's parent or guardian and the student to solve any attendance problems that may arise.

### 4. Administrator's Responsibility

a. It is the administrator's responsibility to require students to attend all assigned classes and study halls. It is also the administrator's responsibility to be familiar with all procedures governing attendance and to apply these procedures uniformly to all students, to maintain accurate records on student attendance and to prepare a list of the previous day's absences stating the status of each. Finally, it is the administrator's responsibility to inform the student's parent or guardian of the student's attendance and to work cooperatively with them and the student to solve attendance problems.

b. In accordance with the Minnesota Compulsory Instruction Law, Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, the students of the school district are REQUIRED to attend all assigned classes and/or study halls every day school is in session, unless the student has been excused by the school board from attendance because the student has already completed the studies ordinarily required to graduate from high school, has withdrawn, or has a valid excuse for absence.

## B. Attendance Procedures

Attendance procedures shall be presented to the school board for review and approval. When approved by the school board, the attendance procedures will be included as an addendum to this policy.

### 1. Excused Absences

a. The following reasons shall be sufficient to constitute excused absences:

(1) Illness.

(2) Serious illness in the student's immediate family.



## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- (3) A death in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.
- (4) Medical or dental treatment.
- (5) Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.
- (6) Religious instruction not to exceed three hours in any week.
- (7) Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
- (8) Official school field trip or other school-sponsored outing.
- (9) Removal of a student pursuant to a suspension. Suspensions are to be handled as excused absences and students will be permitted to complete make-up work.

### b. Consequences of Excused Absences

- (1) Students whose absences are excused are required to make up all assignments missed or to complete alternative assignments as deemed appropriate by the classroom teacher.
- (2) Work missed because of absence must be made up within two days for each day absent. Any work not completed within this period shall result in "no credit" for the missed assignment. However, the building principal or the classroom teacher may extend the time allowed for completion of make-up work in the case of an extended illness or other extenuating circumstances.

**The school may require a doctor's note if absences become excessive.**

## 2. Unexcused Absences

### a. The following are examples of absences which will not be excused:

- (1) Truancy. An absence by a student which was not approved by the parent and/or the school district.
- (2) Any absence in which the student failed to comply with any reporting requirements of the school district's attendance procedures.
- (3) Work at home.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- (4) Work at a business, except under a school-sponsored work release program.
- (5) Vacations with family.
- (6) Personal trips to schools or colleges.
- (7) Absences resulting from cumulated unexcused tardies (2 tardies equal one unexcused absence).
- (8) Any other absence not included under the attendance procedures set out in this policy.

### b. Consequences of Unexcused Absences

- (1) Absences resulting from official suspension will be handled in accordance with the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56.
- (2) Days during which a student is suspended from school shall not be counted in a student's total cumulated unexcused absences.
- (3) In cases of recurring unexcused absences, the administration may also request the county attorney to file a petition with the juvenile court, pursuant to Minnesota statutes.
- (4) Students with unexcused absences shall be subject to discipline in the following manner:
  - (a) After the 2nd cumulated unexcused absences, a student's parent or guardian will be notified by mail that his or her child is nearing a total of 3 unexcused absences and that, after the 3 unexcused absence the absences will be reported to the county.
  - (b) After such notification, the student or his or her parent or guardian may, within a reasonable time, request a conference with school officials regarding the student's absences and the prescribed discipline. The notification will state that the school strongly urges the student's parent or guardian to request such a conference.
  - (c) If the result of a grade reduction or loss of credit has the effect of an expulsion, the school district will follow the procedures set forth in the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

### C. Tardiness

1. Definition: Students are expected to be in their assigned area at designated times. Failure to do so constitutes tardiness.
2. Procedures for Reporting Tardiness
  - a. Students tardy at the start of school must report to the school office for an admission slip.
  - b. Tardiness between periods will be handled by the teacher.
3. Excused Tardiness

Valid excuses for tardiness are:

  - a. Illness.
  - b. Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
  - c. A death in the student's immediate family or of a close friend or relative.
  - d. Medical or dental treatment.
  - e. Court appearances occasioned by family or personal action.
  - f. Physical emergency conditions such as fire, flood, storm, etc.
  - g. Any tardiness for which the student has been excused in writing by an administrator or faculty member.
  - h. Late bus
4. Unexcused Tardiness
  - a. An unexcused tardiness is failing to be in an assigned area at the designated time class period commences without a valid excuse.
  - b. Which includes:
    - i. Missing the bus
    - ii. Waking up late
  - c. Consequences of tardiness: 2 unexcused tardies are equivalent to one unexcused absence.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

### D. Participation in Extracurricular Activities and School-Sponsored Events

1. This policy applies to all students involved in any extracurricular activity scheduled either during or outside the school day and any school-sponsored events.
2. School-initiated absences will be accepted and participation permitted.
3. A student may not participate in any activity or program if he or she has an unexcused absence from any class during the day.
4. If a student is suspended from any class, he or she may not participate in any activity or program that day.
5. If a student is absent from school due to medical reasons, he or she must present a physician's statement or a statement from the student's parent or guardian clearing the student for participation that day. The note must be presented to the coach or advisor before the student participates in the activity or program.

### III. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

Copies of this policy shall be made available to all students and parents at the commencement of each school year. This policy shall also be available upon request in each principal's office.

### IV. REQUIRED REPORTING

#### A. Continuing Truant

Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 provides that a continuing truant is a student who is subject to the compulsory instruction requirements of Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and is absent from instruction in a school, as defined in Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, without valid excuse within a single school year for:

1. Three days if the child is in elementary school; or
2. Three or more class periods on three days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school.

#### B. Reporting Responsibility

When a student is initially classified as a continuing truant, Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 provides that the school attendance officer or other designated school official shall notify the student's parent or legal guardian, by first class mail or other reasonable means, of the following:

1. That the child is truant;

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

2. That the parent or guardian should notify the school if there is a valid excuse for the child's absences;
3. That the parent or guardian is obligated to compel the attendance of the child at school pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 and parents or guardians who fail to meet this obligation may be subject to prosecution under Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;
4. That this notification serves as the notification required by Minn. Stat. § 120A.34;
5. That the parent or guardian has the right to meet with appropriate school personnel to discuss solutions to the child's truancy;
6. That if the child continues to be truant, the parent and child may be subject to juvenile court proceedings under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260;
7. That if the child is subject to juvenile court proceedings, the child may be subject to suspension, restriction, or delay of the child's driving privilege pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 260C.201; and
8. That it is recommended that the parent or guardian accompany the child to school and attend classes with the child for one day.

***[Where services and procedures under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A are available within the school district, the following provisions should also be included in the policy.]***

### C. Habitual Truant

1. A habitual truant is a child under the age of 16 years who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 16 or 17 years of age who is absent from attendance at school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school.
2. A school district attendance officer shall refer a habitual truant child and the child's parent or legal guardian to appropriate services and procedures, under Minn. Stat. Ch. 260A.

### ***Legal References:***

Minn. Stat. § 120A.22 (Compulsory Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.24 (Reporting)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.26 (Enforcement and Prosecution)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.28 (School Boards and Teachers, Duties)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.30 (Attendance Officers)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.34 (Violations; Penalties)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 19 (Habitual Truant Defined)  
Minn. Stat. § 260A.02 (Definitions)

STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

Minn. Stat. § 260A.03 (Notice to Parent or Guardian When Child is Continuing Truant)

**Goss v. Lopez**, 419 U.S. 565, 95 S.Ct. 729 (1975)

**Slocum v. Holton Board of Education**, 429 N.W.2d 607 (Mich. App. Ct. 1988)

**Campbell v. Board of Education of New Milford**, 475 A.2d 289 (Conn. 1984)

**Hamer v. Board of Education of Township High School District No. 113**, 66 Ill. App.3d 7 (1978)

**Gutierrez v. School District R-1**, 585 P.2d 935 (Co. Ct. App. 1978)

**Knight v. Board of Education**, 38 Ill. App. 3d 603, 348 N.E.2d 299 (1976)

**Dorsey v. Bale**, 521 S.W.2d 76 (Ky. 1975)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

Adopted: June 2005

Revised: February 2014

Reviewed: December 2010

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501

Orig. 1995

Rev.2005

501 SCHOOL WEAPONS POLICY

[NOTE: School districts are required by state statute to have a policy addressing these issues. ATTENTION: This policy incorporates certain provisions of the Minnesota Citizens' Personal Protection Act of 2003. That law was struck down by the Minnesota Court of Appeals. However, in the 2005 session, the Minnesota legislature reenacted this law effective retroactively and without interruption from April 28, 2003. The reenacted law is now in effect.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure a safe school environment for students, staff and the public.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

No student or nonstudent, including adults and visitors, shall possess, use or distribute a weapon when in a school location except as provided in this policy. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school employee, volunteer or member of the public who violates this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Weapon"

1. A "Weapon" means any object, device or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may inflict self-injury including, but not limited to, any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded; air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles, nun chucks; throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace and other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

2. No person shall possess, use or distribute any object, device or instrument having the appearance of a weapon and such objects, devices or instruments shall be treated as weapons including, but not limited to, weapons listed above which are broken or non-functional, look-alike guns; toy guns; and any object that is a facsimile of a real weapon.
  3. No person shall use articles designed for other purposes (i.e., laser or laser pointers, belts, combs, pencils, files, scissors, etc.), to inflict bodily harm and / or intimidate and such use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.
- B. "School Property" includes any school building or grounds, whether leased, rented or owned or controlled by the school, locations of school activities or trips, bus stops, school buses or school vehicles, school-contracted vehicles, the area of entrance or departure from school premises or events, all locations where school-related functions are conducted, and anywhere students are under the jurisdiction of the school district.
- C. "Possession" means having a weapon on one's person or in an area subject to one's control in a school location.

### IV. EXCEPTIONS

- A. A student who finds a weapon on the way to school or in a school location, or a student who discovers that he or she accidentally has a weapon in his or her possession, and takes the weapon immediately to the principal's office shall not be considered to possess a weapon. If it would be impractical or dangerous to take the weapon to the principal's office, a student shall not be considered to possess a weapon if he or she immediately turns the weapon over to an administrator, teacher or school employee or immediately notifies an administrator, teacher or school employee of the weapons location
- B. It shall not be a violation of this policy if a nonstudent (or student where specified) falls within one of the following categories:
1. Active licensed peace officers;
  2. Military personnel, or students or nonstudents participating in military training, who are on duty performing official duties;
  3. Persons authorized to carry a pistol under Minn. Statute 624.714 while in a motor vehicle or outside of a motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle
  4. Persons who keep or store in a motor in a motor vehicle, pistols in accordance with Minn. Stat. 624.714 or 624.715 or other firearms in accordance with Statute 97B.045;
    - a. Section 624.714 specifies procedures and standards for obtaining a pistol permits and penalties for the failure to do so. Section 624.715 defines an exception to the pistol permit requirements for "Antique firearms which are carried or possessed as curiosities or for their historical significance or value.
    - b. Section 97B.045 generally provides that a firearm may not be transported in a motor vehicle unless it is (1) unloaded and in a gun case without any portion of the firearm exposed; (2) unloaded and in the closed trunk; or (3) a handgun carried in compliance with Section 624.714 and 624.715.

## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

1. Firearm safety or marksmanship courses or activities for students or nonstudents conducted on school property;
  2. Possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, or replica firearms by a ceremonial color guard;
  3. A gun or knife show held on school property;
  4. Possession of dangerous weapons, BB guns, or replica firearms with written permission of the principal or other person having general control and supervision of the school
  5. Persons who are on unimproved property owned or leased by a school or school district unless the person knows that a student is currently present on the land for a school-related activity.
  6. Persons must have written permission from the Executive Director as well as a principal for someone to possess a dangerous weapon in a school location.
- C. Policy Application to Instructional Equipment/Tools  
While the school district takes a firm “Zero Tolerance” position on the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students, and a similar position with regard to nonstudents, such a position is not meant to interfere with instruction or the use of appropriate equipment and tools by students or nonstudents. Such equipment and tools, when properly possessed, used and stored, shall not be considered in violation of the rule against the possession, use or distribution of weapons. However, when authorized instructional and work equipment and tools are used in a potentially dangerous or threatening manner. Such possession and use will be treated as the possession and use of a weapon.
- D. Firearms in School Parking Lots and Parking Facilities  
A school district may not prohibit the lawful carry or possession of firearms in a school parking lot or parking facility. For purposes of this policy, the “lawful” carry or possession of a firearm in a school parking lot or parking facility is specifically limited to nonstudent permit-holders authorized under Minn. Statue 624.714 to carry a pistol in the interior of a vehicle or outside the motor vehicle for the purpose of directly placing a firearm in, or retrieving it from, the trunk or rear area of the vehicle. Any possession or carry of a firearm beyond the immediate vicinity of a permit-holder’s vehicle shall constitute a violation of this policy.
- V. CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT WEAPON OSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION
- A. The school district takes a position of “Zero Tolerance” in regard to the possession, use or distribution of weapons by students. Consequently, the minimum consequence for students possessing, suing, or distributing weapons shall include:
1. Immediate out-of-school suspension;
  2. Confiscation of the weapon;
  3. Immediate notification of the police;
  4. Parent or guardian notification; and
  5. Recommendation of the Executive Director for dismissal for a period of time deemed appropriate.



## STRIDE Academy Family and Student Handbook 2017-2018

- B. Pursuant to Minnesota Law, a student who brings a firearm, as defined by federal law, to school will be expelled for at least a year. The school board may modify this requirement on a case-by-case basis.
- C. Administrative Discretion:  
While the school district takes a “Zero Tolerance” position on the possession, use, or distribution of weapons by students, the Executive Director may use discretion in determining whether, under the circumstances, a course of action other than the minimum consequences specified above is warranted. If so, other appropriate action may be taken, including consideration of a recommendation for lesser discipline.

### VI. CONSEQUENCES FOR WEAPON POSSESSION/USE/DISTRIBUTION BY NONSTUDENTS

- A. Employees
  - 1. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the school board.
  - 2. Sanctions against employees, including nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and school district policies.
  - 3. When an employee violates the weapons policy, law enforcement may be notified, as appropriate.
- B. Other nonstudents
  - 1. Any member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave the school location. Depending on the circumstances, the person may be barred from future entry to school locations. In addition, if the person is a student in another district, that school district may be contacted concerning the policy violation.
  - 2. If appropriate, law enforcement will be notified of the policy violation by the member of the public and may be asked to provide an escort to remove the member of the public from the school location.

Legal References:                   Minn. Stat. 97B.045 (Transportation of Firearms)  
  Minn. Stat. 121A.05 (Referral to Police)  
  Minn. Stat. 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act) Minn. Stat.  
  121A.44 (Expulsion for Possession of Firearms) Minn. Stat. 609.02,  
  SUB.6 (Definition of Dangerous Weapons)  
  Minn. Stat. 609.605 (Trespass)  
  Minn. Stat. 609.66 (Dangerous Weapons)  
  Minn. Stat. 624.714 (Carrying of Weapons without Permit, Penalties)  
  Minn. Stat. 624.715 (Exemptions; Antiques and Ornaments) 18 U.S.C.  
  921 (Definition of Firearm) in re C.R.M. 611 N.W.2d 802 (Minn. 2000)

Cross References:                   MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of  
  School District Employees)  
  MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline) MSBA/MASA Model  
  Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)



The Boys & Girls Club's KIDSTOP school-age child care program is provided for K-6 in 14 area schools in the St. Cloud, Sartell-St. Stephen, Sauk Rapids-Rice and ROCORI school districts as well as STRIDE Academy Charter School. The program ensures that participating children are in a safe place with professional, caring staff and volunteers. KIDSTOP provides kids with tested and proven Boys & Girls Club programs that parents know are vital for their child's healthy growth.

**The KIDSTOP program offers:**

- Full-time professional leadership
- Parents only pay for the days their child actually attends
- Nutritious snacks are provided daily in the morning and afternoon
- KIDSTOP is available all day most school holidays & during summer

**KIDSTOP Fee information:**

KIDSTOP has a non-refundable registration fee of \$20.00 per child for the school year and \$10.00 per child for summer. Registration includes a membership to any Boys & Girls Club. The daily fee for before-school KIDSTOP is \$4.00 per child, after-school KIDSTOP is \$9.50 per child. All-day KIDSTOP is \$24.00 per child. School year hours are from 6:30 a.m. until school start and school dismissal until 6 p.m. All-day & summer hours are from 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Scholarships & county assistance are available. Please contact the site or administrative office for more information.

**How to register for KIDSTOP:**

- Stop by the KIDSTOP Office located at STRIDE Academy
- Stop by the Administrative Office at 345 30th AVE N
- Register online [www.bgcmn.org](http://www.bgcmn.org)